

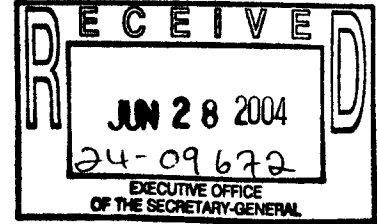
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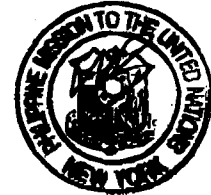
PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS



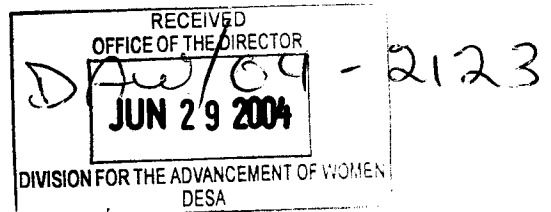
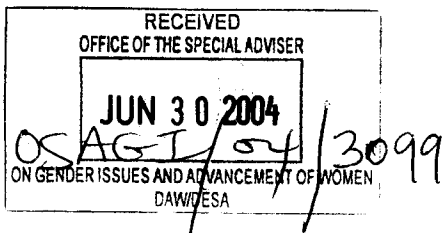
No. SCN-008-04

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and with reference to Note No. OSAGI/04/WPS dated 7 April 2004, has the honor to forward herewith information regarding the Philippine Government's implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



24 June 2004, New York



Philippine Inputs relating to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

The Philippine Government supports women, especially those at the grassroots level or members of indigenous communities, to assume active participation in peace-building efforts and peace initiatives at the national and local level. A major initiative undertaken for the diffusion of the Mindanao conflict was the conduct of Muslim Women's Peace Conference. The Women and Culture of Peace Program was likewise established to foster dialogue among Christians, Muslims, and Lumads (indigenous tribes).

The Philippine Government has sought women's participation in the peace process, involving them in dialogues and workshops to integrate their experiences and perspectives in setting hostilities in their communities. To date, there are two women in the government peace panel currently negotiation with rebel forces.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process is implementing short- and long- term strategies to secure lasting peace. These include pursuing social, economic and political reforms to address the root causes of internal armed conflicts and unrest; sustaining and enhancing the viability of peace zones through negotiated settlement with different rebel groups; and programs for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society, and rehabilitation of former combatants and their families, among others. The National Commission on the Role of the Filipino Women (NCRFW) has been involved in pushing for more lasting socioeconomic reforms and protecting women and children from rape and other forms of violence perpetrated by both parties.

The Government's peace panels include two women in the negotiating team with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and one women in the panel negotiating with the Communist Party/National Democratic Front. In 2002, a Mindanao Women's Peace Conference was convened. The Mindanao Commission on Women conducted consultations to formulate a Mindanao Women Position Paper on the Government of the Philippines (GOP) - MILF Peace Agreement. Dialogues were also initiated on the role of Christian and Muslim women in conflict resolution.

The Institute for Women's Leadership has organized meetings for Mindanao Commission on Women (with the Asia Foundation's assistance). Composed of Muslim, Christian, and indigenous women leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector, the commission pursues and agenda for peace and development in Mindanao with special emphasis on training young women leaders in peace building (Asia Foundation 2002). Moreover, the Government of the Philippines (GOP) -- UN/Multi-donor Assistance Programme (Phases I and II), involving the UN agencies in the Philippines and 10 donor countries, supported the reintegration of some 70,000 former Muslim National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants, supporters, and their families, into the mainstream of civilian,

economic, and social life. Its activities and outputs included cooperative formation and community organizing for livelihood, which reached a total of 14,056 beneficiaries; and agriculture-based livelihood trainings in aquaculture, crops, farm machinery, livestock, and women's concerns to almost 2,000 trainees, resulting in the establishment of 532 livelihood activities that benefited some 20,084 MNLF combatants and their families. Moreover, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) released Php1 1.5 million to finance community-based training for enterprise development. With the support of the Government of Netherlands and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 1,286 local health personnel were trained and 24 MNLF communities benefited from programs in family planning and reproductive health. The Bangsa Moro Women's Foundation for Peace and Development was the main partner particularly in the conduct of community-based surveys.