

Key texts

Documents relating to the Philippines–Mindanao peace process, 2000–2003

All texts listed below, as well as those published in *Compromising on Autonomy* (Accord issue 6) are available on Conciliation Resources' website, <http://www.c-r.org/accord>

Titles listed in bold are reproduced here.

General Framework of Agreement of Intent between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, March 24, 2001, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tripoli Agreement on peace between the GRP and the MILF, June 22, 2001, Tripoli, Libya.

GRP–MILF joint communiqué, issued August 7, 2001, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Implementing guidelines on the security aspect of the GRP–MILF Tripoli Agreement of Peace of 2001 signed by GRP and MILF, August 7, 2001, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Joint Communiqué between the GRP and the MILF agreeing to the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates and kidnap-for-ransom groups operating in Mindanao, May 6, 2002, Cyberjaya, Malaysia.

Implementing guidelines on the humanitarian, rehabilitation and development aspects of the GRP–MILF Tripoli Agreement of Peace of 2001, May 7, 2002, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Joint statement signed by the MNLF and MILF, during the first meeting of the Joint Coordinating Council of the Bangasamoro Solidarity Conference, May 9, 2002, Cyberjaya, Malaysia.

GRP–MILF Joint statement signed by the GRP and the MILF, March 28, 2003, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

General Framework of Agreement of Intent between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)

In the name of God, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), herein referred to as the Parties

Recognizing the need for a negotiated political settlement to bring an end to the armed conflict in Mindanao.

Desiring to contribute toward the end and to promote an enduring peace and stability in Mindanao.

Noting the Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities of July 18, 1997, signed at Cagayan de Oro City, between the Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Parties commit to pursue the peace negotiations on the substantive issues as soon as possible, and resolutely continue the negotiations on the substantive issues as soon as possible, and resolutely continue the negotiations until the Parties reach a negotiated political settlement.

Article II

The Parties affirm their commitment to protect and respect human rights in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article III

The Parties negotiate with sincerity in the resolution and pacific settlement of the conflict, and hereby pledge to implement the joint agreements/arrangements previously signed by the Parties representatives, such as the Agreement for General Cessation of the Hostilities signed on July 18, 1997 at Cagayan de Oro City and other supplementary agreements.

Article IV

The Parties pledge to refrain from the use or threat of force to attain undue advantage while peace negotiations on the substantive issues are ongoing.

Article V

The parties recognize that there will be lasting peace in Mindanao when there is mutual trust, justice, freedom, and tolerance for the identity, culture, way of life and aspirations of all the peoples of Mindanao.

For the GRP:

Lt. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano (Ret.)
Chairman, GRP Negotiating Panel

For the MILF:

Aleem Abdulaziz Mimbantas
Chairman, MILF Negotiating Panel

Agreement on peace between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front herein referred to as the “Parties” to this Agreement;

Determined to establish a peaceful environment and a normal condition of life in the Bangsamoro homeland;

Reaffirming the General Cessation of Hostilities dated 18 July 1997 and the General Framework of the Agreement of intent signed between the Parties on 27 August 1998, and committing to reach a negotiated political settlement of the Bangsamoro problem, and enduring peace and stability in Mindanao;

Recalling the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and the Jakarta Accord of 1996 between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the OIC Resolution No. 56/9–P (IS) on 12 November 2000 of the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Doha, State of Qatar, urging the GRP and the MILF “to promptly put an end to armed hostilities and to pursue peace talks towards finding a peaceful resolution to the existing problem in Mindanao;”

Noting that the basic elements/principles for the resumption of peace talks between the MILF and the GRP panels have been facilitated by the Government of Malaysia, as set forth in the Agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of Peace Talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed on March 24, 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

Further recalling Article VI of the said Agreement on General Framework for the Resumption of the Peace Talks between the GRP and the MILF signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in which Parties agreed to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures for evacuees, and joint development projects in the conflict affected areas; and

Recognizing that peace negotiations between the GRP and the MILF is for the advancement of the general interest of the Bangsamoro people and other indigenous people; and, recognizing further the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the conflict in Mindanao, the Parties welcome the resumption of the peace talks and, consequently,

Have agreed as follows:

A. SECURITY ASPECT

In accordance with the incremental characteristic of the peace process and agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of the Peace Talks, the Parties, as represented by their respective Peace Panels, consider that normalization in conflict affected areas can be achieved if certain principles and guidelines of conduct and action are adhered to by the Parties. That among these are:

1. All past agreements of the Parties shall be implemented in accordance with the Agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of the Peace Talks signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 March 2001 for the progressive resolution of the Bangsamoro problem with honor, justice, and integrity for all sectors of society.
2. The negotiation and peaceful resolution of the conflict must involve consultations with the Bangsamoro

people free of any imposition in order to provide chances of success and open new formulas that permanently respond to the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people for freedom.

3. The Parties agree to invite representatives of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to observe and monitor the implementation of all GRP-MILF Agreements. The Parties further agree to strengthen the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities dated 18 July 1997. Upon signing this Agreement, a Monitoring Team shall be constituted with representatives from the OIC.

B. REHABILITATION ASPECT

1. The observance of international humanitarian law and respect for internationally recognized human rights instruments and the protection of evacuees and displaced persons in the conduct of their relations reinforce the Bangsamoro people's fundamental right to determine their own future and political status.
2. The MILF shall determine, lead and manage rehabilitation and development projects in conflict affected areas, except when public funds are involved, in which case Government procedures and rules will be observed.
3. The Parties shall safely return evacuees to their place of origin; provide all the necessary financial/material and technical assistance to start a new life, as well as allow them to be awarded reparations for their properties lost or destroyed by reason of the conflict.
4. In order to pave the way for relief and rehabilitation of evacuees and implementation of development projects in the areas affected by conflict, the Parties agree to implement the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities dated July 18, 1997.

C. ANCESTRAL DOMAIN ASPECT

On the aspect of ancestral domain, the Parties, in order to address the humanitarian and economic needs of the Bangsamoro people and preserve their social and cultural heritage and inherent rights over their ancestral domain, agree that the same be discussed further by the Parties in their next meeting.

D. ACTIVATION OF COMMITTEES
Immediately upon signing of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree to activate working committees for the purpose of discharging their mandates, particularly the implementation of all agreements between the Parties.

E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Parties acknowledge the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in pursuing an all-out peace policy in Mindanao.

The Parties express their collective appreciation and gratitude to the Great Leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, and to the Chairman of the Gaddafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations, Saif Al Islam Gaddafi, for hosting the Formal Opening of the Resumption of the GRP-MILF Peace Talks in Tripoli, Libya; to His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia and His Excellency Abdurrahman Wahid, President of the Republic of Indonesia, for their full and continuing support.

Done on this 22nd day of June 2001 corresponding to 30 Rabi' ul Aw'al 1422 in the presence of the representatives of the Gaddafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations, the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

For the GRP:
JESUS G. DUREZA
Chairman, GRP Peace Panel

For the MILF:
AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel

Witnessed by:
SAIF AL ISLAM GADDAFI
Chairman of the Gaddafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations

GRP-MILF Joint Communiqué

The Peace Panels of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) today signed a set of guidelines for the cessation of hostilities during the state visit of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Kuala Lumpur.

Under the guidelines, the parties have agreed to normalize the situation in the conflict areas in Mindanao and pave the way for the successful conduct of relief, rehabilitation and development programs.

The guidelines implement an Agreement for Peace entered into by the parties in Tripoli, Libya on June 22, 2001. These prohibit hostile and provocative acts, harboring of criminals and lawless elements and all other acts that endanger the safety and security of the people in Mindanao.

The guidelines not only silence the guns for the peace of mind of the people. These also prohibit all public pronouncements that will tend to undermine the sincerity or credibility of both parties in waging peace.

Toward this end, the war of bullets and of words shall cease, and the parties shall follow the road to peace through earnest and principled negotiations. This will accord the Bangsamoro people permanent spaces for peace, self-reliance and development.

To prove the sincerity of both sides, the implementation of the ceasefire is open for all the people and the world to witness. Local monitoring teams shall include representatives of Local Government Units, Non-Governmental Organizations and the religious sector. Representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), especially Malaysia, Libya and Indonesia, have been invited to observe and monitor the ceasefire as well as the implementation of all agreements.

In this spirit, the Panels express their appreciation and recognition of the noble efforts of H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, H.E. Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad and the Great Leader Col. Muammar Khaddafy of the Arab Socialist Libyan Jamahiriyyah

for advancing the cause of lasting peace, development and stability of the region.

The Panels agreed to hold their next round of talks within September 2001 to discuss the remaining agenda items on rehabilitation, development and ancestral domain.
August 7, 2001

Atty. Jesus G. Dureza
Chairman, GRP Peace Panel
Al Hajj Murad Ebrahim
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel

Implementing guidelines on the security aspect of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement of Peace of 2001

ARTICLE 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. GRP-MILF Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities dated July 18, 1997, including its Implementing administrative guidelines dated September 12, 1997 and Implementing Operational Guidelines dated November 14, 1997.
2. General Framework of the Agreement of Intent Between the GRP and the MILF dated August 27, 1998.
3. GRP-MILF Agreement on Safety and Security Guarantees dated March 09, 2000.
4. Agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of Peace Talks between the GRP and the MILF signed on March 24, 2001 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5. Agreement of Peace between the GRP and the MILF signed on June 22, 2001 at Tripoli, Libya.

ARTICLE II: DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms shall mean as follows:

1. GRP Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement for the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.
2. MILF Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.
3. Hostilities - is defined as aggressive or offensive military action such as aircraft bombing, artillery shelling, naval gunfire, attacks, raids, ambushes, sabotage, and related

actions such as kidnapping, hijacking of aircraft, vessels and vehicles, extortion, liquidation, arson, grenade throwing and other terroristic activities.

The "prohibited hostile acts" and "prohibited provocative acts" specifically enumerated under the Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities-Implementing Operational Guidelines ("AGH-IOG-1997") are embraced in the term "hostilities" and are construed as such as of the entry into force (EIF) of this Agreement.

3.1 The following are considered prohibited hostile acts:

3.1.1 Terroristic acts such as kidnapping, hijacking, piracy, sabotage, arson, bombings, grenade throwing, robberies, liquidations, assassinations; unjustified arrest, torture, unreasonable search and seizure, summary execution, as well as burning of houses, places of worship and educational institutions, destruction of properties, and abuse of civilians.

3.1.2 Aggressive action such as attacks, raids, ambushes, landmining, and offensive military actions such as shelling, reconnoitering, and unjustified massing of troops.

3.1.3 Establishment of checkpoints except those necessary for the GRP's enforcement and maintenance of peace and order; and, for the defense and security of the MILF in their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF.

3.2 The following are considered prohibited provocative acts:

3.2.1 Display of MILF flag in non-identified MILF areas.

3.2.2 Providing sanctuary or assistance to criminal or lawless elements.

3.2.3 Massive deployment and/or movement of GRP and MILF forces which are not normal administrative functions and activities

3.2.4 Public pronouncements that will tend to undermine the sincerity or credibility of either party in implementing the cessation of hostilities.

3.2.5 Other acts that endanger the safety and security of the people and their properties; and/or that which contribute to the deterioration of peace and order, such as blatant display of firearms.

4. Henceforth, should there be delineation of lines/positions agreed upon by the Parties, any action that projects forces or fire beyond one party's identified line/position shall be considered offensive military operations, which is prohibited under this Agreement.

5. OIC Monitoring Team - representatives of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) as referred to in the Tripoli Peace Agreement dated June 22, 2001

ARTICLE III: CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Parties shall commit their Armed Forces to a general cessation of hostilities pursuant to and in accordance with the Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities of 1997 and its Implementing Administrative Guidelines dated September 12, 1997 and Operational Guidelines dated November 14, 1997, effective upon entry into force (EIF) of this Agreement.

2. The Parties agree to implement all necessary measures to normalize the situation in the conflict-affected areas, to pave the way for, and ensure successful rehabilitation and development of said areas.

3. The Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of both Parties shall continue to perform their powers and functions in accordance with Rule III, Section 4, of the Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF General Cessation of Hostilities ("AGCH-IAG 1997") dated September 12, 1997.

4. Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs) are hereby established in all-conflict affected areas as mutually determined by the Parties.

4.1 To perform the functions of the Independent Fact-Finding Committees (IFFC) provided under Rule IV, Section 4, of the Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities herein referred to as annex "A",

4.2 To perform the functions of the Quick Response Team (QRT) provided under the Agreement Creating a Quick Response Team dated March 11, 1998, herein referred to as annex "B"

5. The Local Monitoring Team shall be

composed of five members, one each from the following:

5.1 Representative from the Local Government Units, designated by the GRP;

5.2 Representative from the MILF Local Political Committee;

5.3 Representative from NGOs nominated by the GRP;

5.4 Representative from NGOs nominated by the MILF; and

5.5 Representative from the Religious sector, chosen under mutual agreement; and The LMTs shall designate their respective Chairman and Co-Chairman.

6. The Parties hereby invite representatives from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), in particular Indonesia, Libya and Malaysia, and other interested OIC member States to observe and monitor the implementation of all GRP-MILF Agreements.

6.1 The OIC Monitoring Team shall formulate its guidelines, procedures and ground rules upon its constitution.

6.2 The Parties shall, upon request, provide the OIC Monitoring Team appropriate Technical and Administrative support, and security escorts in the performance of its functions.

7. The structure of the implementing mechanism on the Security Aspect of the Tripoli Peace Agreement of 2001 is attached as annex "C" and shall form part of this Agreement.

8. The CCCH of each party shall, through their Parties, coordinate with the OIC Monitoring Team to address violations of this Agreement in addition to its powers and functions as provided for in Rule 3 of the Implementing Administrative Guidelines dated September 12, 1997.

9. Police and military actions and administrative/logistics activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao and the entire country. In the pursuit thereof, confrontational situations between the GRP and MILF forces shall be avoided by prior coordination with the latter. These actions include but are not limited to the following:

9.1. Peacekeeping and police actions such as preventive patrols, investigations, arrest, searches and seizures undertaken by the Government against criminality,

especially against, piracy, robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling, murder and other criminal acts.

9.2. Defensive or protective actions of the GRP to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications and the safety and tranquility of the civil government and population.

9.3. Hot pursuit of suspects by police and military personnel.

Paramilitary/irregular forces shall not be allowed to engage in hot pursuit under the terms of this Agreement.

10. Defensive or protective actions shall also be undertaken by the MILF [to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications and safety and tranquility of its civilian constituents.

11. In cases of alleged violations of this agreement, the Parties shall refrain from taking offensive or punitive military actions of any type against each other without prior investigation by the CCCH of both Parties in coordination with the OIC Monitoring Team.

ARTICLE IV: SAFETY AND SECURITY GUARANTEES

1. The Parties shall continue to respect and observe the provisions of the GRP-MILF Agreement of Safety and Security Guarantees dated March 9, 2000.

2. The safety and security guarantees extended by the Government to the MILF members who are directly and principally involved in the GRP MILF Peace Talks signed on March 9, 2000 shall remain in full force and effect as a necessary safeguard for the conduct of the peace talks.

3. MILF members covered by paragraph 1 above shall not be restrained or arrested, searched, seized and harassed on their persona and property in connection with their participation or involvement in the peace talks, except in cases of commission of common crimes such as crimes against persons, chastity, property, and other similar offenses.

4. The GRP and MILF Peace Panel Chairmen shall issue appropriate identification cards to MILF members covered by GRP-MILF Agreement of Safety and Security Guarantees.

ARTICLE V: EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE
This Agreement shall take effect upon signing. Done on this 7th day of August 2001 at Putrajaya, Malaysia.

For the GRP:
IRENE M. SANTIAGO
Acting Chairperson
GRP Technical Committee

For the MILF:
ATTY. MUSIB M. BUAT
Chairperson
MILF Technical Committee

Attested by:

ATTY. JESUS G. DUREZA
Chairman, GRP Peace Panel

AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel

**Joint Communiqué between
the Government of the
Republic of the Philippines
and the Moro Islamic
Liberation Front**

1. The government of the republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates and kidnap-for-ransom groups, including so-called "lost commands" operating in Mindanao.

2. Both sides agreed that the activities of these criminal groups impede the peace process, the effective pursuit of development programs, and the efficient delivery of basic services to the poor: for this purpose, immediate and joint action is needed for the security and upliftment of the affected communities.

3. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF an order of battle containing the names and identities of criminal elements as defined in the Implementing Guidelines on the security aspect of the GRP-MILF agreement on peace of 2001 suspected of hiding in MILF areas/communities.

4. The MILF and the GRP shall form an ad hoc joint action group against criminal elements. This group will operate in tandem with their Respective Coordinating committees on the cessation of hostilities (CCCH).

5. A quick coordination system will be established by the GRP-MILF ad hoc joint action group to enhance their communications and working relations for the successful apprehension or capture of criminal elements in accordance with this agreement provided, that criminals operating outside MILF areas/communities are considered beyond the purview of the peace process.

6. The MILF shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities. The MILF may request the assistance of the AFP or PNP in the conduct of operations against such criminals inside MILF areas/communities.

7. The agreement shall be enforced by the MILF and the GRP through their respective coordinating committees on the cessation of hostilities. The MILF and the GRP express sincere adherence to the implementation of this agreement, including other existing peace agreements, so that the peace negotiation of substantive issues can proceed smoothly towards a just and lasting peace in Mindanao.

Signed on this 6th day of May month 2002 at Cyberjaya.

For the GRP:
Sec. Norberto Gonzales
For the MILF
Atty. Lanang Ali

Attested by:
Sec. Eduardo Ermita
Al Haj Murad

**Implementing guidelines on
the humanitarian,
rehabilitation and
development aspects of the
GRP-MILF Tripoli
Agreement on Peace of 2001**

ARTICLE I: PARTIES
The Government of the Republic Philippines (GRP), represented by the Honorable Secretary **NORBERTO B. GONZALES**, Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns, and The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), represented by **ATTY. MUSIB BUAT**, Chairman, MILF Technical Committee.

ARTICLE II: TERMS OF REFERENCE
1. Kuala Lumpur Agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of Peace Talks between the GRP and the MILF, dated March 24, 2001;
2. GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of June 22, 2001; and
3. Applicable provisions of international instruments and covenants on International Human Rights Laws (IHRL) and International Humanitarian Laws (IHL) entered into by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

ARTICLE III: DEFINITION OF TERMS
1. Conflict-Affected Areas - refer to places where armed conflict between the GRP forces and the MILF forces is taking place or had taken place or where there are evacuees and/or displaced families as a result of such armed conflict.
2. Relief and Rehabilitation of evacuees - refer to the provision of appropriate services and necessary material needs to the evacuees and displaced families, their safe return to their places of origin, and their protection against loss of life, physical harm, illegal arrest or detention, fear and harassment, loss and destruction of their properties, and similar acts, to enable them to return to normal life.
3. Rehabilitation and Development projects - refer to the projects to be implemented in the conflict-affected areas.
4. MILF Designated Agency - refers to duly organized/registered/constituted agency or body designated by the MILF to determine, lead and manage rehabilitation and development projects in conflict-affected areas pursuant to paragraph two (2) of the Rehabilitation and Development Aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of June 22, 2001.
5. Government agencies - refer to the national and local agencies of the government involved in the rehabilitation and development projects in areas affected by the conflict.

ARTICLE IV: RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAWS
1. This agreement will safeguard the observance of international humanitarian laws, respect for internationally recognized human

rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons within Mindanao. The GRP will secure to all persons within its jurisdiction or territory the highest level of recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The GRP shall grant recognized accredited human rights agencies and organizations full access to monitor the human rights situation in conflict-affected areas.

2. In case of violation of human rights or humanitarian laws, the Joint Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the GRP and the MILF shall act in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of this agreement.

3. The parties will cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate its work in accordance with its mandate, ensuring full access to such persons, irrespective of their status, wherever they might be held, for visits in accordance with ICRC's standard operating procedures.

4. In conformity with international humanitarian law, each Party shall provide information, through the tracing mechanism of the ICRC, to families of all persons who are unaccounted for. The GRP and the MILF will cooperate fully in determining the identity, whereabouts, and fate of those missing persons.

5. The Parties shall cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of serious violations of international humanitarian laws and human rights as well as violations of this agreement.

ARTICLE V: IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

To pave the way for the immediate return of evacuees to their places of origin and for their relief and rehabilitation, and in the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and development projects in areas affected by the conflict, as stipulated in the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace dated June 22, 2001, the Parties are hereby committed as follows:

1. The MILF, in order to determine, lead and manage rehabilitation and development projects in the areas affected by the conflict, will establish a project implementing body, which will have the power and function to receive and disburse private and government funds. And in the case of GRP funds, it will observe pertinent Government rules and procedures, pursuant to the

provisions of paragraph B-2 of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of June 22, 2001.

2. The GRP and concerned government agencies, in coordination with the MILF, will continue to undertake the rehabilitation and development efforts in the conflict-affected areas.

Consistent with GRP's resolve to task the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as its primary implementing agency for development, the ARMM shall enter into contractual relations within its charter, pertaining to rehabilitation and development, with the MILF project implementing body. Likewise, with other government development agencies outside ARMM areas.

3. The Parties shall safely return evacuees to their places of origin and provide all necessary financial/material and technical assistance to those evacuees for them to start a new life. The GRP shall award reparations for the properties lost or destroyed by reasons of the conflict, upon reasonable proof thereon as mutually verified and acknowledge by both parties.

4. The Parties shall maintain an inventory or record of all relief and rehabilitation assistance or project actually extended by the GRP and other private entities to the evacuees and conflict-affected areas.

5. The MILF will submit to the GRP the name, structure and personnel of its project implementing body assigned to determine, lead and manage rehabilitation and development projects in the areas affected by the conflict as provided in the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace dated June 22, 2001.

6. The Parties will formulate work-programs, which will identify and/or define areas of cooperation and complementation for the benefit of the people affected by the conflict, which may be undertaken through agencies/bodies or other institutional arrangements that may be agreed upon by the Parties.

7. During the implementation of rehabilitation and development projects, the GRP-CCCH and MILF-CCCH shall see to it that the commitments of the Parties to peace are strictly observed in accordance with the Implementing Guidelines on

the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of June 22, 2001.

8. The Parties shall seek the assistance of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) as partner in the pursuit of rehabilitation and development projects.

ARTICLE VI: MONITORING MECHANISM

The Parties shall take steps to activate the Monitoring Team with representatives of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in order to:

1. Monitor the implementation of all rehabilitation and development projects; the observance of international humanitarian laws and internationally recognized human rights, and the protection of evacuees and displaced persons, and their safe return to their places of origin, in the areas affected by the conflict;
2. Coordinate its monitoring activities with the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of both Parties and the project implementing agency of the MILF;
3. Formulate its internal rules and procedures to govern the conduct of its monitoring activities;
4. Serve as an advisory body to the GRP and MILF Panels in the implementation of this agreement, and other related agreements.

The GRP shall continue monitoring existing government relief, rehabilitation and development projects managed and funded by its agencies in the areas affected by the conflict, in coordination with the Monitoring Team and the MILF project-implementing agency, to avoid overlapping of activities.

ARTICLE VII: ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

1. The principal office of the Monitoring Team shall be in Cotabato City. However, branch offices may be established in other areas as determined by the Parties.
2. The GRP shall provide the Monitoring Team office space, equipment, vehicles, supplies, and other administrative and support requirements.

ARTICLE VIII: PUBLIC INFORMATION
Both Parties shall conduct a continuing public information and education campaign with the aim of ensuring the

full support of all concerned persons, communities, agencies, and forces, of the relief, rehabilitation and development efforts of the Parties in the areas affected by the conflict.

ARTICLE IX: EFFECTIVITY
These guidelines shall take effect upon its signing.

Done this 7th day of May 2002 at Putrajaya, Malaysia.

For the GRP:
HON. NORBERTO B. GONZALES
Presidential Adviser
for Special Concerns

For the MILF:
ATTY. MUSIB BUAT
Chairman, MILF Technical Committee

Attested by:
HON. EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Presidential Adviser
on the Peace Process
AL HAJ MURAD EBRAHIM
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel

Witnessed by:
DR. PAROUK S. HUSSIN
Regional Governor, ARMM

GRP-MILF Joint Statement

The Philippine Government Panel for the Exploratory Talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) met with the representatives of the MILF

Peace Panel on March 27-28, 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and agreed on the following:

1. Both parties reiterate their commitment to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting political statement of the conflict in Mindanao and resolve to undertake appropriate steps to pave the way for the resumption of the formal GRP-MILF peace negotiations;
2. Both parties reaffirm to implement effectively on the ground all past and existing GRP-MILF agreements. Details of implementation shall be discussed by the Panels;
3. Both parties agree to exercise mutual restraint to minimize, if not put on end to, violence in Mindanao;
4. To normalize the situation and facilitate the early return of evacuees to their places of origin and allow rehabilitation to proceed, a new arrangement on the ground will be forged by both parties;
5. The Philippine Government takes note of the activation of the Bangsamoro Development Agency;
6. Both parties agree to direct their respective Technical Committees to work on the Implementing Guidelines of the Joint Communiqué signed on May 6, 2002 to ensure that the peace process is not adversely affected by the presence of criminal groups in Mindanao. The Technical Committees will meet within two weeks from today;
7. The parties agree to improve the

existing mechanism for monitoring of the cessation of hostilities including the composition of an observer/monitoring group as provided for in the Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001;

8. The parties reaffirm the provision on the grant of Safety and Security Guarantees to MILF leaders and members who are directly and principally involved in the GRP-MILF peace talks; and

9. Both parties express their gratitude for the gracious hospitality of the Government of Malaysia in hosting and facilitating the exploratory talks and for continuing its support to the peace process.

Done in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this 28th day of March 2003.

For the GRP:
PA JESUS G. DUREZA

Members of the Delegation:
SEC. NORBERTO B. GONZALES
SEC. CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
USEC. ANTONIO C. SANTOS
EDIR. DIOSITA T. ANDOT

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Acronyms

AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	MCC	Mindanao Coordinating Committee
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
BUF	Bishops-Ulama Forum	MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
CCCH	Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities	MPC	Mindanao People's Caucus
FPA	Final Peace Agreement	NPA	New People's Army
GRP	Government of the Republic of the Philippines	OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
JCCH	Joint Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities	OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process
LMT	Local Monitoring Team	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme