

MANILA DECLARATION ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

15 May 2003

Manila Pavilion, City of Manila

We, Local Chief Executives and Legislators, stakeholders and partners in promoting women's participation in policies, decision-making, gender-responsive governance and sustainable development;

Recognizing that certain socio-economic, political and cultural structures hinder women's empowerment;

Recognizing the need to empower and transform ourselves to excel in our task in governance and decision-making;

Recognizing further the need to increase the number of women in all levels of decision-making;

Realizing our vision that, together as partners, we will transform our communities towards a more humane society, guided by the principles of participation, consultation, empowerment, equity, accountability, transparency, and a culture of peace;

Advocating for the accelerated implementation of our commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and other international instruments;

Acknowledging the diverse voices of women in our communities; and

Affirming the framework Plan for Women (2001-2004) and the Phitsanulok Declaration on the Advancement of Women in Local Government (June 2001).

Wherefore, we resolve to:

Institutionalize Gender and Development (GAD) mainstreaming through local legislation;

Formulate and implement local GAD plans with the participation of and in consultation with stakeholders and partners in development;

Appropriate and utilize a minimum of 5% of the local Government Unit (LGU) budget for the implementation of the GAD plan, in accordance with clearly stipulated guidelines from Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and other national agencies;

Institutionalize such mechanisms as GAD focal points, GAD councils, or local councils of women, among others, which will plan, monitor and evaluate the implementation of GAD plans;

Enable the sectoral representation of women in all local special bodies;

Enact and ensure compliance to gender-responsive measures such as, but not limited to, GAD codes and Children's Rights and Welfare codes;

Enable access to user-friendly information and communication technology as a vehicle for advocacy, networking and training for gender-responsive projects;

Ensure the collection, analysis, utilization and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data, enjoining the National Statistics Office (NSO) to assist the LGUs in these endeavors;

Formulate and implement a gender-responsive human resource development program which ensures continuing gender education through the use of gender mainstreaming resource tools and other GAD tools;

Include gender indicators in the performance appraisal system;

Build our capacities to advocate, mentor and train women leaders, especially at the grassroots level, on gender-responsive governance and transformative leadership;

Encourage and support the participation of more women in electoral politics;

Establish a GAD resource network which promotes the sharing of experiences on gender-responsive governance and mutual support;

Recognize and document the achievements of exemplary local women leaders and popularize their profiles and good practices;

Advocate for gender-responsive selection criteria by award-giving bodies;

Enjoin the Local Government Academy and all other accredited training institutions to develop and incorporate a gender perspective in all capacity building programs for local government officials;

Advocate for the amendment of the Local Government Code of 1991 to incorporate the gender perspective;

Advocate for the immediate passage of legislation for the implementation of sectoral representation in local legislative bodies;

Enjoin the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and its member leagues to adopt a GAD agenda;

Encourage the media to disseminate and popularize GAD mandates and other information;

Enjoin national agencies to disseminate GAD-related memos and issuances to LGUs down to the barangay level; and

Advocate for the strengthening of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women through legislation.

Signed on this 15th day of May 2003 by the participants of the National Summit of Women Local Chief Executive and legislators at the Manila Pavilion City of Manila.