

**UNGA Resolution 71/56**  
**“Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”**

The recognition of women’s representation in all levels of society and international organizations that promotes gender equality and empowerment of women has been noted and in fact, has paved way to a better understanding about women’s important role in promoting international peace and security.

The Philippine Government strongly supports strengthening the role and active participation of women in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. It is evidenced by the Philippines’ effective involvement in various activities and participation in local, national and international trainings, seminar-workshop and discussions.

The Office of the Presidential Peace Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has created the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security for the period of 2017-2022, which provides ways and measures to uphold gender inclusion in consultative meetings and planning activities. The NAP serves as the response of the Philippines to various international instruments on Women, Peace and Security and supports the implementation of national mandates on women and gender equality as well as peace and development. It is a product of constructive engagement between the government and civil society towards addressing sexual and gender-based violence in the context of conflict and promoting women’s participation in peacebuilding.

The NAP’s Action Point 10 on preventive mechanisms and early warning systems for women and girls to avert conflict-related is strengthened through initiatives such as the continuous implementation of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In the implementation of the CLIP, the DILG is ensuring that the process is gender-balanced, with participation of women and men in the process. Other initiatives include an advocacy campaign to encourage licensing of firearms, and the development of a program package for women in disarmament.

In addition, OPAPP has facilitated the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB), a peace agreement signed between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on 27 March 2014. Under the agreement, the Islamic separatists would turn over their firearms to a third party, which would be selected by the rebels and the Philippine government. The MILF agreed to decommission its armed wing, the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces. In return, the government would establish an autonomous Bangsamoro. Power sharing was a central point to the autonomy redesign.

In the agreement’s Annex on Normalization, an Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) was created to oversee the decommissioning of the MILF forces and weapons. In doing this task, the body is assisted by the Verification and Monitoring Assistance Team (VMAT) at the local level and during its site visits. Under the previous

administration, the VMAT had one female member who assisted former female combatants during the first phase of the decommissioning. This was in recognition of the special needs of former female combatants as well as the role of women in the decommissioning process.

Currently, the participation of women in the VMAT is included in the decommissioning plan of the IDB. Current efforts also include mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the process of identification and delivery of socio-economic interventions for the decommissioned combatants.

In implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent (UNPoA), Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects, the Philippines sets specific measures to be implemented by government agencies through its various year-round consultative meetings in accordance with the National Action Plan (NAP) on SALW. It conducts awareness building programs through education and information campaign on the harmful consequences brought by illicit trade of SALW.

## Annex

### **UNGA Resolution 71/56: “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”**

The Philippines, through its government agencies, namely the Department of National Defense (DND), and the Philippine National Police (PNP), welcomes the resolution as it recognizes the importance of women in promoting international peace. A gender-sensitive approach on issues pertaining to disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control may provide new perspectives on how issues may be addressed. The DND is of the view that incorporating gender-based perspectives can potentially reshape how disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control are framed in discussions at both the national and international levels.

DND, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), is also undertaking steps in support of the active participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The AFP encourages the participation of women from its ranks in training endeavors and conferences on such issues in the national and international arena. Locally, women from the military were heavily involved in the support operations and rehabilitation programs during and after the Marawi crisis. At the international level, the AFP also encourages the participation of women in UN Peacekeeping operations.

The PNP also supports the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 71/56. The Philippines is compliant with respect to paragraph 5 of the resolution regarding “effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, sub-regional levels.” Women are involved in the Mindanao Peace Process, which includes disarmament of belligerent Muslim groups. Republic Act No. 8551<sup>1</sup> “prioritizes women for recruitment”<sup>2</sup> in which the role of women in law enforcement, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and public safety is promoted. RA 8551 also establishes a women’s desk in all police stations throughout the country to administer and attend to cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment, and abuses committed against women and their children and other similar offenses<sup>3</sup>. With this provision, various issues and concerns confronting women and children, caught in armed conflict, are addressed by policewomen in the PNP.

PNP recommends that Member States be encouraged to develop appropriate and effective programs or mechanisms that will protect women who have participated in the implementation of disarmament-related matters in the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels. Local government officials are also encouraged to be involved in this endeavor. Tapping the media may also be enhanced to solicit support from the general public and promote the pivotal role of women in capacity building and their effort to investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking.

---

<sup>1</sup> “Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998”

<sup>2</sup> Section 58 - Prioritization of Women for Recruitment

<sup>3</sup> Section 57 – Creation and Functions