

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON WAYS AND MENANS OF PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL

(pursuant to UNGA Resolution 68/33 entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control")

The Philippines supports the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes. The social, political, economic and humanitarian consequences of the proliferation and illicit and unregulated trade of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons are different among various sectors of the population. While women comprise a minority of dealers, importers and users of firearms and have, thus, often been marginalized in policies and programs on disarmament and arms control, they are very much affected by the dangers posed by the proliferation of such weapons. The illicit trade of conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition is a contributing factor in the proliferation of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in the domestic sphere, not only in times of conflict but even in post-conflict situations. However, the tendency to highlight the vulnerabilities of women and focus on the protection and promotion of their rights has often obscured the many other roles women can and do play in building and maintaining peace.

The adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 encourages the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) to ensure that the different needs of female and male former combatants and their dependents are taken into account. The resolution recognized women's pivotal role and the importance of their participation in the field of conflict management, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Following are the policies and laws promulgated by the Philippines to harmonize and integrate UNSC res 1325 to national policies towards creating an enabling environment for promoting the participation and role of women in peace and security efforts, particularly in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the national level:

- Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women – the country's comprehensive women's human rights law
- Creation of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (the first in Asia) in 2010. The framework of the Philippine National Action Plan seeks to ensure the security of women and girls, especially from sexual and gender-based violence. This Plan identifies as a strategy the adoption of mechanisms to regulate the transfer and use of tools of violence in armed conflict, particularly SALWs, for the prevention of crimes and various forms of sexual and gender-based violence. At the same time, it promotes the active and direct participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management, post-conflict rehabilitation

and peacebuilding processes, which is envisioned to contribute in the attainment of a just, gender-responsive, non-violent and peaceful society.

Following are the measures undertaken by the Philippine Government in promoting the role and participation of women in disarmament and arms control processes as it implements the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and programs on DDR:

1. Collection and systematization of sex-disaggregated data and information, particularly of former combatants and their families, as well as beneficiaries of disarmament programs, to serve as basis for planning, programming and policy formulation;
2. Conduct of gender analysis of the situation and roles of women and men in armed conflict and in arms trade to ensure that the needs and concerns of both women and men combatants, their families and members of the community are considered in the development and implementation of strategies for a more effective disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control process;
3. Organization of formation of women's group and conduct of consultations to gather inputs regarding the status and process of disarmament and arms control in their particular community or locality;
4. Ensuring the inclusion and participation of women in monitoring mechanisms for disarmament and arms control programs
5. Conduct of reviews of security programs and processes to ensure that these are responsive to the specific concerns and rights women;
6. Ensuring the incorporation of gender dimensions in national legislations particularly those related to the regulation of ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture and importation of firearms and ammunition;
7. Repeal of discriminatory laws and policies and use of temporary special measures in the admission, promotion, remuneration and treatment of women in the security sector;
8. Provision of skills and leadership capability enhancement programs for women, particularly those at the local or grassroots level to enable them to actively participate in peace and security processes and mechanism;
9. Creation of policies to ensure the representation of women in decision-making bodies for peace and security, DDR programs and initiatives both at the national and local levels;
10. Encouraging the participation of women in disarmament education and advocacy; and
11. Creation of gender-sensitive materials and modules on DDR and arms control, as well as conduct of gender sensitivity training and seminars on laws and mandates related to women, peace and security particularly members of security forces and other law enforcement agencies to enhance the gender-

responsiveness of the sector and foster a culture of acceptance for the inclusion and participation of women in security and peacebuilding processes and mechanisms.

