

been shaped by a long history of conflict. The ratification of Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in 2019 and the creation of the new region constitute a major milestone for the peace process in Mindanao.

The EU has been active in Mindanao supporting peace and development efforts in partnership with the Government of the Philippines. In addition, the EU has continuously provided emergency and humanitarian assistance. Given this context, the diverse experience of the EU in Mindanao also provides an opportunity for building the humanitarian-peace and development triple nexus where integration of humanitarian and comprehensive peace and development interventions could build on each other towards achievement of sustainable and lasting peace and development in Mindanao.

As the Team Europe Initiative will also cover Mindanao area the various positions and interests of the concerned stakeholders and the factors determining them (e.g. religious, political, or economic) will be thoroughly analysed. The results of the analysis will be used to inform the implementation of the action favouring a conflict sensitive approach whenever relevant.

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### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

In line with the Global Gateway strategy, the action will support the national Copernicus programme and promote the use of satellite imagery and the exchange of digital information to identify and locate potential risks, to develop preparedness and response strategies and plans, to inform national and local authorities in a timely and accurate manner, to survey and monitor the occurrence of the event, to conduct ex-post evaluation, and to speed up feedback and the sharing of experience. This Action will contribute to incorporate key principles of disaster risk reduction into development goals, governance arrangements, policies and practice, at local, provincial, regional and national levels. While primarily focusing on public authorities, the Action will also leverage NGO networks that are active in hazard management and disaster mitigation, such as the Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRR-NetPhils)<sup>24</sup> and the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs (MINCODE)<sup>25</sup>

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### **Other considerations: Digitalisation and minorities**

The number of the Philippines' indigenous peoples remains unknown, but it is estimated to be between 10 and 20 per cent of the 102.9 million of the national population<sup>26</sup>.

The Action will ensure that no activities will be carried out that might have the effect of further isolating minorities or indigenous peoples or might cause tensions between them and other refugees or host communities in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act No. 8371, 1997)<sup>27</sup>.

When developing connectivity at national level, the socio-economic situation of each minority or indigenous community represented in the population will be taken into account to prevent increasing further the digital gap.

Digital solutions and technologies will be promoted throughout the action to support the digital transition and reduce the digital divide in less-favoured, remote or isolated minorities, or in regions shaken by political or civil unrest and violence.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://drnetphils.org/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://code-ngo.org/mindanao-coalition-of-development-ngos-mincode/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.iwgia.org/en/philippines.html>

<sup>27</sup> <https://ncip.gov.ph>