Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreement by the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
Date	3 Sep 1997
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	For the GRP: Maj. Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) Chairman; C/Supt. Franco M. Calida, PNP, GRP CCCH Member; For the MILF: Atty. Omar B. Umpar, MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) Acting Chairman and Legal Counsel; Saipoden O'Tony Falcono Tomawis, MILF CCCH Member
Third parties	Witnessed by: Esmael S. Daulog, PNP, P/Sr. Superintendent; Capt. Rolando T. Garcia, PNP, GRP CCCH Member; Col. Manuel B. Ibanez Jr., PA, GRP CCCH Member; Col. Jose G. Corales, PA, GRP CCCH Member; Lt. Col. Rudy R. So, PA, GRP CCCH Member; Mgen. Oswaldo P. Villanueva (Ret.) GRP-Consultant; Baowi O'boyo Hashim, MILF CCCH Member; Aleem Usman Mangkabong, MILF CCCH Member; Abdul Nasser Tanggol, MILF Cease-fire Committee Member; Dan Dimaknal, MILF Cease-Fire Committee Member; Jannati Mimbantas, MILF Cease-Fire Committee Member; Abdulmanaf Mantawil, MILF Secretariat Technical Committee Chairman
Description	This Agreement gives further substance to the general cessation of hostilities; the Parties agree to re-position military forces in order to hasten the return of evacuees, and the GRP will conduct law enforcement in consultation with the nearest MILF liaison in the area.

Agreement document	PH_970903_Agreement by GRP-MILF.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→Rhetorical Page 1, Preamble [...] Whereas, there is a need to further give meaning and substance to the general cessation of hostilities by hastening the return of the evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao; Page 1, 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the area shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	Gender→Men and boys→Gender neutral wording Page 1, Preamble Know all men by these presents: [...]
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	No specific mention.
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	No specific mention.
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

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, Preamble
Whereas, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed on July 18, 1997 in Cagayan de Oro City, the Agreement on a General Cessation of Hostilities;

Page 1, Preamble
[...] Whereas, there is a need to further give meaning and substance to the general cessation of hostilities by hastening the return of the evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao;

Page 1, Preamble
[...] Now, therefore, the GRP-MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities agree, as they hereby agree, on the following:

Page 1, 1. The GRP will gradually reposition its forces in Rajamuda and its environs to their original positions before June 16, 1997 and will continue to secure the Cotabato City-Davao City highway to insure the safety of travelers. The gradual repositioning of the GRP forces shall be completed within fifteen (15) days after the signing of this agreement;

Page 1, 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the area shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.

Page 1, 3. Law enforcement in the aforementioned areas shall be primarily undertaken by the GRP authorities, provided, however, that before the conduct thereof, prior coordination/consultation shall be made with the nearest MILF designated liaison in the area.

Police

Page 1, 3. Law enforcement in the aforementioned areas shall be primarily undertaken by the GRP authorities, provided, however, that before the conduct thereof, prior coordination/consultation shall be made with the nearest MILF designated liaison in the area.

Armed forces

Page 1, 1. The GRP will gradually reposition its forces in Rajamuda and its environs to their original positions before June 16, 1997 and will continue to secure the Cotabato City-Davao City highway to insure the safety of travelers. The gradual repositioning of the GRP forces shall be completed within fifteen (15) days after the signing of this agreement; 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the area shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.

DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 1, 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the area shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1, 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the area shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
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.
