

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and PH Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo issued a Joint Statement of Intent on the UK-Philippines Enhanced Partnership during Foreign Secretary Cleverly's visit to the Philippines on 29 August 2023.

UK-Philippines Foreign Secretaries' Joint Statement of Intent

1. The Foreign Secretaries of the Government of the UK and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines note the increasingly close relations and deepening partnership between the United Kingdom and the Philippines, including through the UK's Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN.
2. The UK-Philippines Enhanced Partnership takes as its foundation our shared belief in openness, freedom, and the rule of law, and shared commitment to upholding an open, inclusive and stable rules-based international order.
3. In recognition of our deepening bilateral relations, the Foreign Secretaries commit to elevate our Enhanced Partnership and to develop swiftly a Policy Framework that will outline the areas of our cooperation.
4. Our Enhanced Partnership will cover all aspects of our bilateral relations, namely: Defense, Security and Maritime Policy; Trade and Investment and Economic Development; Climate, Environment and Resilience; Science, Technology, and Health; and People-to-People Links, Democracy and Peace.
5. To support implementation of the UK-PH Enhanced Partnership, the two countries will continue to hold the following high-level dialogues at senior official level:
 - a. **Political Affairs:** we will continue to strengthen and sustain close cooperation on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest with a view to promoting a stable and peaceful rules-based international order, and to work together on security challenges including cyber, counter-terrorism and serious and organised crime.
 - b. **Defense:** we will develop bilateral defense engagement to uphold the rules-based international order across the traditional air, land, and maritime domains, including through expert exchanges, capacity building programmes, joint exercises and industry cooperation.
 - c. **Maritime:** we will deliver our shared commitment to promoting a free and open maritime order based on the upholding of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal framework for all activities in the ocean and seas. We will strengthen maritime law enforcement, marine environment protection, fisheries management and professional seafaring.

- d. **Economic and Trade:** we will enhance trade and investment between our two countries with a particular focus on renewable energy, agriculture, infrastructure and technology and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth
 - e. **Climate and Environment** we will strengthen partnerships in support of the delivery of commitments made through the Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, enhancing climate resilience and adaptation, halting and reversing nature and biodiversity loss, and accelerating the transition towards a green economy.
6. The Foreign Secretaries agreed to the convening of a Strategic Dialogue to chart the direction of the Enhanced Partnership and to review its implementation. This will be co-chaired by the UK's Minister of State (Indo-Pacific) and the Philippines' Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs.
7. Signed in Manila on the 29th day of August 2023.

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND**



**JAMES CLEVERLY
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**



**ENRIQUE MANALO
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**