

**Philippine Development Forum
2011**

IMPLEMENTING PRESIDENT AQUINO'S SOCIAL CONTRACT TO ACHIEVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH

**Statement of the Official Development Assistance—Gender and Development Network
(ODA-GAD Network)**

We, the members of the ODA-GAD Network in the Philippines, would like to advance our collective call on the participants of the Philippine Development Forum to promote equality between women and men and women's empowerment ,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Philippine government and various governments and multi-lateral organizations represented in the ODA donor community to the Millennium Declaration, but recognizing shortfalls in attaining key MDG targets, as highlighted during the 2010 mid-term reviews; and to the 2002 Monterey Consensus, 2005 Paris Declaration, 2008 Accra Action Agenda and 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, which recognize equality between women and men as a key to economic growth and poverty reduction, and which enjoin donors to increase their efforts to fulfil their commitments; and the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1325, which addresses the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, and Resolution No. 1820, which recognizes sexual violence as a self-standing issue that is linked with reconciliation and durable peace;

Bearing in mind the social contract of the present Administration to promote the empowerment of women and equality between women and men, inclusive growth, and governance, including curbing corruption;

Acknowledging that the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 recognizes that “women are out in a disadvantaged position due to differences in gender roles limiting their access to productive resources and basic services”;

Recognizing the high rank of the Philippines in the last two World Economic Forum (WEF) reports (6th in 2006, but slipped to 9th in 2010), the Philippines cannot be complacent and must recognize that serious problems remain in the areas of domestic violence; maternal mortality; vulnerabilities of women in overseas employment; displacement of women in situations of armed conflict and natural disasters; and the discrimination of women in the workplace as well as the lack of protection of women in the informal sector.

In view of the foregoing, we, the members of the ODA GAD Network, call on the Philippine Development Forum:

1. Under the **governance and security** cluster:
 - a. To strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms in connection with the budget, procurement, and use of public funds, because corruption hinders the attainment of MDG goals and targets, especially those where the Philippines is lagging behind, including on achieving gender equality and universal primary education, improving maternal health and combating HIV and AIDS;
 - b. To address the impacts of armed conflicts on women and children, Christians, Muslims, and Indigenous Peoples; and to strengthen the representation of women in peace building, peacemaking and peacekeeping;
 - c. To ensure that women are involved in decision-making and efforts to address problems related to urbanization and climate change, including disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction

strategies and that these efforts consider gender-differentiated needs and constraints of women and men, girls and boys.

2. Under the **human development** cluster:
 - a. To support the implementation of the Aquino universal health agenda to achieve Universal Health Care in improving maternal and child health, and increasing access to appropriate health services for women and girls such as sexual and reproductive health care and services, and supporting women's choice and access to voluntary family planning;
 - b. To strengthen women's access to timely justice through formal and informal justice systems to prevent and address violence against women and children, and trafficking in persons;
 - c. To minimize the erosion of decent work and gender equality standards and to support social protection policies and programs for a safe and conducive environment for workers, particularly mothers in the informal and formal sector.
3. Under the **economy** cluster:
 - a. To recognize the contribution of women to economic growth and poverty reduction (remittances, entrepreneurship and agriculture) and the potential of their increased contribution to economic growth, particularly through measures to increase growth and competitiveness of women's businesses;
 - b. To establish safeguards to protect the welfare and interest of marginalized groups, including women and children, in public-private partnerships.
4. The Philippine government and ODA donors to regularly apply the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs and projects, and to judiciously collect, use and disseminate sex-disaggregated data to track resources and results for better planning, decision-making and allocation of resources; and,
5. The Philippine government and ODA donors to enforce GAD budget executions as planned or allocated.

Finally, we call on the PDF to ensure that all the Working Groups report on their progress in addressing the issues and concerns that have been raised in this Statement in the next Philippine Development Forum.

ODA GAD Network Members

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID)
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women)
World Health Organization (WHO)

Philippine Government Partners:

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)