

Dialogue on international responses to UN Resolutions and Philippine Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

British embassy, 24 October 2011

Summary and next steps

We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society.
Nobel Prize Committee, October 7, 2011

Summary

Conciliation Resources and the British embassy convened a Dialogue on Philippine and International Responses to the global debate on Women, Peace and Security. The purpose was to share normative developments (UN Security Council Resolutions; the Philippine National Action Plan) as well as developments on the ground.

The Dialogue provided a unique opportunity to share information between Government, civil society and the international community, as well as for nurturing information sharing between ICG, IMT and other internationals.

Some 30 people attended the dialogue, including representatives of embassies (UK, Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Norway, Australia and The Netherlands); OPAPP; UNWomen; local NGOs (We Act 1325, Mindanao Commission of Women, MINHRAC); and international NGOs (The Asia Foundation, HD Centre, Nonviolent Peaceforce, International Alert).

Presentations

Secretary **Teresita Ging Deles** gave an introductory briefing to the Philippine National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. She highlighted the importance the current administration gives to this approach to peace. She wrapped up her presentation with some recommendations for internationals:

- Increase in participation of women in the composition of the IMT (2/43) and ICG (0.5/8).
- Infusion of gender awareness among members.
- Support exchange of ideas from countries that have implemented a NAP.
- For the IMT, inclusion of gender in interventions in the Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Development, Socio-Economic and Civilian Protection Components.
- For the ICG, vigilance in monitoring how the parties address gender-related issues in the negotiations.

The National Coordinator of UN Women, Mrs. **Aida Jean Manipon**, presented the five United Nations Security Council resolutions that have together recognized the impact of conflict on women, established that sexual violence in conflict is a matter of international peace and security and have put in place concrete measures to ensure accountability.

Mrs. **Jasmin Galace** introduced the audience to the We Act 1325 network, which played a key role in developing the National Action Plan and is now working on the implementation of its 16 action points.

She stressed the challenges of:

- Lack of financial resources.
- Participation and representation, especially in communities where cultural and religious practices restrain women's inclusion.
- Need for more collaborations between Government and Civil Society Organisations.
- Lack of unified monitoring mechanism that could document successful programs.

Mrs. **Irene Santiago**, former Director of the Beijing Conference in 2005 and former member of the GPH peace panel, presented the Mindanao 1325 network. She highlighted four specific requests for the internationals:

1. Call for the formal participation of women in the peace process.
2. Support local participation in the peace process; the local CSOs have to go through the internationals (ICG) and do not have a mechanism of their own.
3. Mainstream gender perspective.
4. Recognize and endorse a Women's Peace Table: a third table with formal recognition which would discuss in more detail several of the issues raised in main table.

Mrs. **Cynthia Petrigh** (HR and IHL expert with the IMT) and Mrs. **Patricia Triemer** (Nonviolent Peace Force), both of them members of the International Monitoring Team, shared observations from the field. They described the reasons that make monitoring and reporting on sexual violence especially challenging. They both highlighted the need for better planned action to properly identify the impact of conflict on women and children and, especially, to prevent violence against women and children in IDP camps and to promote women's participation in existing ceasefire monitoring mechanisms.

Organisers had also invited Mrs. **Raissa Jajurie** and Mrs. **Bai Cabaybay** to provide some insights from a Moro perspective. They could not attend this event but showed great interest in possible follow-up activities.

(All presentations are available upon request. Please email Mitzi Austero, maustero@c-r.org or Shane Male, Shane.Male@fco.gov.uk).

A brief open discussion followed, with comments on how to move from monitoring violence against women to responding to this violence. The audience welcomed the diversity and the quality of the information and agreed to maintain this dialogue in the coming months.

Next steps

Participants agreed to meet again early next year with the purposes of:

- Additional sharing of commitments and actions by international actors in the Philippines.
- Discussing options for a joint *International* Action Plan (INAP) to provide an overall framework for commitment and actions by the international community on Women Peace and Security.

In the coming weeks Conciliation Resources will suggest a date and agenda for the meeting, as well as an outline for a possible INAP.

In the meantime, any comments and suggestions are welcome.

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