

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Statement -9th GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks (September 16 2005)
Date	16 Sep 2005
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -)

The Maoist Insurgencies (1968 -)

Philippines-NDF

The Philippines have been defined by a series of center-periphery and often ideologically Maoist, separatist insurgencies. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began its war against the central Philippine government in 1968 through their armed wing – the New People’s Army (NPA). Further legitimacy was gained through the establishment of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in 1973. Grievances were predominantly opposed to the corruption and repression under the authoritarian Marcos regime.

Philippines-Cordillera

With the overthrow of Marcos’ regime in 1986, the CPP factionalized further to take on more localized characteristics. The Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) broke away from the NDF in 1986 to focus on the protection of the Cordilleran people and land in northern Luzon. Hostilities were formally ended in July 2011, with an agreement signed between the central government, the CPLA and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) that allowed for the absorption of CPLA fighters into the Philippine Army and the re-working of the CBA-CPLA into a socio-development organisation.

Philippines-RPM-P

Meanwhile, purge among the CPP in the early 1990s, encouraged the formation of a parallel party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (RPM-P). Their armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) which had carried out a number of assassinations during the 1980s at the bequest of the CPP, followed suit and allied themselves with the RPM-P in 1997 forming the (RPM-P-RPA-ABB). Severely weakened by the split with the CPP and with the arrest of several key figures, the RPM-P-RPA-ABB signed a peace agreement in December 2000, which encouraged the RPM-P’s branch in Mindanao to break away in 2001.

The CPP-NPA has only participated in intermittent talks with the government. Talks halted in 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration sought closer ties with the U.S. in the war on terror and added the CPP-NPA to the list of terrorist organisations, renewing violence. Following the launch of a counter-insurgency by the Philippine government, negotiations have been further delayed due to suspected internal differences between the CPP ‘old guard’ and younger members.

The Moro Insurgency (1968 -)

Philippines-Mindanao

The Moro Insurgency began in 1968, in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago after the killing of Moro Commandos, the so-called Jabidah Massacre, by the Philippine Army following a plot to invade Sabah province in Malaysia. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) captured a swath of territory in the mid-1970s. In an attempt to stem the violence, the constitution was reformed and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created 1990 granting a devolution of power to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Following the establishment of the ARMM, the MNLF splintered into a range of smaller groups including Islamic factions such as the

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Sec. Silvestre C. Afable Jr., GRP Peace Panel Chairman; Mohagher M. Iqbal, MILF Peace Panel Chairman
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement by the Peace Panels, informing on the 9th Round of Exploratory Talks between the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in which the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) adopted consensus points on the strand of governance for ancestral domain. The Parties acknowledged the efforts of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) on coordinating the Parties in the apprehension of criminal elements in Mindanao, and the Parties agreed to work towards strengthening the socio-economic monitoring functions of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and decided to invite other countries to partake in the monitoring process.

Agreement document [PH_050916_Joint Statement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, The Parties recognize the efforts of the Ad Hoc Joint Acton Group (AHJAG) relative to the ongoing operations against criminal groups in Maguindanao to wind up before the end of the month, and stress on the need for closer coordination to avoid the undue and prolonged displacement of local communities in affected areas. In this light, joint efforts to extend appropriate relief and livelihood assistance to affected communities will be undertaken.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Autonomous regions
Page 1, The 9th Exploratory Talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ended today with the Parties successfully concluding the most difficult hurdle in the ancestral domain agenda.

The Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Governance together with the GRP and MILF Peace Panels met in Kuala Lumpur from 15-16 September 2005 to continue negotiations under the ancestral domain agenda. The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere despite the complexity of the subject. The TWGs in consultation with their respective Peace Panels succeeded in resolving the unfinished contentious issues from the last meeting in Port Dickson. Both sides adopted the consensus points on the strand on governance.

With this breakthrough, the peace process is on track to complete the ancestral domain agenda before the end of the year. The addition of the ancestral domain accord to the two previous agreements already signed on Security (2001) and the Rehabilitation and Development (2002) completes the requirement of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001.

The Malaysian Secretariat acknowledged the high level of trust and confidence between the Panels and their respective TWGs for their vital role in ensuring the successful conduct of discussions on the ancestral domain aspect.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1, The Parties recognize the efforts of the Ad Hoc Joint Acton Group (AHJAG) relative to the ongoing operations against criminal groups in Maguindanao to wind up before the end of the month, and stress on the need for closer coordination to avoid the undue and prolonged displacement of local communities in affected areas. In this light, joint efforts to extend appropriate relief and livelihood assistance to affected communities will be undertaken.

The Parties will work towards strengthening the socio-economic monitoring function of the International Monitoring Team (IMT). Towards this end, other countries will be invited to participate in the monitoring process. Both parties thank Malaysia, Libya and Brunei for extending the IMT tour of duty in Mindanao.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime Page 1, The Parties recognize the efforts of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) relative to the ongoing operations against criminal groups in Maguindanao to wind up before the end of the month, and stress on the need for closer coordination to avoid the undue and prolonged displacement of local communities in affected areas. In this light, joint efforts to extend appropriate relief and livelihood assistance to affected communities will be undertaken.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.

Source GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), p. 154.
