

WOMEN'S DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

We, participants of the Women's Forum “Upholding women's meaningful political participation in the Bangsamoro” coming from grassroots communities and women's organizations in Mindanao, commit towards working for the full empowerment of our fellow women.

We commit to strengthen and intensify our advocacy and capacity-building on women's rights in the grassroots level, to include also the men, so that they too will understand and support the women's aspirations.

We will organize ourselves and make our women's organizations functional to truly work for women's empowerment starting at the barangay level. We will start with educating our women in the communities about our rights especially on our meaningful participation in the electoral exercise.

We will identify who among us can be potential leaders in government and in the community who can represent and articulate our interests.

We shall endeavor to promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of women. We shall continue to advocate for women's security both in the home and in the public space. We will promote the advancement of women through livelihood and continued education of our children especially the out of school youth.

We shall commit to be partners in ensuring security in our respective communities. As such, we will contribute and cooperate with authorities and concerned institutions to address the issues of human

and drug trafficking, drug addiction and law enforcement in our communities.

We will work towards informing and advocating for the equal protection of Moro women and Indigenous women especially in educating government agencies about indigenous people's rights.

We shall work for justice that will pave the way towards the healing of wounds of injustices and promote reconciliation among and between peoples.

We commit to seek justice where offenders will be held accountable but will also help restore relationships between victims and perpetrators and in the community in general. We will work to ensure that rights of peoples in the community, including the rights of the Indigenous Peoples are respected and promoted. As women, we commit to be healers, mediators, and bridges of friendship and understanding.

We shall remain vigilant against forces, individuals, groups be they in government including Congress or in the private sector that undermine women's initiatives in pursuing a genuine and lasting peace in Mindanao.

As women, we do not only aspire for peace. We will also actively work to make this a reality.

20 March 2015
Alnor Hotel
Cotabato City