

**Philippine Development Forum
Tagaytay City
30-31 March 2006**

STATEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE-GENDER AND
DEVELOPMENT (ODA-GAD) NETWORK

We, the members of the ODA GAD Network that was organized in 2002 by gender and development (GAD) officers, focal persons and advocates of various ODA agencies, together with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), with the aim of improving coordination of GAD efforts in the Philippines—

Recalling that the Philippine government and the various bilateral and multilateral ODA donors have committed themselves to improving women's participation in development and promoting gender equality, and adopting gender mainstreaming as a strategy for achieving these goals;

Recalling that Philippine law (Republic Act 7192, otherwise known as the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act) provides that "a substantial portion of official development assistance funds ... shall be set aside and utilized by the agencies concerned to support programs and activities for women";

Recalling that the NCRFW is the national machinery for women that is mandated to undertake policy advocacy and coordinate national efforts to bring about women's empowerment and gender equality;

Recalling that in 1995, a High-Level Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) endorsed as a policy "... gender equality is an overall strategic objective for promoting the role of women and therefore sustainable, people-centered development;"

Recalling the commitment that the Philippine government and the various governments and multilateral organizations represented in the ODA donor community in the Philippine have made to the Millennium Development Goals, which include an expanded targets of Goal 3 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment;

Upholding the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness that focuses on ownership, harmonization, alignment, managing for results, and mutual accountability;

Noting that in 2004, NEDA and NCRFW, with the support of the ODA GAD Network, published the *Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines for Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation*;

Recognizing the importance of the Philippine Development Forum (PDF) as a venue for substantive policy dialogue among selected stakeholders in the Philippine development agenda; and the contribution that the PDF continues to make in promoting reform in key areas of governance and development;

Propose that

The NCRFW be made a regular participant of the PDF;

The ODA GAD Network be represented in the various working groups of the PDF to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality concerns and issues in PDF discussions;

The PDF and all the donors support the Philippine government in promoting the application of the *Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines*; and

The Philippine government and the ODA donors report on donor compliance with RA 7192 in succeeding PDF.

The ODA-GAD Network

National Economic and Development Authority	Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women	Japan International Cooperation Agency
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation)	Embassy of Sweden/Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Australian Agency for International Development	United Nations System in the Philippines
Canadian International Development Agency	United States Agency for International Development
	The World Bank

Official Development Assistance - Gender and Development Network (ODA-GAD Network)

An informal group of Gender and Development (GAD) focal persons from bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international NGOs, and the Philippine government

History and Background

- * In January 2002, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) convened a meeting of donors to establish consensus on the usefulness of an informal network on Gender Equality. This meeting was attended by 8 agencies: four bilateral (USAID, JICA, SIDA, CIDA) and four multilateral (WB, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA). The second meeting included the ADB and ILO with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) making a presentation on the policy mandates for GAD, government's gender mainstreaming strategy and the Framework Plan for Women.
- * The first meeting agreed to establish a network and to extend invitation to other donors including international NGOs such as the Voluntary Service Organization. Several others have since joined the network which now lists 17 member organizations.
- * Chairing and hosting of subsequent meetings of the network were done on a rotation basis. Discussions have focused on, among others: monitoring implementation of RA 7192; harmonization of GAD guidelines; sharing of best practices in gender integration in programs and projects; gender equality in judicial reform projects; codification of Muslim personal laws; mapping of ODA-funded GAD projects; donor-specific activities such as gender audits, evaluation of country programs vis-à-vis gender equality; and gender mainstreaming strategies within country programs and organizations.

Objective of the Network: To serve as a venue for exchanging information, experiences and best practices on gender and development, and for exploring possible collaboration and enhancing complementation of ODA programs.

Nature and Operational Arrangements

- * **Focus:** R.A. 7192 compliance re provisions on ODA funds; support for gender equality programming and mainstreaming efforts of members; thematic discussions (on issues such as gender and local governance, judicial reform, Mindanao programming, violence against women [VAW], reproductive health, economic empowerment, environment, among others); emerging gender equality issues; and influencing major development agenda/events such as the Philippine Development Forum.
- * **Secretariat/Convenor:** For continuity and to ensure documentation and tracking of agreements, term will be for one year. In 2006, the UN Gender Mainstreaming Committee serves as convenor and secretariat for the Network.