

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. 8551¹ “prioritizes women for recruitment”² 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 offenses³. 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.

¹ “Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998”

² Section 58 - Prioritization of Women for Recruitment

³ Section 57 – Creation and Functions

UNGA Resolution 72/42: “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”

On 13 November 2015, Republic Act No. 10697, “An Act Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by Managing the Trade in Strategic goods, the Provision of Related Services, and for Other Purposes” otherwise known as the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA), was signed and enacted into law.

The STMA was enacted consistent with the Philippines’ national interest and to fulfill its international commitments and obligations, including United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. Said law enforces measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery to, from or within the Philippines. STMA’s main objective is to maintain international peace and security, and promote economic growth by facilitating trade and investment through the responsible management of strategic goods and the provision of related services.

In relation to this, the Department of Trade and Industry – Strategic Trade Management Office (DTI-STMO), a bureau under the administrative supervision of the DTI, was designated as the executive and technical arm for the establishment of management systems for the trade in strategic goods pursuant to STMA. In essence, the office will be regulating and monitoring strategic goods to prevent their unlawful acquisition.

Currently, the STMO is preparing the guidelines and handbooks that will be referenced by government and industry stakeholders prior to the full implementation of the STMA. STMO are awaiting for the publication of the STMA’s Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which was approved by the NSC-STMCom last 31 August 2017, before STMA can be properly and fully implemented.

UNGA Resolution 72/28: “Role of Science and Technology in the context of international security and disarmament”

The Philippines, through the Department of Science and technology (DOST), sees the need to promote policies that would regulate S&T initiatives, more importantly on technology transfer to maintain peace and ensure security among member countries. It is essential to strengthen science, technology, and innovation collaboration, specifically on issues dealing with human security and climate change adaptation and mitigation. In this regard, a strong legal framework for the use of technologies that may have an impact on peace and security should be promoted and adopted.