



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter referred to as “UNECE”), as represented by the Executive Secretary, Sven Alkalaj,

and

The Department of Health, Republic of the Philippine (hereinafter referred to as “Department of Health”), as represented by the Secretary of Health, Enrique T. Ona.

Hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

- **RECOGNIZING** the desire of the Parties to establish and develop cooperation to promote the Public Private Partnerships in Health (PPPs) Initiative as a tool for health systems reform which government is pursuing through the Universal Health Care framework;
- **AWARE** that the Philippines is into health sector reform under the current Administration’s Universal Health Care or Kalusugan Pangkalahatan vision and strategy anchored on three thrusts, namely: expanding and improving PhilHealth coverage and benefit delivery; increasing access to quality health care facilities and implementing health program interventions using a targeted approach;
- **COGNIZANT** of the establishment of a UNECE International PPP Specialist Center which can support countries enhance national capacities for PPP;
- **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the intent of the Parties to establish an appropriate mechanism for cooperation,

Have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1

- (1) The Parties will cooperate within the framework of their respective mandates and authority in the implementation of specific activities in agreed priority areas, while making full use of the comparative advantages of the two Organizations in promoting PPP in health under this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum”.

Paragraph 2

- (1) The Parties agree to cooperate in and promote the following:
 - (a) work of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence in Geneva, Switzerland;

- (b) creation of the International PPP Specialist Centre for Health in the Philippines;
 - (c) the development of PPP best practice guide for health as part of the UNECE PPP Toolkit; and
 - (d) other areas of common interest
- (2) Within the framework of this Memorandum, the Parties will be guided by the general principles and standards of international law and will cooperate in accordance with the principles of equity, transparency and reciprocity.
- (3) The Parties will work together towards the implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum through their authorized representatives, as contained in Annex 1, in addressing emerging issues and initiating joint activities.

Paragraph 3

- (1) The Parties agree to:
- a) share and promote their respective knowledge and expertise on PPPs within the international community.
 - b) provide independent advice and related technical assistance to government and to various countries seeking to develop their PPP capabilities and markets;
 - c) conduct consultations and organize seminars and other events on issues of common interest;
 - d) extend to one another invitations to conferences, symposiums, forums and other events related to their cooperation in agreed priority areas;
and;
 - e) exchange relevant information and documents in the agreed areas of cooperation;

Paragraph 4

- (1) This Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Parties for a period of five (5) years.
- (2) The present agreement may be terminated by the written consent of the two parties or by either party giving the other party three (3) months written notice.
- (3) Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected by mutual agreement of the Parties through the signature of a relevant supplementary agreement to this effect
- (4) Specific cooperative activities initiated by the Parties in the framework of this Memorandum will be administered under separate project documents, and/or written agreements, duly signed by the Parties, and discussed in joint meetings.
- (5) This Memorandum is considered to be a jointly agreed declaratory statement by the Parties and it will not interfere with the Parties' rights and obligations originating from other similar agreements, or their rights to enter into other such agreements.

- (6) It is understood, however, that nothing in or relating to this Memorandum will constitute nor imply the waiver by the UNECE of its privileges and immunities.
- (7) Both Parties will make their best efforts to promptly and in good faith settled through direct negotiations any disputes arising from, or in connection with, the implementation of this Memorandum. Disputes, which cannot be settled by negotiation within thirty days, will be referred to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE and the Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Republic of the Philippines.

This Memorandum of Understanding, done in two copies, each copy in the English language.

**For the Department of Health,
Republic of the Philippines**

**For the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe**

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Enrique T. Ona
Secretary of Health

Sven Alkalaj
Executive Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____

Witnesses

Annex 1

List of Authorized Representatives

Representative: UNECE

Name: Geoffrey Hamilton

Position: Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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Representative: Department of Health, Republic of the Philippines

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