

**SUMMARY OF
BILATERAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS
(2019)**

ALBANIA

**Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and
the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Waiver of Visa
Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports**

Objective/s:

The Agreement aims to enhance the bilateral relations between the Parties by exempting from the obligation to obtain visas for the entry and stay in the territory of the other Party the nationals of either Party, who are holders of valid diplomatic, service, and official passports, whose stay does not exceed ninety (90) days from the first date of entry or when transiting through that territory on their way to a third State, as well as those entering and staying in the territory of the other Party for the duration of their assignment, provided that the other Party was given written notification of at least thirty (30) days prior to their assumption of Post.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

- a. Both Parties exempts the other Party from the obligation to obtain visas for the entry and stay in the territory of the other Party the nationals of either Party, who are holders of valid diplomatic, service, and official passports, whose stay does not exceed ninety (90) days from the first date of entry or when transiting through that territory on their way to a third State, as well as those entering and staying in the territory of the other Party for the duration of their assignment, provided that the other Party was given written notification at least thirty (30) days prior to their assumption of Post.
- b. Nationals of both Parties who are holders of valid diplomatic, service, and official passports may extend the duration of their stay after the expiration

- of the period mentioned in Article II upon the written approval of the competent authorities of the other Party in accordance with its laws.
- c. Both Parties shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, their respective valid passport specimens within thirty (30) days after the signing of this Agreement. The Parties shall inform each other about the introduction of new types and classifications of passports as well as any changes or modification to those currently in use and shall furnish relevant specimens within thirty (30) days from their adoption for use.
 - d. Notwithstanding the exemption from obtaining visas under this Agreement, it is the duty of persons benefiting therefrom to comply with the laws and regulations on entry, stay in, and exit from the other Party's territory.
 - e. Both Parties reserve the right to refuse admission to persons designated as undesirable or considered likely to endanger the public peace, public order, public health, or national security.
 - f. Disputes between the States arising from the interpretation or application of the Memorandum will be settled by consultations and negotiations through diplomatic channels.

Effectivity:

The Agreement took effect on Mar. 26, 2019. It shall be valid for an indefinite period. Either Party may terminate the Agreement by giving written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Political Consultation Mechanism between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Czech Republic

Objective/s:

To establish a mutually beneficial cooperation through consultations and exchanges of opinions at different levels on matters of bilateral relations and international issues.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Parties shall hold political consultations every two (2) years or at any time mutually convenient to both Parties to review their bilateral relations and to exchange views on regional and international issues of common interest. It shall be carried out alternately in Manila and Prague or in a third country on the occasion of an international conference or meeting, participated in by both Parties.

Effectivity:

The MOU took effect on Jan. 21, 2019 the date it was signed by the Parties. It shall last for a period of five years and shall be automatically renewed for similar periods unless one of the Parties notifies the other Party of its desire to terminate the MOU.

ISRAEL

**Agreement on Temporary Employment of Filipino Home-Based Caregivers
Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and
the Government of the State of Israel**

Objective/s:

To establish a government-to-government arrangement to improve systems and processes concerning the recruitment and temporary employment of Filipino home-based caregivers in Israel.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

1. The Ministry of Interior, through the Population and Immigration Authority (“PIBA”) in the Ministry of Interior of the State of Israel shall take, *inter alia*, reasonable steps:
 - a. To ensure that the home-based caregivers recruited under this Agreement and its implementation Protocol shall receive an

- employment contract signed by the employer or his representative, which shall be binding upon the employer and the home-based caregiver, the standard text of which shall have been agreed upon by the Implementing Bodies;
- b. To ensure that the prospective employers hold valid permits issued by the PIBA allowing them to employ foreign home-based caregivers as per the PIBA's regulations and procedures; and
 - c. To promote the protection of the rights of Filipino home-based caregivers recruited and employed in accordance with this Agreement and its implementation Protocol, under relevant Israel laws and regulations, including their living and working conditions, in cooperation with other relevant Israeli Ministries.
2. The Department of Labor and Employment, through Philippine Overseas Employment Administration shall take, *inter alia*, reasonable steps:
- a. To ensure that the recruitment and deployment of Filipino home-based caregivers under this Agreement shall be in accordance with the implementation Protocol;
 - b. To ensure that the prospective caregivers have no derogatory record; and
 - c. To ensure that only Filipino home-based caregivers who possess the necessary qualifications and skills, and are physically and mentally fit to perform the work and who have been provided with the proper orientation with regard to the terms and conditions of the employment contract, relevant laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, norms cultures, and practices in Israel prior to their deployment, shall be deployed.

Effectivity:

The Agreement entered into force on June 28, 2019 and shall remain in full force for three (3) years and shall be deemed renewed automatically for similar periods unless a Party notifies the other Party through diplomatic channels, of its desire to terminate the Agreement four (4) months prior to the requested termination date.

Agreement on Temporary Employment of Filipino Workers in the Hotel Sector in the State of Israel Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel

Objective/s:

To establish government-to-government systems and processes for the recruitment and temporary employment of Filipino hotel workers in Israel, in accordance with the current Israeli governmental resolution requiring that the deployment of foreign hotel housekeepers for work in the hotel sector in Israel shall be implemented solely through government-to-government agreements or arrangements.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

1. The Ministry of Interior, through the Population and Immigration Authority (“PIBA”) in the Ministry of Interior of the State of Israel shall take, *inter alia*, reasonable steps:
 - a. To ensure that the hotel workers recruited under this Agreement and its implementation Protocol shall receive an employment contract signed by the employer through his authorized representative, which shall be binding upon the employer and the hotel workers, the standard text of which shall have been agreed upon by the Parties;
 - b. To ensure that the prospective employers hold valid permits issued by the PIBA allowing them to employ foreign hotel workers as per the PIBA’s regulations and procedures; and
 - c. To promote the protection of the rights of Filipino home-based caregivers recruited and employed in accordance with this Agreement and its implementation Protocol, under relevant Israeli laws and regulations, including their living and working conditions, in cooperation with other relevant Israeli Ministries.
2. The Department of Labor and Employment, through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, shall take, *inter alia*, reasonable steps:

- a. To ensure that the recruitment and deployment of Filipino hotel workers under this Agreement shall be in accordance with the implementation Protocol;
- b. To ensure that the prospective hotel workers have no derogatory record; and
- c. To ensure that only Filipino hotel workers who possess the necessary qualifications and skills, and are physically and mentally fit to perform the work and who have been provided with the proper orientation as regards to the terms and conditions of the employment contract, relevant laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, norms cultures, and practices in Israel prior to their deployment, shall be deployed.

Effectivity:

The Agreement entered into force on June 28, 2019 and shall remain in full force for three (3) years and shall be deemed renewed automatically for similar periods unless a Party notifies the other Party through diplomatic channels, of its desire to terminate the Agreement four (4) months prior the requested termination date.

NEPAL

**Memorandum on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism
Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and
the Government of Nepal**

Objective/s:

To promote cooperation and implementation of joint activities as may be mutually agreed upon, through diplomatic channels.

To further strengthen bilateral relations, develop cooperation, and facilitate exchange of visits as well as to hold consultations in fields of mutual interest including agriculture, forestry, education, trade, investment, infrastructure, technology, tourism, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Participants will hold consultations between their representatives at the mutually agreed level every three (3) years or earlier if necessary, alternately in the Philippines and Nepal, to review all aspects of bilateral relations, explore new areas of cooperation and share views on regional and global issues of mutual concern. The consultations may take place in a third country on the occasion of an international conference or meeting which both sides are participating in.

Effectivity:

The Memorandum of Understanding entered into force on Dec. 1, 2019, the date of its signature, and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years and shall be considered as automatically renewed for consecutive periods of five (5) years unless terminated by one of the Participants by sending written notice six (6) months in advance through diplomatic channels.

QATAR

**Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of
Political Consultations on Issues of Common Interest Between the
Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar**

Objective/s:

To establish regular political consultations on bilateral relations and international issues of common interest in order to exchange information and views about developments that affect the Parties' respective countries.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Participants shall have consultations on the following issues:

1. The Participants will determine and agree on the dates, venue, level of representation, and agenda of each round of consultations, which

- will be held alternately in the Republic of the Philippines and in the State of Qatar. The Participants may also decide to hold consultations at the sidelines of official meetings of international organization fora;
2. The two Participants agree, when necessary, to hold meetings between diplomatic personnel of each Participant. The Agreement on the terms and conditions of these meetings will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels, and the focus of these meetings will be on the issues identified in Paragraph (1) of this MOU; and
 3. The Participants will intensify contacts among diplomatic missions of both Participants accredited to a third State, as well as among their Permanent Missions to the United Nations and other international organizations, for the purpose of exchanging views on the areas specified in Paragraph (1) of this MOU and in accordance with the terms and conditions already stated through diplomatic channels.

Effectivity:

The MOU took effect when it was signed in Manila on the Dec. 3, 2019. It will remain valid for five (5) years and will be renewed for a similar period unless one Participant notifies the other of its intention to terminate the Memorandum at least six (6) months before the date of termination.

**Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of
Health Between the Republic of the Philippines and
the Government of the State of Qatar**

Objective/s:

To enhance the two countries' cooperation on health in areas including, but not limited to, medical research, disease prevention and control, application of new technologies, and medicine and medical equipment.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Parties shall cooperate on the following areas:

- (a) Research in the healthcare field, including implementation of healthcare tasks, biomedical research, technology and healthcare delivery systems, the economics of long-term healthcare services, and alternative ways of extending healthcare beyond institutional settings;
- (b) Exchange expertise in the health field including communication, statistical methods, quality standards, and healthcare financing;
- (c) Exchange of scientists, experts and other healthcare professionals, facilitating internships and advanced courses for both Filipino Citizens and Qatari Nationals to promote the principles of reciprocity and mutual benefit;
- (d) Nursing and first aid;
- (e) Exchange of healthcare practitioners technology between the two Parties;
- (f) Compliance with quality, specifications, and the high standards when delivering healthcare services;
- (g) Exchange of scientists and healthcare professionals, including the exchange visits between medical officers and specialists, based on the need and requirements of each Party, with the aim of sharing expertise and information in the relevant medical and health fields as need be; and
- (h) Any other fields to be agreed upon by the Parties.

Effectivity:

The MOU took effect on July 14, 2019. It shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year and will be renewed for a similar period unless one Participant notifies the other of its intention to terminate the MOU at least six (6) months before the date of its termination or expiration.

**Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation in
the Field of Technical Vocational Education and Training Between
the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and
Government of the State of Qatar**

Objective/s:

The Parties in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in their countries will endeavor to sustain and develop cooperation in the areas of Technical Vocational Education and Training (“TVET”).

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Parties will endeavor to carry out TVET activities related to the technical cooperation, which will include the following:

- (a) Hosting joint conferences, symposia, workshops, and exhibitions for trainees, employees, trainers, and technology institute administrators;
- (b) Recommend conducting joint research and technical studies which promote TVET;
- (c) Recommend joint training programs for employees, trainers, and technology institute administrators;
- (d) Exchange of professionals in technical areas to allow conducting training programs and studies;
- (e) Exchange of experts in the area of managing technology institutes;
- (f) Exchange and publish research, studies, and other relevant materials;
- (g) Exchange of technology programs among private sector organizations and technology institutes;
- (h) Exchange of information on mutual recognition of skills and qualifications awarded in disciplines to be identified and given priority by both Parties; and
- (i) Other forms of technical cooperation as may be agreed upon in the future.

Effectivity:

The MOU took effect on July 24, 2019. It shall remain in effect for three (3) years and will be renewed for a similar period unless either Party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the MOU.

SWEDEN

**Agreement on Social Security Between the Republic of
the Philippines and the Kingdom of Sweden**

Objective/s:

The SSA aims to reduce or entirely eliminate nationality-based restrictions on social security. Applying the principle of reciprocity, the following are the salient features:

1. Equality of treatment, which entitles a covered Filipino worker, including his family members and survivors, to social security benefits under the same conditions as nationals of SE (Article 4);
2. Export of benefits, which allows a covered Filipino worker to continue receiving his social security benefits wherever he decides to reside, whether in PH, in SE or even in a third State (Article 5);
3. Totalization of insurance periods, which provides for combining creditable periods (excluding overlaps) of covered workers under the social security schemes of PH and SE, to determine eligibility to benefits and the manner of calculation of benefit payment on a proportional-sharing basis (Articles 12 and 15); and
4. Mutual administrative assistance, which facilitates coordination between the designated liaison agencies of PH and SE in extending assistance to covered workers and handle matters pertaining to the implementation of the SSA (Article 18).

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The SSA covers the following laws (Article 2):

1. With regard to Sweden, it covers legislation on: 1) sickness compensation and activity pension; ii) income-based old-age and guarantee pensions; iii) survivor's pension and surviving children's allowance; iv) accidents at work and occupational diseases; and v) social security contributions; and
2. With regard to the Philippines, it covers legislation on: i) the Social Security Law and regulations made thereunder as they relate to retirement, disability, and death benefits; ii) the Government Service Insurance Act and the regulations made thereunder as they relate to retirement, disability, death, and survivorship benefits; iii) the Portability Law as regards aggregation of periods of insurance under SSS and GSIS laws; and iv) Employees' Compensation and State Insurance Fund, as amended, as it relates to work-related injury, sickness, and death.

Effectivity:

The Agreement entered into force on Nov. 1, 2019 and shall remain in full force without limitation on its duration. It may be terminated by either Contracting state by giving a twelve-month prior notice through the other Party through an Official Note to the other Contracting State.

TURKEY

Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Industry Cooperation Between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Presidency of Defence Industries of the Republic of Turkey

Objective/s:

The MOU aims to develop cooperation between the Parties, particularly in the defense industry, through government-to-government acquisition of defense materiel and products from companies within the Turkish Defence Industries and related activities, on the basis of friendship reciprocity and common interest, and in accordance with the respective Constitutions and national laws of the Parties.

Obligation/s of the Parties:

The Participants will exert their best efforts to promote and facilitate the participation of their respective country's defense industry in each other's acquisition and procurement as well as, in joint research, development, and production, and co-production of defense articles.

The forms of cooperation covered by this MOU will include the following:

- a. Cooperation in the development, production, co-production, operation, and management of defense materials;
- b. Cooperation in transfer of technology, articles, materiel, and its corresponding Logistics Support, Supplies, and Services (LSSS);
- c. Exchange of personnel for cross-training purposes related to defense industry;
- d. Joint Research and Development on subject of mutual interest;
- e. Exchange of information and data on defense industry and other related matters;
- f. Convening of joint seminars and meetings on defense industry and other related matters; and
- g. Others as may be mutually agreed upon.

Effectivity:

The MOU took effect on Aug. 1, 2019. It shall be effective for five (5) years and shall be renewed automatically for a similar period, unless one Participant notifies the other in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to suspend or terminate this MOU, at least ninety (90) days prior to the intended date of termination.