

Philippines Country Report on the Post-2015 Agenda

MAY 2013

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APJR	Action Program for Judicial Reform
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BNPE	Bangsamoro New Political Entity
BUB	Bottom Up Planning and Budgeting
CARL	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law
CBMS	Community Based Monitoring System
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CDD	Community Driven Development
CEDAW	Convention Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CMP	Community Mortgage Program
COA	Commission on Audit
CODE-NGO	Caucus of Development NGO Networks
CPP	Communist Party of the Philippines
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations and Social Movements
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DepEd	Department of Education
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Governance
DOH	Department of Health
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FHS	Family Health Survey
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GE	Green Economy
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IKSP	Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPRA	Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997

IPs	Indigenous People
ISFs	Informal Settlers Families
KALAHI-CIDSS	Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services/KapitBisig Laban Sa Kahirapan
KP	Kalusugan Pangkalahatan
LAPP	Localized Anti-Poverty Program
LCEs	Local Chief Executives
LFPR	Labor Force Participation Rate
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community
LGC	Local Government Code
LGU	Local Government Unit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MC-IHDC	Multisectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIBF	Municipal Inter Barangay Forum
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MSACC	Multi-Sectoral Anticorruption Council
MSME	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
MTPDP	Medium Term Philippine Development Plan
NAPC	National Anti Poverty Commission
NCIP	<u>National Commission on Indigenous Peoples</u>
NDF	National Democratic Front
NEDA	National Economic Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
NHTS-PR	National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NPA	New People's Army
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NSP	National Shelter Program
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMB	Office of the Ombudsman
OWWA	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan/Peaceful and Resilient Communities Program
PAPs	Programs, Activities and Projects
PARRC	Philippine Asset Reform Report Card
PBSP	Philippine Business for Social Progress
PDF	Philippine Development Forum
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PHIC	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PhilDHRRA	Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas

POPCOM	Commission on Population
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PSO	Private Sector Organization
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
RVA	Risk and Vulnerability Assessments
SD	Sustainable Development
SDAP	Sustainable Development Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGISM	Shared Government Information System on Migration
SHFC	Social Housing Finance Corporation
SSS	Social Security System
SWP	Social Watch Philippines
UDHA	Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992
UHC	Universal Health Care
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Program
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open and inclusive consultations that put people first in the formulation of the post-2015 agenda are globally underway in anticipation of the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Philippines is one of over 50 countries chosen by the United Nations (UN) for this consultative process, which requires that voices of the poor, marginalized, vulnerable and civil society are heard.

In September 2012, the UN system in the Philippines and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) launched a series of consultations leading to a position on what constitutes a framework for the country's post-2015 development agenda. This will also be the Philippines' contribution to the global development agenda that is expected to build on the lessons learned from the MDGs.

The first national consultation (December 2012) included the results of a study on lessons learned from achieving the MDGs in the country, focus group discussions with poverty groups, a broad-based survey, key informant interviews, civil society perspectives and the Philippine position in the recently concluded Rio+20 Conference. These inputs provided the building blocks of the post-2015 framework and the identification of themes most relevant to the Philippines.

A second national consultation (March 2013) was held to validate the substance of the five thematic papers, which were prepared based on the priority themes identified during the first national consultation. During the second national consultation the building blocks of the post-2015 framework and priority themes were presented and critiqued by stakeholders. The building blocks are structured in the form of four principles and five pillars as well as enablers for realizing the development agenda.¹

The Philippines was also chosen to conduct a national consultation on the Post-2015 global theme on Population Dynamics. On March 7, 2013, 100 key stakeholders gathered to discuss how population dynamics can be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Using the findings of the national ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) Beyond 2014 Review as reference points, the consultation discussed how population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration constitute important developmental challenges and opportunities. Recommendations for policies and programs, which are rights-based and promote gender-equality were presented.

Four principles embedded in the UN Charter and 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines form the bedrock at the center of the suggested agenda: (i) Human Rights; (ii) Equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion and justice; (iii) Accountable governance; and (iv) Sustainable and inclusive development.

¹ A diagram depicting the Building Blocks of the Philippine Post-2015 Development Framework is on page 27 and can be seen in ff. page.

To reflect the specific development challenges of the country, five pillars were identified as the areas where progress is most needed to build a rights-based, equitable and sustainable society. The pillars (or themes) are: 1) Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion, 2) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 3) Accountable, Responsive and Participatory Governance, 4) Fair and Stable Order Based on International Rule of Law, and 5) Peace and Security.

Well thought out and coherent policies will be needed to achieve the goals and objectives which will be defined within these pillars. It is proposed that such policies or enablers are spelled out in the Philippine National Agenda and monitored at regular intervals.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PHL POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

KEY:
 GREEN – PRINCIPLES
 BLUE – PILLARS
 YELLOW - ENABLERS



1) POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Inequality is one of the most critical development concerns of the country. Sectoral and geographic disparities have to be addressed in pursuit of poverty reduction and social inclusion. Central issues are inclusive growth and employment generation, asset reform, social protection, and equitable access to basic services (particularly in the areas of education, health, food security and nutrition, shelter and settlements, water and sanitation, and energy).

Priorities for this pillar are to improve implementation and enforcement of policies, programs, and laws to create decent and productive employment; increase investments in asset reform programs, social services, sustainable energy, and health; increase the inclusivity of policies, programs and services; address supply side factors and social factors influencing service delivery and social outcomes; and improve linkages of laws and policies at the national and local levels.

2) ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

There is significant potential to use and manage the abundant resources of the country sustainably to improve the lives of the Filipino people. However, this opportunity is threatened by rapid environmental degradation and the threat of climate change and natural hazards.

Priorities in pursuit of a resilient environment and sustainable environmental future are to strengthen the enforcement of environment laws and regulations; improve urban and land use planning; capitalize on the country's genetic pool; pursue value adding strategies to generate more wealth from the environment; reduce vulnerability to risk sources in the environment; and address pollution and environmental degradation through green growth strategies.

3) ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Among the critical issues confronting the political system are political patronage, elite dominance, and monopoly of power. The electoral processes and practices in the country have been marked by fraud, violence and massive disenfranchisement of voters. In addition, the public administration system has been challenged by lack of accountability, rampant graft and corruption, poor service delivery, and denial of justice, especially to those who cannot pay or have no access to courts.

Priorities in pursuit of accountable, responsive and participatory governance are to reform institutions and structures, reform values and behavior, strengthen leadership in government and strengthen citizen engagement.

4) FAIR AND STABLE ORDER BASED ON INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW

Bold policy reforms are required at the local, national and global levels to end and prevent crises, promote inclusive growth and ensure sustainable development.

Priorities for the post-2015 agenda are to strengthen global efforts to promote

environmental sustainability; forge global partnerships for fair trade and just economic order; pursue policies aimed at accelerated industrialization and job creation; and overhaul the macroeconomic framework.

5) PEACE AND SECURITY

The aspiration for peace and security in the Philippines is challenged by long running conflicts, a growing culture of violence indicated by the proliferation of loose firearms, high crime rates in certain areas, and external stresses.

Priorities in pursuit of peace and security are to peacefully resolve armed conflicts; end political violence; promote internal stability and international accord; address key concerns of indigenous peoples; nurture the culture of and for peace; and promote women's participation in peacebuilding.

PROFILE OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Total number of people consulted	638 (this number does not include the civil society and LGUs consulted by the UN Millennium Campaign in their parallel consultations)
Gender	
Male	209 (32.8%)
Female	429 (67.2%)
Urban	338 (53%)
Rural	300 (47%)
Youth participants	62
Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Government - Civil Society (i.e., NGO, Women, Home Owners' Association, Cooperatives, CSO Network, Children, Farmers, Peasant, Overseas Migrants, Multisectoral, Population and development, Environment and Sustainable Development) - Academe - Local Government - Private Sector - Youth - Donor
Marginalized Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) or Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) beneficiaries in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao - Basic sector representatives (urban poor, workers in the informal sector, persons with disabilities, farmers and landless rural workers, youth and students, victims of disaster and calamities, senior citizens, indigenous people, children, artisanal fisherfolks, formal labor and migrant workers, cooperatives, women)

1. INTRODUCTION²

The outcome of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs included the mandate to begin thinking about how to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015 and a call for the President of the General Assembly to convene a special event in follow-up to the meeting at its 68th session, which will begin in September 2013. The special event is seen as a key milestone in the deliberations on the post-2015 UN development agenda. As such, the event could be used as the basis for a possible road map towards the formulation of the agenda, following a two-step approach.

The first step, through the fall of 2013, would include a broad discussion about the purpose and scope of the post-2015 UN development agenda, and would greatly benefit from an open, inclusive and transparent consultation process with contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. The consultations would provide a strong basis for the second step, from fall 2013 through 2015, involving intensified efforts to achieve an intergovernmental consensus regarding the post-2015 development agenda.

Consultations that put people first in the formulation of a post-2015 agenda are currently underway globally in anticipation of the 2015 deadline of the MDGs. The Philippines is one of over 50 countries chosen by the UN for this consultative process, which requires that the voices of the poor, marginalized, vulnerable and civil society are heard.

This country report is the culmination of a national consultation process organized by the UNCT in the Philippines and NEDA that would lead to a Philippine position on a framework for a post-2015 development agenda. This will also be the country's contribution to the global development agenda, which is expected to build on the gains and lessons learned from the MDGs.

2. METHODOLOGY

While the original MDGs came across as a “one-size-fits-all” package, the post-2015 development agenda strongly considers the specific development situation, perspective, priorities and needs in individual countries. By doing this, the post-2015 agenda promises more flexibility and larger freedom on how developing countries can pursue their development goals.

The overriding objective of the national consultation in the Philippines was to make the entire process as participatory and inclusive as possible and to reflect the views of all stakeholders including government, civil society organizations and social movements (CSOs), the private sector and the academe. More than 500 stakeholders were engaged in the consultation process. Considering that human rights is one bedrock requirement for the realization of development and the principal objective of the UN, special attention

²This section draws from the *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*, 6 August 2012, A/67/257. UNSG (Annual Report)

was given to the voices of members of society whose basic social, economic, civil and political rights are most seriously violated. This includes women, rural participants, people suffering from discrimination, and the poorest and most marginalized.

This report presents the inputs from the first national consultation (December 2012) including the results of a study on lessons learned from achieving the MDGs in the country, focus group discussions with poverty groups, a broad-based survey, key informant interviews, civil society perspectives and the Philippine position in the recently concluded Rio+20 Conference. These inputs provided the building blocks of the post-2015 framework and identified the themes most relevant to the Philippines.

In addition, this report presents the results of the National Consultation on Population Dynamics (March 2013), which discussed the important developmental challenges and opportunities of population dynamics in the Philippines. Recommendations for policies and programs resulting from the consultation are included.

The second part of the report focuses on the building blocks of the post-2015 framework and priority themes, which were presented, critiqued and validated by stakeholders during the second national consultation (March 2013). The building blocks are structured in the form of four principles and five pillars as well as enablers for realizing the development agenda.³ This report presents the principles, pillars and key recommendations for each theme based on the consultations.

3. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

3.1 GLOBAL LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MDGS FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The experience with and impact of the MDGs have been the subject of numerous reviews and assessments.⁴ Some of the more important points on which a consensus has emerged are summarized below.

Thus far, in the discussions on the post-2015 UN development agenda, most stakeholders have identified the format of concrete goals, targets and indicators as one of the major strengths of the MDG framework — and a feature to be retained. Such a format implies a clear framework of accountability, based on clear and easy-to-communicate goals, operational, time-bound and quantitative targets, and measurable indicators. Most MDG targets appeared realistic and achievable, which made them credible.

The focus on ends in the MDG framework was important in giving priority to human development in national development strategies. It makes sense to retain a focus on ends in the post-2015 agenda, but the opportunity to address the issue of means—without

³ A diagram depicting the Building Blocks of the Philippine Post-2015 Development Framework is on page 27

⁴This section draws heavily from *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*, June 2012, UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

being prescriptive—should not be missed.

Without providing blueprints, the post-2015 framework could include some general guidelines for policy orientation and coherence, and could highlight some of the key success factors of effective development processes.

Given the high degree of global interdependence, setting collective goals and targets to be pursued by the world community will remain meaningful. In doing so, however, a one-size-fits-all approach should be avoided. Needed flexibility should be ensured to tailor targets to regional, national and sub-national conditions and priorities, while respecting international standards, and should be tracked with data disaggregated by sex, age and geography (including rural-urban location). Such tailoring of development targets to national and local circumstances is most effectively and legitimately done through participatory processes.

Given the outstanding deficits, the post-2015 UN development agenda should maintain the focus on human development and the eradication of poverty as ultimate objectives of any development agenda. Yet, the agenda should also respond to a number of challenges that have become more pressing since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and did not figure explicitly or were not adequately reflected in the MDG framework:

- Reducing inequalities within and among countries
- Tackling climate change and achieving sustainable development; increasing resilience to natural disasters
- Addressing population and epidemiological dynamics; dealing with urban growth; ensuring peace and security
- Improving governance and state capabilities; and respecting human rights and cultural diversity

Dealing with these challenges in the context of a broader development agenda will require globally coherent responses that are the responsibility of all countries.

The global consensus built around the MDG framework was one of its major strengths. Going forward, greater interdependence among countries and the global challenges ahead will require a truly global agenda for development, with shared responsibilities by all countries. Goals and targets for the global partnership should be more precisely defined to improve implementation and strengthen accountability.

3.2 LESSONS LEARNED IN ACHIEVING THE MDGS: THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

A critical element of developing the Philippines post-2015 agenda is incorporating the experience from policies, programs and projects initiated locally and nationally to attain the MDGs. The NEDA Social Development Staff (SDS) prepared a detailed report on this subject, which was presented during the first national consultation.

The section covers the major efforts undertaken in the Philippines to support the MDGs, initiatives that resulted in positive gains, the remaining challenges and the priorities for action needed moving forward.⁵

Philippine Progress on the MDGs

The most recent assessment of NEDA and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) found that the country is on track to meet the 2015 MDG targets with respect to providing educational opportunities for girls, increasing the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, reducing infant and under-five mortality, reversing the incidence of malaria, increasing tuberculosis detection and cure rates, and increasing the proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities. At the same time there is need for greater efforts to accelerate progress in the major areas where the country is lagging behind in meeting the 2015 targets in: poverty reduction, universal primary education, maternal health and HIV and AIDS.

PROBABILITY OF ACHIEVING 2015 MDG TARGETS⁶		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
- Child mortality -Access to safe drinking water -Access to sanitary toilet facilities	-Income Poverty -Nutrition	-Elementary school participation, survival and completion rates -Maternal mortality ratio -Access to reproductive health services -HIV and AIDS incidence and spread

Between 1991 and 2003 the Philippine population below the poverty line fell from 33.1% to 24.9%. However, the latest estimates on poverty incidence show that the population living below the poverty threshold has increased since 2003 to 26.5% in 2009. Given the country's population growth the absolute number of people below the poverty line increased significantly during this six-year period.⁷

Current trends in elementary school participation, survival and completion rates suggest that the country may not achieve universal access to elementary education if factors that keep children out of school are not addressed. Factors include poverty, poor health, peace and order problems, and child labor. In addition, efforts need to be focused on supporting boys to achieve gender equality in education, as the current gender gap appears to be in favor of girls.⁸

At the current rate of decline in the maternal mortality ratio, the 2015 target of 52 deaths per 100,000 live births may not be achieved. Although HIV prevalence is currently less

⁵ This section is based on *Lessons Learned In Achieving The Millennium Development Goals: The Philippine Experience*, November 2012, NEDA

⁶ 3 December 2012 presentation of NEDA–SDS Director during the first national consultation.

⁷ Based on official poverty statistics available at www.nscb.gov.ph

⁸ Ibid.

than 1%, data show that number of cases in the country is increasing at an alarming rate.⁹ Investments in maternal health must be increased and the functionality of local health systems needs to be reinforced.

What worked:

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 the Philippines has implemented a significant number of initiatives to create an environment to facilitate the attainment of the MDGs in the country. The commitment at all levels of government is evident from the numerous policies put in place and programs implemented. The concerted efforts of other stakeholders including the private sector, CSOs, community partners and international development partners) have strengthened initiatives to achieve the MDGs.



Clear Institutional Arrangements

The highest political support is given to the attainment of the MDGs in the Philippines. Several Presidents have led country delegations and reports on Philippine progress in achieving the MDGs, particularly during meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The MDGs are at the center of cabinet policy discussions and there is explicit support for the MDGs from the legislative branch of government.

For program and project coordination, the Multisectoral Committee on International Development Commitments (MC-IHDC) is monitoring the country's progress and the efforts of various stakeholders to assist in achieving the MDGs.¹⁰

To ensure the availability of data to monitor progress, the NSCB has been designated as the repository of MDG indicators and the coordinator for the generation and

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰The MC-IHDC was created to monitor, report, review, and evaluate the Philippine compliance to commitments made during international conferences on human and social development.

improvement of statistics for the MDGs.¹¹ All concerned data producing agencies and local government units (LGUs) have been instructed to generate and regularly provide the NSCB with timely and accurate statistics for monitoring MDG indicators.

Numerous Policies Supporting the MDGs

Development Planning

The MDGs served as a guide in the formulation of policies and strategies in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP 2004-2010) and the latest Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2011-2016).

Investment Programming

Programs and projects to support MDG achievement were included in the Medium-Term Philippine Investment Program (MTPIP) 2004-2010 and the Public Investment Program (PIP) 2011-2016 (which accompanied the MTPDP and PDP).

Service Delivery

The MDGs provided necessary guidance in the enactment of numerous policies that seek to improve the delivery of basic services. The most recent of these policies include the Magna Carta of Women (2009); the Climate Change Act (2009); the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Regional GAD Code (2010); the People's Survival Fund (2012); the ARMM Reproductive Health Act (2012); and the Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development Act (2012).

Localizing the MDGs

As the lead agency tasked with MDG localization, the Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG) has encouraged LGUs to intensify efforts to implement MDG oriented programs, activities and projects (PAPs) and increased budgetary allocations for basic social services in support of MDG achievement. The DILG has also provided guidance for poverty focused planning and budgeting, local poverty diagnosis and monitoring, and encouraged replication of best practices related to the MDGs.

The introduction of the Bottom Up Planning and Budgeting (BUB) approach through the joint efforts of the DILG, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) enables LGUs, especially cities and municipalities in collaboration CSOs, to propose and implement focused anti-poverty programs and projects through the regular national budget process. These BUB programs and projects support the achievement of the MDGs at the local level.

Financing the MDGs

Since 2006, the DBM has emphasized funding for MDG-related PAPs in their guidelines and procedures in the preparation of national and local budgets.

¹¹National Statistical Coordination Board. Executive Board, 2004, Resolution No. 10 Series of 2004, Web, <<http://www.nscb.gov.ph/resolutions/2004/10.asp>>

Monitoring the MDGs

To monitor the government's physical and financial accomplishments related to the MDGs, the DBM and NEDA issued a joint circular that requires all concerned government agencies to submit annual reports on the allocations, spending and accomplishments of programs and projects focused on the MDGs. NEDA consolidates the reports to determine the total financial investment of the government in initiatives to achieve the MDGs.

The DILG and NAPC have also adopted the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as a tool for generating MDG indicators.¹² The CBMS involves a census of all households at the barangay level. Indicators include health, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, basic education, income and employment indicators.

Implementation of major programs and projects supporting the MDGs

Major programs and projects were implemented to support the achievement of MDGs in the country including the following:

- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
 - Launched in 2008, 4Ps is a poverty reduction program using conditional cash transfer (CCT). It serves as the cornerstone of the government's strategy to fight poverty and attain the MDGs.
- Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS)
 - This community-driven development (CDD) project aims to empower communities through greater participation in local governance and involvement in the design and implementation of poverty reduction activities.
- Universal Health Care (UHC)
 - The goal of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) is to provide universal health coverage with the latest figures estimated at more than 80% of the population enrolled.¹³
 - The National Strategy Towards Reducing Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning (DOH-AO 2012-0009) is an integral part of UHC. Launched in May 2012, the program provides for an updated and comprehensive approach for Filipino men and women to have free access to adequate and quality modern family planning information and services. At present, an estimated six million Filipino women have unmet needs for modern family planning.
- Kindergarten to 12 Years Basic Education Program (K-12)
- Community Mortgage Program (CMP)
 - A national program implemented by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) that provides security of tenure to informal settlers

¹²CBMS is a tool used in collecting data at the local level for planning, budgeting, and implementing local development programs as well as for monitoring and evaluating performance.

¹³ Source: Philippine Information Agency, August 2012

families (ISFs) through the processes of land acquisition, land development and unitization, or distribution of lots to ISFs for their amortization at affordable levels. The CMP has helped guarantee the right to shelter, thus supporting the achievement of MDG 7.

Active Participation of Various Stakeholders

Private Sector

Recognizing the important role of the private sector as a critical driver for national development, the government has identified the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPP) as a cornerstone strategy to accelerate infrastructure development in the country and sustain economic growth.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) led the formulation of the *Philippines MDG Framework for Business Action* through a series of consultations with business executives and leaders of corporate foundations, corporate officers, government partners and the donor community.

CSOs/NGOs

NGOs have been very involved in establishing partnerships to improve access to HIV and AIDS related prevention and treatment services in Mindanao, and providing long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLINs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS) to reduce the incidence of malaria. NGOs such as the Likhaan Center for Women's Health are actively providing reproductive health services in the urban poor communities of Metro Manila where public service delivery is limited.

Social Watch Philippines (SWP) has prepared citizens' reports on the MDGs, which provide an assessment of the government's efforts and recommendations on how to improve performance on the MDGs.

Community/People Participation

For the KALAHI-CIDSS program, the active engagement of constituents has been vital in the identification of priority development projects in each community. Furthermore, the transparency of the Municipal Inter-Barangay Forum (MIBF) has strengthened the responsiveness of local planning and budgeting systems to the needs of the poor.

International Development Partners

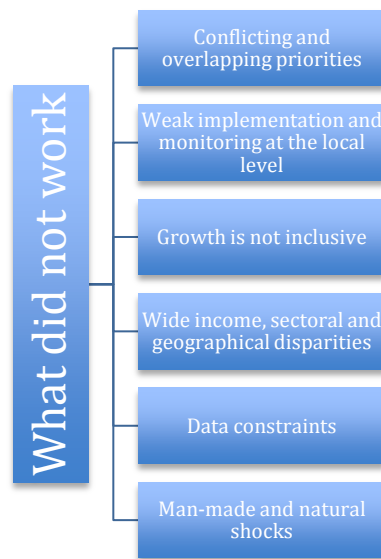
The Philippine Development Forum (PDF) has been used for advocacy activities to generate donor support. Several multilateral and bilateral agencies have aligned their country assistance framework priorities with the MDGs.

What Did Not Work:

There are problems of conflicting and overlapping policies related to the MDGs. In addition, many LGUs have failed to attain MDG targets because of limited human and

financial capacities. It has also been a challenge to establish a monitoring system at the local level, and reliable and updated statistics are lacking.

Growth has not been inclusive and shared by all. Important signs of this are the wide disparities between urban and rural areas and poor and rich households. This has been a major factor in the four MDG targets where the Philippines is lagging behind. In addition, vulnerabilities have been aggravated by man-made and natural shocks.



Conflicting and overlapping policies

Implementation of some provisions of MDG-supporting laws has been beset with technical, financial, legal, institutional and other resource constraints. There are also a number of conflicting and overlapping policies. One example is the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, which is in conflict with the Fishery Code regarding the municipal water income of municipalities within protected areas, as well as the Local Government Code (LGC), on the matter of jurisdiction of LGUs within protected areas. These conflicts have led to the delay or suspension of some projects.

Weak implementation and monitoring at the local level

The achievement of the MDGs is largely dependent on the effective provision of basic social services. In the Philippines, the delivery of most of these services is devolved to LGUs, highlighting the importance of MDG localization. However, implementation and monitoring at the local level has been weak due to factors affecting the LGUs' performance such as the lack of capacity, resource constraints and low compliance with the DILG Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system.

Growth is not inclusive

Despite decent growth in the economy over the past decade, the poverty situation in the country has not improved and the benefits of growth have not reached the poorest and most vulnerable. Geographical disparities indicate that resources need to be channeled to poorer and underserved areas. Certain segments of the population remain poor despite the implementation of various poverty reduction programs. NAPC basic sector statistics show that poverty incidences for fishermen, farmers, children, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are higher than the national poverty incidence and have not improved over the last decade. Indigenous peoples (IPs) also remain among the most vulnerable groups; and women continue to dominate the informal economy.

Urban and rural disparities

There are wide education disparities across regions in terms of net enrollment, cohort survival and completion rates. General performance with respect to the education indicators is better in regions with higher average annual family income. Children in rural areas are disadvantaged compared to those in urban areas with respect to efficiency indicators such as cohort survival and completion rates.¹⁴

Regarding progress on maternal health, there are wide variations across geographical locations, which may be due to inadequate access to maternal services. This applies to those situated in hard to reach areas as well as other socio-economic factors affecting health care service utilization.

A significant proportion of births were delivered at home and attended by “hilots”(midwives) instead of skilled health professionals, especially in areas where health facilities with services of skilled professionals are inaccessible. Many women prefer to deliver in their own homes for various reasons such as disrespectful treatment in hospitals and clinics, discontinuity of care, geographic distance, and financial costs. The full range of antenatal care is not provided to women, which misses a critical opportunity to improve women’s overall health and promote better pregnancy outcomes. Other concerns include inadequacies of the referral system, non-utilization of health facilities due to lack of awareness, increasing unmet needs for family planning services and increasing incidence of teenage pregnancy.

Data constraints

Large intervals in the period of data gathering, and the time lag between the gathering, processing and dissemination of data makes the crafting of effective policies and programs a challenge.

The availability of data disaggregated by sex and geographical area is crucial for designing appropriate interventions. National and regional data is readily available for most indicators, but sex disaggregated data is available only for a few indicators. In

¹⁴ Source: *The Filipino Child: Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities*, 2010, UNICEF, PIDS

addition, most provincial and municipal level data are only available in LGUs that have invested in local data gathering system, e.g., CBMS, for monitoring MDG progress.

Man-made and natural shocks

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and the occurrence of man-made and natural shocks have affected the attainment of the MDGs. These shocks tend to move non-poor families into poverty and poor families into greater poverty.

Lessons Learned

- Inclusive growth is vital to improve the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable. Resources should be channeled to underserved areas to help the most vulnerable segments of the population such as fisherfolk, farmers, children and IPs.
- Employment generation and provision of decent work should be at the core of the poverty reduction strategies.
- Adequate safety nets are needed to minimize falls into poverty resulting from man-made and natural shocks
- Having the MC-IHDC lead the monitoring and reporting of the country's compliance on the MDGs paved the way to institutionalize the MDGs in the regular functions of the government.
- Identifying lead agencies for each area of MDG concern has mainstreamed the MDGs and distributed ownership of responsibilities.
- Policies have helped to prioritize the MDGs in the national budget, but a number of conflicting and overlapping policies have to be reviewed and harmonized.
- Strong partnerships result in wider coverage and better complementation of policies, programs, and projects supporting MDG achievement. They can also lead to better generation of funds and management of program resources.
- LGUs need to improve their institutional and financial capacities to ensure that interventions to achieve the MDGs are implemented effectively.
- The availability of data at the local level is critical to for MDG localization. Many LGUs still need to establish data monitoring systems and need additional capacity to identify priorities and formulate effective programs and projects to achieve the MDGs.
- The DILG M&E System needs to be implemented effectively to provide a database of information on the progress made at the local level, the initiatives the LGUs have undertaken and investments made to support MDG achievement.
- CSOs and the private sector should monitor initiatives undertaken to support MDG achievement.
- NEDA and the DBM need to improve the reporting mechanism they set up to monitor the physical and financial accomplishments of the government regarding the MDGs.
- The monitoring system for tracking progress at the national and subnational levels would be improved if statistics and data disaggregated by sex and geographical area were available.

3.3 RIO+20: THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PHILIPPINE POSITION

A crucial input into the post-2015 agenda is the outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The conference resulted in the adoption by consensus of the outcome document entitled “The Future We Want”.

The UN System Task Team on the post-2015 agenda recognized that the outcome and follow up to Rio+20 would provide critical guidance for the post-2015 agenda and the proposed vision and framework for the post-2015 agenda must be fully in alignment with that outcome.

At the first Philippine national consultation on the post-2015 agenda, the presentation highlighted that for the Philippines to achieve sustainable development (SD), three primary issues need to be addressed: (i) poverty and equity; (ii) employment generation; and (iii) environmental degradation. To address these issues a long-term Philippine Sustainable Development Action Plan will be formulated and a multi-stakeholder participatory approach will be ensured in the conduct of all activities leading to the formulation of the action plan.

Major Agreements

Major agreements in the Rio+20 outcome document included reaffirming commitments to SD, launching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), laying-out guidelines for applying green economy policies as a tool to achieve SD and address poverty, strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), establishing a new political forum for SD and developing a strategy for SD financing.

Key Priority Areas

Some priority areas of the Rio+20 outcome document were striving for sustainable consumption and production, ensuring food security, clean water and sanitation, and affordable, and sustainable energy for all, acting on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, curtailing marine pollution, overfishing and ocean acidification, strengthening social protection floors and tackling global unemployment (especially youth unemployment), building more livable and sustainable cities and communities with decent housing and sustainable transport for all, and enhancing support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other countries in special situations¹⁵.

Countries will concretize the major agreements and key priority areas from the outcome document based on their own national priorities and capacities.

¹⁵*Rio+20 concludes with big package of commitments for action and agreement by world leaders on path for a sustainable future*, February 2013, UN Department of Public Information

The Philippine Position

At Rio+20 the Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to SD and people-centered development. The country considers a green economy a tool for achieving SD and the transition to a green economy must consider common but differentiated responsibilities that reflect national priorities and capacities. Another significant issue is strengthening Philippine institutional capacities for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) to improve national resiliency. During Rio+20 the Philippines raised various concerns on the means of implementation, such as technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and long-term green investment. The Philippines also committed to having stakeholders participate in initiatives to attain SD and empowering communities and Local Chief Executives (LCEs).

The Philippines supports establishing SDGs and advocates for goals that are evidence based, quantitative, and build on and complement the MDGs. Moreover, the state supports the creation of an Institutional Framework for SD and integration in national and local development planning. In addition, the Philippine agenda includes technology cooperation to assist in developing indigenous and economically viable technologies.

Next Steps: The PHL SD Action Plan

A crucial part of the Philippine agenda after Rio+20 is the SD Action Plan. The first step of the process will be contextualization looking at a green economy in the Philippine context, the formulation of the SDGs, organizational assessments and the Institutional Framework for SD, and a green economy conference. The next step will be action planning followed by national and regional consultations. As part of this process the PDP 2011-2016 will have to be updated before the SD Action Plan is finalized.

Rio+20 has set a road map for global initiatives to inject the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environment — into the post-2015 development framework. The Philippines will integrate the inputs and outcomes from Rio+20 in the process of developing the post-2015 agenda.

3.4 MULTISECTORAL SURVEY

Between October and November 2012 a total of 263 Philippine participants responded to the “Asia-Pacific Vision for a Post-2015 Development Framework” survey. Respondents included representatives from the national government, local government, civil society, the academe, the private sector, youth groups, marginalized sectors and donors. The results offer valuable insights into Philippine perspectives on the post-2015 agenda and were presented at the first national consultation.

Respondents identified the following issues as the top five development priorities for the post-2015 agenda (number of votes in brackets):

- 1 A good education for all (200)
- 2 Eradicate income poverty (185)
- 3 Universal healthcare (163)
- 4 Ensure accountable and responsive governments (123)
- 5 Preserve biodiversity and ecosystems (88)

95.8% of respondents agreed “we need a development framework after 2015. With regard to the MDGs, 84.4% said they think that the MDGs have been effective in contributing to the achievement of development results. However, 6.8% said that the MDGs have not been effective citing problems with monitoring of progress and an adequate baseline, insufficient global funding, the lack of a sustainability component, the lack of cultural specificity, and failure to involve vulnerable groups in the Philippines such as IPs.

On the format of the post-2015 agenda 51.3% said that the MDGs should be kept with some modifications, 31.6% said that there should be a new development framework, and 10.3% proposed keeping the MDGs and extending the deadline.

58.9% said that the new development framework should have goals that apply to all countries, while 38.8% said that the goals should not. The vast majority (91.6%) agreed that a new development framework should have a special focus on least developed countries (LDCs).

Concerning the time frame for the new agenda 61.6% said that the endpoint of the post-2015 agenda should be 2025, while 25.5% said 2030 and 9.9% said 2035 and beyond. 70.3% of respondents stated that equality, human rights and sustainability should all be principles that underpin a new development framework.

In addition, 61.2% of respondents indicated that principles such as equality, human rights and sustainability should be expressed as both guiding principles and goals with corresponding targets and indicators in the agenda.

On the question of whether the new framework should be about reducing or eradicating poverty, 61.2% said it should be about reducing poverty, while 33.8% said it should be about eradicating poverty. Another question that split respondents was whether the concern of the new agenda should be the poorest of the poor (i.e. maintaining the poverty line at 1.25 USD/day) or whether the poverty line should be raised to 2 USD a day. 57.5% said that the poverty line should be raised to 2 USD a day and 32.7% said it should stay at 1.25 USD a day.

Most respondents were interested in a comprehensive view of sustainability as 90.9% said that sustainability under the new development framework should cover all aspects of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental.

There was also strong support (91.3%) for issues such as security, governance and institutions (i.e. effective institutions) to be part of a new development framework. Of those 91.3%, 63.3% said those issues should be articulated as necessary conditions for achieving development results, while 29.6% said they should be articulated as goals with targets and indicators.

84.8% of respondents said that there should be a goal equivalent to MDG 8 in the new development framework and of those 61.9% said that Goal 8 should apply to all countries. In addition, of those 84.8%, 83% said that financial and technical cooperation that takes place outside of ODA flows should be explicitly included (e.g. south-south cooperation) in what will be the equivalent of MDG 8 in the post-2015 agenda.

A majority of respondents (82.9%) said that a new development framework should not be confined to agreed outcomes as in the case of the MDGs, and that there should also be a focus on strategies to achieve them (e.g. inclusive growth and green growth). There was also strong support (89%) for goals related to the social domain (i.e. health and education) and to have targets related to public spending.

The most common responses to the open-ended question about the role of the private sector in supporting the achievement of development results were “social partner for change” and “partner of the government”.

3.5 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH POVERTY GROUPS

In November 2012 several focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with poverty groups across the Philippines to ensure that their inputs are included in the post-2015 agenda.

The FGDs involved CCT beneficiaries in the National Capital Region, Cebu and Davao City. In addition, a FGD was held in Iloilo city with representation from the NAPC Basic Sectors (urban poor, workers in the informal sector, persons with disabilities, farmers and landless rural workers, youth and students, victims of disasters and calamities, senior citizens, IPs, children, artisanal fisher folks, formal labor and migrant workers, cooperatives, and women).

The results from the focus groups are broken down according to the guiding questions from the UNDG Guidelines for Country Dialogues¹⁶:

WHAT?

Participants said that access to economic opportunities in the form of decent and permanent jobs and livelihood are very important. In addition education, security from all types of risks and hazards, a values system and environmental protection were cited as vital for living well.

¹⁶ See Annex 1 for the Guiding Questions from the UNDG Guidelines for Country Dialogues

WHY?

FGDs highlighted the problems of corruption and lack of political will. These are associated with limited access to economic opportunities, and lack of jobs, income, and livelihood assistance. Participants also cited limited education and awareness in terms of quality schooling, family planning and responsible parenthood, and financial literacy to promote savings. Other significant concerns were inequality in the distribution of resources and opportunities, and the absence of secure land tenure.

WHO?

Participants pointed out the responsibility of national government agencies (NGAs) with mandates on basic social services, social welfare, employment generation and law enforcement. They also emphasized the role of LGUs, the private sector and NGOs in this process.

HOW?

The FGDs proposed, “*Change must emanate from the grassroots level*”. Other inputs were that the values system must improve, and that the post-2015 agenda should institute a rights-based approach and results based management. FGDs also brought up the importance of strengthening and expanding effective government programs, enforcing good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels and establishing feedback mechanisms from stakeholders.

WHEN?

Participants said that they want change immediately.

**3.6 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS’
POSITION PAPER ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Between November 2012 and February 2013, Philippine CSOs, with the assistance of the UN Millennium Campaign, conducted two national and four sub-national CSO consultations in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and ARMM on the post-2015 development agenda. Based on these consultations CSOs submitted a position paper entitled “BEYOND 2015: Addressing Human Rights Deficits in the Post-2015 Development Framework for the Philippines”.

Context

The CSOs position paper proposes that the post-2015 agenda should focus on poverty reduction to improve the quality of life of the poorest and most marginalized people. The agenda should be based on several principles, namely: human rights, social and environmental justice, people’s empowerment, transparency and accountability, respect for cultural diversity, sustainable development, national sovereignty with respect of the right for self-determination of peoples within national boundaries, south-south solidarity and north-south cooperation.

CSOs expressed a sense of urgency in meeting the 2015 deadline of the MDGs. In addition, they conveyed their commitment to contribute to the national and global efforts to design and promote the post-2015 development framework.

Challenges for the Post-2015 Agenda

Economic Challenges

Growth is not Inclusive

The CSO position paper highlights that development in the last decade has not been inclusive. Economic growth has not led to higher employment rates, more decent jobs or sustainable livelihood opportunities for the poor. Furthermore, high levels of inequality are a significant issue as evidenced by the Philippines high Gini coefficient relative to other countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).¹⁷

The manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors continue to struggle. Economic resources are concentrated in the hands of a few, and energy and water policies do not support local economic development.

Asset Reform

Despite four agrarian reform laws in the past 40 years the government has failed to effectively reverse land ownership concentration. Unjust historical land distribution policy has disenfranchised and displaced the original residents of Mindanao, the Moros and IPs. Despite the passage of the IPRA, IP rights over their ancestral domains and the right of IPs to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) have not been protected.

Center-Oriented Development

Center-oriented development has subordinated remote areas and concentrated resources and power in economic centers. Taxation policy for corporations has contributed to the greater concentration of resources in the capital and the deprivation of peripheral areas including areas where natural resources are extracted in the case of Mindanao.

Free Trade Agreements

Free trade agreements (FTAs) have made it difficult for Philippine industry to compete with imported goods, and FTAs contain problematic provisions on intellectual property rights and investments.

Social Policy

Health

The government budget for health is inadequate. There is unequal access to quality healthcare; maternal health is poor and infectious diseases (in particular HIV and tuberculosis) are not under control. In terms of health, the 4Ps program has been

¹⁷The Gini coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.

ineffective, especially in remote areas where health facilities are lacking and traditional health care (often the only care available) is discouraged by the program.

Education

The country is underinvesting in education. School participation rates are below the MDG targets and students from less developed areas or lower income families have lower rates of attendance. The lack of education facilities in remote areas is a major problem. The new K+12 curriculum that will integrate mother tongue is a welcome development, but needs review.

Shelter, Water and Energy

There is an acute housing shortage, and informal settlers are one of the worst affected groups. The problem is exacerbated by the impact of disasters that have destroyed homes, livelihoods and property. The high cost of water, fuel and electricity has further aggravated the social condition of the poor.

Social Protection

The 4Ps program is not linked to sustainable job creation or livelihood training. In addition, social safety nets, social assistance programs (except 4Ps), social security/insurance, and labor market interventions remain fragmented and seriously underfunded. Social protection programming is hampered by the lack of effective public participation in planning, budgeting and monitoring.

Peace and Security

The self-determination struggle of Bangsamoro communities and the communist insurgency are the major armed conflicts, but violence is pervasive in Filipino society due in part to the proliferation of small arms and “rido” (clan feuds). The continued exclusion of the poorest and most marginalized sectors and widespread corruption provoke conflict. Ineffective rule of law is compounded by a slow justice system, human rights violations by authorities and extra judicial killings. In addition, IP communities often suffer the ill effects of the exploitation of natural resources by the private sector, which has led to rising tensions.

Politics and Governance Challenges

Lack of accountable and transparent governance, and continued corruption are a big concern. This is complicated by personalistic rather than platform-based politics (proprietary politics) and political dynasties that have become more entrenched. CSOs emphasize the need for grassroots participation in the decision-making processes on local and national levels. They also demand greater government capacity nationally and locally to deliver services to constituents, especially the poor and underserved. There is also a need for greater coordination between and among government units at various levels. Other concerns are weak enforcement of laws, policy incoherence and the need to harmonize conflicting laws especially in terms of natural resources.

Culture and Identity

CSOs highlight the problem of disregard for the Bangsamoro and IPs right to self-determination and governance. IPs and the Bangsamoro have been systemically isolated and excluded. A continuing problem is that development is not culturally sensitive and lacks meaningful consultation with communities. Women are still fighting for their reproductive health and greater realization of their rights in the economic and political spheres. The rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community also need to be protected.

Environmental Challenges

The Philippines is ranked 3rd in the World Risk Index due to its vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Thousands of lives and billions of pesos have been lost due to extreme climate events in the last decade. In addition, elite domination of resources and weak governance has resulted in deforestation, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.

CSOs Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Framework

Poverty Reduction and Economic Development

- Creation of decent jobs and development of local economies at the center of inclusive economic growth
- Systematically develop the agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing sectors following a sustainable and disaster risk-resilient development framework by promoting a “ridge-to-reef” approach in resource utilization and development planning
- Formulate coordinated and participatory national and local land use plans using a river basin or ecosystem-based approach
- Redistribute land and secure land tenure to benefit the poor and marginalized sector. Uphold decision-making rights of IPs and Bangsamoro over their ancestral domains. Allocate a greater budget to National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to make it fully operational. Ensure the full implementation of agrarian reform.
- Link the 4Ps program to livelihood training, job creation and asset reform.
- Provide support and incentives for developing medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs)
- Promote sustainable and affordable energy resources
- Promote progressive taxation and work for reform of corporate taxation to ensure equitable benefits to communities
- Make international corporations and the private sector accountable to international agreements and national policies on human rights, social and environmental protection
- Promote fair trade, not free trade
- Repeal the automatic appropriations law for debt payments to free up resources for increased public spending; Conduct a debt audit and repudiate illegitimate debt
- Increase the grant component of aid and untie aid

- FTAs should not compromise access to essential medicines through intellectual property clauses

Social Protection and Inclusion

- Expand access to reproductive and health care services and the scope of health insurance especially for underserved, remote areas and marginalized sectors such as PWDs, women, IPs, children and the elderly
- Increase the share of education in the national budget and improve the curriculum
- Increase participation and survival rates of students from conflict and disaster-affected areas, and marginalized sectors such as the PWDs, informal settlers and IPs
- Improve access to shelter for informal settlers and those affected by disasters
- Make water and electricity affordable for the poor

Justice, Peace and Security

- Institutionalize and implement a national peace policy and structural reforms that recognize the links between conflict and development
- Integrate peace education in school curriculum
- Pursue peace negotiations with Bangsamoro armed groups and the communist insurgency; finalize the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB); operationalize the transition commission to craft Bangsamoro Basic Law
- Pursue security sector reform focused on clearing out criminal elements, ensuring civilian control of the armed forces, and rule of law
- Harmonize conflicting resource use and management policies by enacting a Comprehensive National and Local Land Use policy that secures access and rights of both rural and urban poor
- Set-up inter-agency mechanism (with CSO participation) to address conflicting land claims and land use plans
- Improve access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized sectors (children, women, youth, PWD, IPs) and integrate the traditional justice system and conflict-resolution mechanisms of the IP and Bangsamoro within their territories

Accountable and Participatory Governance

- Strictly implement public disclosure policies and install accountability mechanisms
 - Mandate all executive agencies and LGUs to issue semi-annual reports on plans/budgets and accomplishments
 - Adopt the Career Executive Services Act
 - Create multi-sectoral oversights and monitors
- Adopt the Freedom of Information Bill
- Electoral reform
 - Ban political dynasties and vote buying
 - Ensure honest, orderly and peaceful elections by using biometric machines

Harness and Respect Diversity of Culture and Identity

- Uphold the social, political, and economic rights of women, LGBT, PWD, IPs, Bangsamoro and all other cultural and identity groups
- Address human rights violations and conflict-induced displacement of IPs
- Integrate IP culture and the history of Mindanao in the education curriculum
- Integrate Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices (IKSP) in development frameworks and ensure the protection of the right to FPIC of IPs on all externally-driven development interventions
- Respect customary laws, beliefs and traditions and strengthen tribal and traditional governance systems

Environmental Sustainability & Resiliency

- Promote education for sustainable development
- Strengthen local capacity for resiliency and adaptation to climate change
 - Make DRRM technologies and facilities available to vulnerable communities
 - Require LGUs to form CCA/DRRM plans
- Strengthen environmental governance
 - Strictly enforce environmental laws
 - Harness local and indigenous knowledge and capacities for natural resource conservation and management
- Measure economic growth using sustainable development framework
 - Establish food self-sufficiency, sovereignty and sustainability as overall goals of food and agricultural policies
 - Adopt an ecosystem-based approach in development planning and resource management
 - Popularize green technologies such as organic agriculture and sustainable coastal resource management
 - Implement ecological waste management law

3.7 NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON POPULATION DYNAMICS

The Philippines was also chosen to conduct a national consultation on the Post-2015 global theme on Population Dynamics. On March 7, 2013, 100 key stakeholders gathered to discuss how population dynamics can be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Discussions were focused on high population growth and large youth populations; urbanization, cities and sustainable development; internal and international migration, and; population ageing and population decline. During the consultation recommendations to address population dynamics in the post-2015 development agenda were presented and validated.

High Population Growth and Large Youth Populations

Issues/Challenges

The Philippines, like most developing countries, is experiencing a high population growth rate (1.9 based on the 2010 Census) and high fertility rate (3.1 based on the 2011 Family Health Survey), with the highest rates among the poor. This is largely due to the lack of access, especially by poor women and families, to effective family planning information and services that would enable them to plan the number and spacing of their children. With high population growth and the fertility rates that come with a large young population (35.5% based on the 2007 Census) greater government investment is required in education and social services.

Recommendations

Enactment of policies that promote effective family planning based on informed choice will give women and families the opportunity to decide on the number of children that they want. Moreover, government should mobilize all national-local government institutions and stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in implementing such policies. Government should provide the necessary structures and mechanisms to enable youth participation in planning and monitoring programs.

Urbanization, Cities And Sustainable Development

Issues/Challenges

Half of the Philippine population lives in urban areas and increasing. While cities continue to offer opportunities for progress and show better development indicators compared to rural areas, there are zones of urban poverty particularly in informal settlements where urban poverty is pervasive and there is limited access to basic services like health care, potable water supply and sanitation facilities. Proper urban and rural planning is lacking.

Recommendations

The government should work with the private sector in proper urban planning in order to promote efficient densities and sustainable development in urban areas. This should be coupled with proper rural development planning to provide people in rural areas with the livelihood opportunities to address rural-to-urban migration. The government should enact a National Land Use Plan that will promote rural and urban development, Regional and cluster planning should be promoted to strengthen the rural-urban continuum and linkages and achieve balanced and sustainable growth.

Internal And International Migration

Issues/Challenges

The Philippines does not have integrated internal and international migration data, which could be useful for development planning. The country relies on stock estimates, which show that, as of 2009, one out of 11 Filipinos is working abroad – either as a permanent migrant, temporary migrant or as irregular/undocumented migrant. There is no coherent

reintegration program for returning migrants. This misses the opportunity to harness the full human resource potential of returning migrants

Recommendations

There should be annual migration (internal and international) surveys and incentives for the conduct of migration studies. The country also needs to review, operationalize and implement the SGISM (Shared Government Information System on Migration). Brain-gain programs for returning migrants should be in place, and institutionalize a multi-agency reintegration program that broadens opportunities for returning migrants to use their skills to benefit the country.

Population Ageing and Population Decline

Issues/Challenges

Countries in or nearing demographic transition (from high fertility to low fertility) are experiencing an increasing rate of population ageing, and the challenge for government is twofold: 1) invest in effective social services to promote successful and healthy aging; and 2) provide the older population with the necessary environment for them to significantly contribute towards economic development. During the consultation, it was established that empowerment of senior citizens among indigenous peoples is seriously lacking.

Recommendations

All local government units must have Senior Citizens' offices with trained personnel to handle the affairs of the older population. Policies and programs for quality medical and social care of older citizens must be put in place. Programs for integration of senior citizens as employees or investors, must be carefully planned and implemented.

4. BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PHILIPPINE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The second national consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place on March 5, 2013. The main objective was to validate the substance of the five thematic papers which would be used as inputs for the final country report. During the consultation the building blocks of the Philippine Post-2015 Development Agenda and priority themes, identified through the first national consultation and inputs from experts, were presented as shown below. The building blocks are structured in the form of four principles and five pillars as well as enablers for realizing the development agenda. The building blocks and priority themes were critiqued and validated by the participants of the second national consultation.

4.1 TIMELINE

Stakeholders proposed that the post-2015 agenda have a duration of 10 years (2015 to 2025) with a major review to be undertaken by 2020. A vital consideration is that goals and priorities should be aligned with the resolution of conflict and violence. Fundamental

reforms should be frontloaded within the first half of the period with the intention that there should be substantive accomplishments by 2020.

The timely implementation of the post-2015 agenda would be guided by a timetable that includes: national agreement on quantitative targets, strategic framework, and assignment of responsibilities; initial assessment; midterm review; and final review.

4.2 *FOUR PRINCIPLES*¹⁸

Taking the integrated framework for realizing “the future we want” in the report of the UN System Task Team as point of departure and adjusting it to reflect the unique development situation of the Philippines, the First National Consultation designed the Building Blocks of the Post-2015 Development Framework as shown on the following page.

Four principles embedded in the UN Charter and 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines form the bedrock at the center of the suggested agenda: (i) Human Rights; (ii) Equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion and justice; (iii) Accountable governance; and (iv) Sustainable and inclusive development.

i. **Human rights** and the human rights conventions and treaties ratified by the Philippines¹⁹ are based on fundamental values. These values include equality and non-discrimination, peace and security, freedom from fear and want, respect for fundamental principles and rights at work and to food, social and cultural dignity, solidarity, tolerance, accountable and democratic governance, and sustainable development. The same values need to underpin the new transformative development agenda. They encompass social and economic rights, while also including civil and political rights related to peace and security and other challenges as well as the right to development. These need to be addressed simultaneously.

ii. **Equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion and justice** are essential to a vision of inclusive, sustainable development. The adoption of explicitly inclusive approaches is merited not only on ethical grounds, but also from the perspective of development, and peace and security. Such approaches give the highest priority to addressing the situation of basic social sectors that are especially marginalized, namely: (a) farmers and landless rural workers; (b) artisanal fisherfolk; (c) indigenous and cultural communities; (d) urban poor; (e) workers in the informal sector; (f) women; (g) children; (h) youth and students; (i) senior citizens; (j) persons with disabilities; (k) victims of disasters and calamities. In addition, such approaches prioritize the removal of social, cultural, legal administrative and financial barriers to access to services, decent jobs, land and other economic resources.

¹⁸ This section draws from *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*, June 2012, UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

¹⁹ Examples include the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by the Philippines on 7 June 1974 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by the Philippines on 23 October 1986

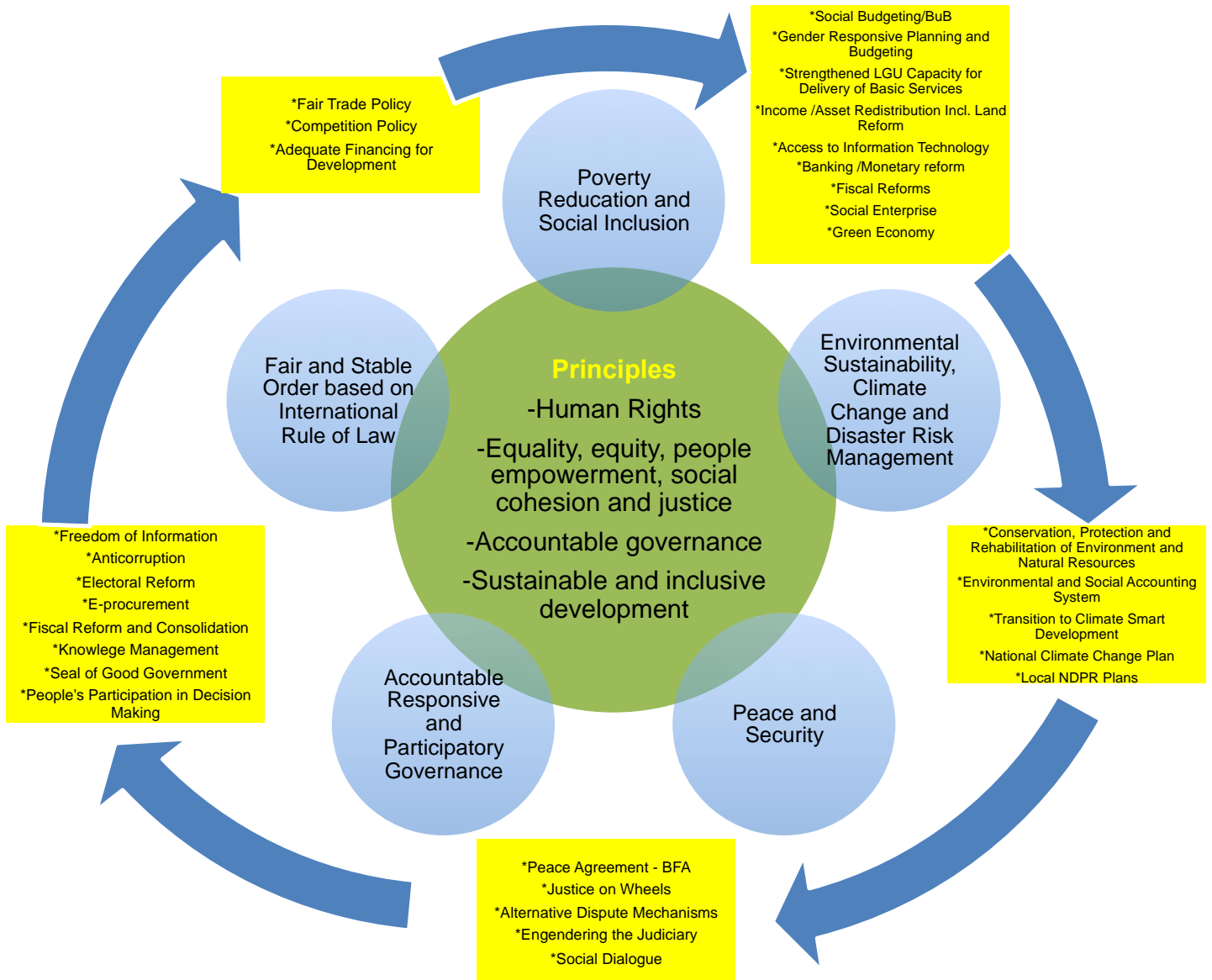
BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PHL POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

KEY:

GREEN – PRINCIPLES

BLUE – PILLARS

YELLOW - ENABLERS



iii. **Accountable governance:** Fighting corruption and following the straight path (*tuwid na daan*) were the overriding themes of President Aquino’s election campaign and stand at the center of his Social Contract with the Filipino People. His vision for the country begins with a “*reawakened sense of right and wrong, through the living examples of our highest leaders*”²⁰. Accountable governance sets the normative standards of development and it is therefore only natural for the Philippines to include it in the core principles of the country’s post-2015 development agenda. Accountable governance fosters participation, ensures transparency, demands accountability, promotes efficiency and upholds the rule of law in economic, political and administrative institutions and processes. It is a hallmark of political maturity but also a prerequisite for growth and poverty reduction, for there are irreducible minimum levels of governance needed for large-scale investment to occur and for social programs to be supported²¹. Accountable governance also strengthens the ability of duty bearers and claim holders to promote and sustain gender-responsive governance.

iv. **Sustainable development**, defined by the Brundtland Commission’s report as “development, which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, must serve as a fundamental principle for all aspects of development and for all societies. Consistent with the Rio+20 outcome, the focus on sustainable development comprises three dimensions - economic, social and environmental –and recognizes their inter-linkages.

4.3 FIVE PILLARS

Taking again the architecture proposed in the UN Task Team report as point of departure and adjusting it to reflect the specific development challenges of the Philippines, five pillars are suggested for the Philippine Post 2015 Development Agenda as the dimensions where progress is needed in the coming decade in order to build a rights-based, equitable and sustainable society. The pillars are:

- 1) Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion**
- 2) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change And Disaster Risk Management**
- 3) Accountable Responsive And Participatory Governance**
- 4) Fair And Stable Order Based On International Rule Of Law**
- 5) Peace And Security**

Well thought out and coherent policies will be needed to achieve the goals and objectives that will be defined within these pillars. It is proposed that such policies or enablers as they are called in the UN Task Team report will be spelled out in the Philippine National Agenda and are monitored at regular intervals. As they will form an integral part of the national agenda, recommendations for such enablers are given in this section.

²⁰ Publicly released on 28 November 2009 and available at <http://www.gov.ph/about/gov/exec/bsaiii/platform-of-government/> (accessed 22 April 2012)

²¹ Draws from the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

As the five pillars form the core of the suggested development agenda, UN agencies and civil society groups were asked to prepare substantive theme papers providing for each pillar:

- An assessment of the current situation and challenges and
- A listing of priorities, goals and proposed enabling policies.

The following sections summarize these theme papers.

4.3.1 THEME: POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION²² **(Please see full text of theme paper in Annex 16.)**

4.3.1.1 Assessment and Challenges²³

Inequity is one of the most critical development concerns of the country. Sectoral and geographic disparities have to be addressed in pursuit of poverty reduction and social inclusion. Central issues are inclusive growth and employment generation, asset reform, social protection, and equitable access to basic services (particularly in the areas of education, health, food security and nutrition, shelter and settlements, water and sanitation, and energy).

The State of Inequality in the Philippines

As early as the 2007 Philippines mid-term progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it was already highlighted that “*socioeconomic development in the Philippines is uneven and poverty is characterized by wide disparities across regions and population groups; poverty is a rural phenomenon.*”²⁴ The mapping of the latest 2009 poverty data from the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) shows that most of the better off provinces are in Luzon, while half of the 20 poorest provinces are in Mindanao and are concentrated in the CARAGA and ARMM regions. The fact that growth in the Philippines has not significantly reduced poverty and inequality demonstrates its quality; it has not been inclusive.

The Philippines has a medium Human Development Index (HDI) at 0.654 as of 2012. This is higher than Southeast Asian neighbors Indonesia (0.629), Vietnam (0.617), Cambodia (0.543), Lao PDR (0.543), and Myanmar (0.498).²⁵ ²⁶ However, the Philippines has one of the highest rates of inequality in the region, demonstrated by its

²² Section 4.2.1 is based on the theme paper on this subject prepared by UNICEF and ILO.

²³ This assessment as well as priorities and recommendations were identified through an extensive review of relevant literature (i.e., government plans, peer-reviewed articles, documentation on past government consultations), and select focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted with government partners, civil society groups, and technical experts.

²⁴ *Philippines Midterm Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals, 2007*, NEDA and UNCT

²⁵ Source: 2013 Human Development Report, UNDP

²⁶ HDI is a composite index of health (i.e., life expectancy), education (i.e., mean years of schooling), and income (i.e., gross national income (GNI) per capita)

Gini coefficient (a measure of income inequality²⁷), which is comparably higher than its neighbors. “Growth with inequality” or “non-inclusive growth” is an issue that is now central to the development paradigm. Inequality can lead to social and political tensions and even conflicts through exclusion, discrimination and deprivation.

With a population growth rate of 1.9 per cent per annum, the Philippines’ population is projected to reach 105 million by 2015 from 94 million in 2010. There needs to be sustained, inclusive and high growth to reduce poverty and inequality.

Overseas Filipinos, estimated at 10 per cent of the population, are an important population group in the context of equality. Composed of permanent and temporary overseas workers, and irregular migrants²⁸ their overall percentage of the population is expected to continue at approximately the same level. Remittances, while currently in abundance, need to be linked to development. In 2012, overseas remittances to the Philippines peaked to a record US\$ 23.8B or 9% of GDP, resulting in the country’s ranking as third highest in the world in terms of overseas remittances received, below India and China and in the same rank as Mexico. Remittances have increased local consumption of goods and services, but do not seem to be encouraging local investment.

A Job-Centered Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Philippine Government has declared the promotion of full employment as a state policy as stipulated in both the Constitution and the Labor Code. The Philippines has also ratified the ILO Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), which underscores the country’s commitment to full, productive and freely chosen employment as a means to stimulating development, alleviating poverty, respecting basic rights and raising living standards. The current Philippines Development Plan (2011-2016) places strong emphasis on inclusive growth through decent and productive work.

However, this enabling policy environment for full employment has not translated into adequate job creation. The employment-to-population ratio has stayed virtually stagnant throughout the period from 1995 to 2010.

Similarly, labor force participation rates (LFPR) and unemployment rates based on the new data series have remained relatively unchanged, with the latter being a challenge primarily for youth and the educated. The robust expansion in overseas employment has to some extent offset the deficit in domestic employment growth, but there has been minimal progress in terms of raising the wage share in GDP, the share of remittances channeled into investment, and female share in total employment.

²⁷ Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution

²⁸“Permanent overseas workers” refer to immigrants, dual citizens or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay does not depend on work contracts. “Temporary overseas workers” refer to persons whose stay overseas is employment related, and who are expected to return at the end of their work contracts. “Irregular migrants” refers to those who are not properly documented, or without valid residence or work permits, or who are overstaying in a foreign country.

Meanwhile, there has been no progress in improving the situation of the working poor since the preceding decade. With the working-age population projected to grow by one-and-a-half million annually between 2010 and 2020, generating new productive employment opportunities to ease the problems of unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and poverty remain as critical challenges. Those who are becoming unemployed have no minimum safety net as the country has no unemployment benefit or insurance available for them and employment services, both public and private, are not always efficient and accessible.²⁹

Asset Reform

Existing asset reform laws aim to give the poor equal access to assets and natural resources, which they need to improve their quality of life. A 2008 comprehensive study conducted by civil society organizations found that the government's performance in the implementation of multiple asset reform laws has been poor. One problematic issue in agrarian reform is the slow rate of agrarian reform disputes resolution relating to land acquisition and distribution, and the pace of issuing Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) and Certificate of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs). For instance, no CADT was issued in 2011 despite the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) target of 12 issuances that year (as stipulated in the PDP).

Another important asset reform law is the Fisheries Code of 1998, which mandates that all fishing grounds 10 kilometres from the coastline be exclusively reserved for small fisher folk. Based on the 2009 data of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), more than 900 coastal municipalities completed their municipal water delineation. Unfortunately, only 30 of these municipalities passed ordinances on municipal water delineation. Thus, the delineation of municipal waters, as stipulated under the Fisheries Code, has still not been implemented in most coastal municipalities 12 years after its enactment. In areas where municipal waters have been delineated, marked improvements in fish catch and small fishers' income and illegal fishing apprehension have been observed. Furthermore, the delineation process facilitated the resolution of boundary conflicts among contiguous municipalities, which in turn improved resource management.³⁰

Social Protection

Serving as a means towards achieving the MDG goal of poverty reduction, social protection in the Philippines is defined as comprising of “*policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people’s capacity to manage risks*”.³¹ In particular, social protection in the country comprises of four major

²⁹*Decent work country profile: Philippines, 2012, ILO*

³⁰Draws from the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

³¹*Adopting a Philippine Definition of Social Protection. 2007.NEDA – SDS.*

components, namely (1) labor market programs; (2) social insurance; (3) social welfare; and (4) social safety nets.

These components focus on both universal programs (e.g. labor market interventions such as minimum wage, compliance with health and safety standards in the workplace) and targeted programs, (e.g. regular conditional cash transfer program).

There has been popular support for social protection schemes with the CCT program serving as the social protection programme with the biggest budget under the Aquino Government (P44.25 billion in the 2013 budget). However, many challenges remain including gaps in the supply-side (e.g., infrastructure such as classrooms and hospitals); weak linkages between various social protection programs and strategies of the four identified components; lack of effective social protection mechanisms at both the national and local levels that support the delivery of social protection interventions; lack of standard M&E systems and tools for social protection programs; and the need to more effectively instill in the beneficiaries their role as both duty bearers and claimholders of social protection (behavioral change).

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)³²

There continues to be growing deployment of Filipino workers overseas, averaging about 1.1 million per year. OFWs make a significant contribution to the global and domestic economy through remittances. A rights-based approach to management of migration calls for the implementation of strong gender-responsive social protection interventions for OFWs and their families. The need for such intervention is especially underscored by the fact that significant percentage of OFWs are either women or are employed in jobs that do not offer security or social protection.

Social security and protection of OFWs are growing concerns, given the limited coverage of the Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). There is, therefore, a need to review the viability of current social security and welfare fund schemes, given the limited capacity and resources of the country's social security and welfare fund institutions. The exclusion of domestic workers, the top occupational category with respect to deployment of land based OFWs, in most of the social security laws in top destination countries continues to be a challenge.

Equitable access to basic services

Despite notable achievements over the past decades, the interrelated issues of poverty and human development will continue to challenge the country long after 2015. More accelerated progress in human development is needed, particularly in terms of access to basic services.

³² Draws from the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

Education

Education needs to be higher in the order of development priorities. There remain large and critical gaps in education. In particular underinvestment persists with less than 3 percent of the country's GDP accounting for basic education³³. The country has raised the national elementary participation rate to 91.21 percent as of 2011, but this figure conceals continuing inequities across gender, geographic areas and ethnic groups. In addition, school completion rates have declined and now stand at 70.96 percent³⁴. Dropout rates have been rising especially in the early grades and among boys. Boys also lag behind in many other education indicators. The participation rate in early childhood care and development (ECCD) programs remains low at 19.45 percent³⁵ for 3 to 4 year olds although the participation rate of 5-years olds is higher at 78 percent.³⁶ The poor suffer disproportionately from these education gaps. Among out-of-school children, nearly half of 5-year-olds and over half of 6 to 11-year-olds are in rural areas and in the bottom income quintile³⁷.

A good education continues to be privately and socially profitable, and the poor need it to move out of poverty. The rate of return to education remains high at around 10 percent for elementary and 23 percent for secondary and tertiary levels.³⁸ Moreover, studies on the economics of early childhood education point to a similarly high rate of return. In general, the returns to lifelong learning are expected to stay high as knowledge-based innovations and technological progress continue to accelerate.

Health

Significant improvements are needed to bring about equity and access to critical health services for all Filipinos. Investments in family planning, maternal, and newborn health are necessary and could contribute to significant social and economic benefits. It is uncertain whether the Philippines will achieve the MDGs in the field of health and there are newly emerging challenges of addressing non-communicable diseases. Where gains are seen in health indicators at the national level, pockets of inequities remain in vulnerable populations and poorer geographic areas. Regional data reveal variations in health indicators such as life expectancy, maternal and child health indicators.

Inadequacies in health information systems to guide policies, decision-making, planning and implementation of health programs need attention. Emerging concerns such as the increase in the number of HIV cases, the persistence of communicable diseases, TB and rise of multi-drug resistant TB, and rise in the number of morbidity and mortality from

³³Source: *Public spending on education, total (% of GDP)*, 2009, World Bank

³⁴Source: *Basic Education Information System SY 2011*, 2011, DepEd

³⁵*State of the Art Review of Day Care Service in the Philippines*. 2010. Early Childhood Care and Development Council.

³⁶Source: *Basic Education Information System SY 2011*, 2011, DepEd

³⁷Source: *Profile of Out of School Children in the Philippines*, 2012, PIDS

³⁸Source: *A Critical Look at the Education Sector: Achievements, Challenges, and Reform Ideas*, 2011, PIDS

non-communicable diseases, require adequate attention. The health care system is also burdened as a result of disasters, both natural and man-made. In addition to direct effects on individuals and communities in terms of death, disease and injury, disasters lead to tremendous disruption in the health service delivery system when health care providers are among the disaster-affected population. Weaknesses in managing human resources for health have not been adequately addressed, notably leading to the outflow of highly competent health practitioners.

With the Universal Health Care (UHC) or “Kalusugan Pangkalahatan” (KP) policy framework, and using the Sin Tax Law to finance the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act, the Aquino Administration is aiming at a breakthrough in universal health care and access to public health services that will impact on the health-MDGs. Promotion of modern family planning as a strategy to improve maternal health is also being addressed. However, social health insurance has yet to attain and sustain effective universal coverage levels, to fulfill these objectives.

While the MDGs have been valued for their specificity, they have encouraged a vertical focus around individual goals and targets, which has sometimes led to missed opportunities to improve child development more broadly. This caused a fragmented approach towards interests within sectors organized around particular targets.

Food Security and Nutrition

In the Philippines poverty, hunger and undernutrition affect more than a quarter of the population despite the government’s efforts to provide household food security and nutrition. Over 23 million Filipinos (27 percent) live below the Asian-Pacific poverty line of US\$1.35 a day.³⁹ In 2008, 28.6 percent of mothers and 17.6 percent children experienced food insecurity. The percent of children suffering from undernutrition, stunting and underweight stagnated between 2003 and 2011. In the case of wasting, it increased from 6.3 percent in 2003 to 7.6 percent in 2011.⁴⁰ Anemia prevalence among pregnant women remained above the WHO cut-off point for a significant public health problem between 2003 and 2008 and 55.7 per cent of children aged 6 to 11 months were anemic in 2008. The percentage of the population suffering from severe iodine deficiency increased significantly between 2003 and 2008 from 11% to 20% for children 6 to 12 years old, 24% to 34% for lactating women and 18% to 26% for pregnant women.

Water and Sanitation

The water supply and sanitation situation in the Philippines remains a major concern despite the initiatives of various public and private agencies. Part of the challenge is due to the fact that the water supply and sanitation sector is largely fragmented with no single national agency to lead it.

³⁹The Asia Pacific Poverty line was established by the Asian Development Bank
Source: *23 million Filipinos living below Asia Pacific poverty line*, August 2008, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
⁴⁰*National Nutrition Surveys 2003, National Nutrition Surveys 2008, Updating Nutrition Survey 2011*,
NFRI-DOST

National information sources indicate significant inequities in water and sanitation coverage. Poor households, rural areas and certain provinces (notably Masbate and ARMM provinces) have very low service coverage. Poor access to water and sanitation impacts on the health of communities and often places greater burdens on women who have to manage the households. Based on the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) report of UNICEF and WHO, 8 per cent of the Philippine population does not have access to an improved water source. Furthermore, less than half of the population has access to piped water supply facilities and 26 per cent of the Philippine population does not have access to improved sanitation facilities. More than 7.4 million Filipinos practice open defecation which is the third highest in the Southeast Asia Region. Open defecation is a greater challenge in rural areas rather than urban areas, with four times more open defecation in rural areas compared with urban areas.⁴¹ According to the latest JMP progress report (2012) there has been a drop in rural sanitation coverage over the last 10 years. At the current rate rural sanitation coverage is projected to be only 69% by 2015 compared to the goal of 73%.

Sustainable Energy

Whether it is in reducing poverty, expanding the reach of primary education, or improving the welfare of women and children, universal access to sustainable energy cuts across the MDG's and should continue to be one of the country's priorities.

Sustainable development is only possible through sustainable energy⁴². In the Philippines, household electrification level as of December 2011 is 70 per cent. Electrification affects multiple sectors including education, health, and sanitation. High costs and the country's unstable power supply has been a disincentive to investors.

Shelter⁴³

Social housing faces land supply constraints, weak institutional mechanisms, and an unclear focus on poverty reduction that present shelter strategies do not sufficiently address. There is a mismatch between the physical concentration of economic opportunities and the availability of affordable and adequate shelter in the cities. Moreover, there is a need for housing strategies that are more sensitive to the specific needs of vulnerable groups.

The National Shelter Program (NSP) is working to address the estimated housing need of 5,732,454 units from 2011 to 2016. Informal settlements and slums are a persistent issue in the Philippines, and a product of mismanaged urbanization and the backlog of social housing for the poor. Various approaches have been tried but the number of people living in these areas (which includes disaster-prone areas and flood ways) continues to increase. In Metro Manila, households in informal settlements increased by more than 81 percent

⁴¹*National Demographic Health Survey 1999-2008*. 2008. NSO.

⁴²*Philippine Energy Plan 2012 – 2030*. 2012. DOE

⁴³ Draws from Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

between 2000 and 2006. In 2010 the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) estimated there were 556,526 ISFs or roughly 2.7 million individuals in Metro Manila.

The national government has focused its efforts to respond to the needs of ISFs in Metro Manila through the Alternative Housing Program for Informal Settler Families Living in Danger Areas with a Php 50 billion budget for the period 2012-2016. The Alternative Housing Program targets assistance to 104,000 ISFs during the same period.

4.3.1.2 Priorities, Goals and Enabling Policies

A Job-Centered Post-2015 Development Agenda⁴⁴

Industry is the principal source of employment creation and income generation. To promote inclusive growth and consequently reduce poverty and inequality, steps have to be taken to boost economic development and create jobs in rural areas and informal settlements in cities.

Industry plays an important role in stimulating development and growth through its transformative impact on production processes and the wealth that it creates by adding value to primary resources. It creates jobs, improves human skills, provides the foundation for entrepreneurship, promotes business investment, fosters technological upgrading and dynamism, and establishes the foundation on which the agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors may expand.

One strategy for agriculture is to increase investments and employment across an efficient value chain. New investments are particularly important since the sector employs a large share of the labor force and accounts for a majority of the poor population. Making the sector competitive and modern, however, may render some workers redundant, as in the case of mechanization. For the released rural workers to find gainful employment in the industry and services sector, capital accumulation must rise sufficiently such as in agro-industries and agricultural services (e.g., marketing and logistics). In addition, complementary education and training can make rural workers more adaptable and flexible. Expanding the markets of agriculture and fishery products through value-adding and scaling-up of operations can also provide additional employment opportunities.⁴⁵

While the agriculture and the manufacturing sectors are the twin engines for inclusive growth, it is equally important that population growth has to be managed at the same time.

Decent work is the way out of poverty for poor households and access to productive and fairly remunerated work is the foundation for social inclusion and cohesion. This point is recognized in the PDP 2011-2016.

⁴⁴ A statement by the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment, Rosalinda Baldoz, during the 2nd National Consultation is provided in the annex.

⁴⁵ Draws from Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

A productive employment target based on decent work indicators that captures employment quality as well as quantity should be pursued in the post-2015 development agenda of the country.⁴⁶ As the external economic environment becomes less stable and supportive, progress rests increasingly on domestic policies that foster job-friendly and poverty-reducing growth.

To underscore its critical importance, it is appropriate to upgrade the objective of full and productive employment and decent work as a central goal of the post-2015 development agenda.⁴⁷ National targets should provide sex and age disaggregated indicators to address special needs of women, youth, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, and be informed by the corresponding ratio of participation in agriculture and the informal economy. Labor market indicators that better provide a measure of economic hardship in the Philippines include the underemployment rate and the share of precarious (short-term, casual and seasonal) workers. The following current MDG1.b indicators remain relevant:

Employment-to-population ratio
Working poverty (proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day)
Labor productivity (growth rate of GDP per person employed)
Vulnerable employment (proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment)

The goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all should be supported by the establishment of a national social protection floor that will include access to gender responsive health care and pensions, expansion of protection against the risks of unemployment and disability and protection against the specific vulnerabilities of women, youth, and the elderly.

Consistent with the national effort to mainstream migration in the development process, it is important to specifically harness the gains from migration. Both human capital and remittances should be directed into job-creating investments in small and medium enterprises at the local level, with the participation of migrant communities, migrant dependents and diaspora groups. The thrust of the Government to promote productive socio-economic reintegration must be supported not only by traditional public institutions mandated to regulate migratory flows and provide protective mechanisms, but also by mainstreaming line agencies whose functional mandates have a bearing to improve the local investment climate and infrastructure. When social inclusion is enhanced, migrants and their dependents are empowered to participate in the value chain of production, and decent jobs are created.

⁴⁶ *Jobs and livelihoods at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda*. 2012. ILO.

⁴⁷ The objective of full and productive employment and decent work was added to the MDGs in 2005 as one of the targets of the first MDG goal. While no national target was set, it was included in the 2010 Philippine MDG Report.

Asset Reform

The implementation of asset reform laws needs to be pursued in accordance to their intent to provide equal opportunities to own and manage assets that are critical for production. Land, labor (skills), capital and technology are important assets that will catapult a program to reduce inequality.

With R.A No. 9700⁴⁸ mandating the completion of the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) by 30 June 2014, there is a need to accelerate the LAD aspect.⁴⁹ For lands that have been awarded, more effective and synchronized delivery of support services to the ARBs should be pursued to ensure that the gains of land distribution are sustained. The government is presently reviewing the institutional arrangements of agencies involved in rural development with the aim of streamlining efforts in the delivery of support services to speed up the development of the countryside.

In line with the country's commitment to the Convention Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention's specific provisions on rural women, the government and civil society, particularly rural women's groups, have been working on developing key policy proposals and measures to accelerate the realization of rural women's rights, including their rights to equal access to land, credit, and other resources and basic services.

Social Protection for OFWs and Linking Remittances to Development

The state should implement mandatory SSS coverage for land based OFWs, and include SSS enrollment as prerequisite in the issuance of the Overseas Employment Certificate. There should also be support programs to facilitate the reintegration of returning OFWs through appropriate training, investment and savings programs. Safety nets for OFWs should be strengthened by intensifying efforts for OWWA membership enrollment and renewal. In addition the state should institute dialogues and forge agreements to further strengthen cooperation with labor-receiving countries towards mutual protection and benefits for the OFWs.

Moving remittances from consumption to investments will require an enabling environment that includes building capacities for financial literacy, entrepreneurship, support mechanisms and policies, in parallel with the improvement of social insurance coverage, quality of education and health services.

Education and health services are two expenditure priorities of Overseas Filipino families. It is thus important that the country matches this with the capacity of the

⁴⁸Also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms law

⁴⁹The CARPER Law also stipulates that support services, agrarian justice delivery, and operational requirements of CARP implementing agencies (CIAs) shall be continued even after completion of the LAD component of the CARP.

economy to absorb new human capital resources and increase options for employment in the Philippines and gradually break the cycle of working overseas.

Social Protection

A convergence of the ideas of various stakeholders in social protection (i.e., national and local governments, CSOs, private sector, media, academe, grassroots) will serve as an important impetus towards achieving more inclusive, equity-focused, and quality-based social protection services. The following outputs should be realized in post-MDG discussions:

- (a) Improvement of the enabling policy environment for social protection
- (b) Attainment of sufficient and competent human resources, and adequate financing to implement, evaluate and supervise social protection services
- (c) Strengthen and standardize risk and vulnerability analysis (RVA), targeting and M&E systems to cover social protection services
- (d) Increase community awareness of the availability of social protection services (towards more inclusive participation on social protection)
- (e) Create nationally defined social protection floors

Equitable access to basic services

Education

The education system should aim for the following specific objectives for the period 2016-2025:

- (a) Increased access to quality early childhood care and development (ECCD) for 3- to 5-year olds
- (b) Accelerate improvement in the efficiency and quality of elementary education, particularly in terms of completion rates and learning outcomes for children, targeting near universal elementary enrollment by 2015
- (c) Speedy improvement in access and quality of secondary education, including strengthened linkages to labor market requirements
- (d) Reduce inequities in education outcomes and distribution of educational subsidies, including narrowing the gap in completion rates between the poor and non-poor children, gender gaps in enrollment and completion rates between boys and girls

In implementing the above objectives there should be greater emphasis on character building and development of social/emotional learning skills. Parents, schools and the community should be more effectively involved in developing these skills.

As part of an effective post-2015 agenda, the Philippines needs to work toward a system of ECCD centers and schools that meet explicit standards of quality and promote

inclusive education even in times of emergencies. With this in mind the country needs to focus its strategy on:

- (i) Developing well-motivated teachers who are competent not only in teaching the curriculum, but also steeped in the principles of child development and the psychology of learning, and the principles of gender-fair education
- (ii) Organizational and institutional strengthening that promotes shared governance between the school and parents/community
- (iii) Providing ECCD/school infrastructure and more varied, relevant educational materials to support the more holistic development of children
- (iv) Empowering communities, households, and schools
- (v) Providing adequate resources and budgets

The strategy should build on current reforms and initiatives such as the K-12/Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA) program, vernacular and multi-lingual education, expansion of alternative delivery modes for ECCD/Basic Education, demand-side interventions like the CCT and emerging measures to enhance responsiveness and resilience of ECCD centers and schools in times of emergencies.

Health

Public spending on health needs to be increased to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended level of 5 percent of GDP. Management and governance of public health facilities needs to be more sustainable while expanding capacity to provide quality care. Health programs need to be delivered at an even greater and more effective scale leading up to 2015 and after. A special focus is required in providing access to family planning services for all segments of the population.

For the post-2015 Philippine Development Agenda, initial gains of the present administration need to be sustained and improved on. In the spirit of social justice, the country needs to invest in and sustainably implement universal health care, including the provision of modern family planning information and services, across the decentralized health care system. The country will need to address incomplete realization of the MDGs particularly in the areas where the Philippines is considerably behind (maternal and newborn health, and HIV and AIDS). In addition, the state needs to increase protection against financial risks in accessing health care, pursue cost effective interventions for non-communicable diseases, improve the health system's resiliency in the face of disaster and health security emergencies, and address the social determinants of health that impact on health and health equity.

Food Security and Nutrition

The Philippine government has developed policies and legislation aimed at reducing poverty, and enhancing agricultural productivity, household food security, food fortification and maternal and child nutrition security. Ongoing national and local programs include the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Programme, Conditional Cash

Transfer (CCT) program and community-driven development projects, such as the KALAHI-CIDSS and community development efforts for agrarian reform communities (ARCs) of the Department of Agrarian Reform. The MDG Fund (MDGF) Joint Programme on Food Security and Nutrition for children aged 0 to 23 months, and Food Fortification and Communication programs have been implemented to address food insecurity. However, despite these efforts, reducing the population living below minimum dietary energy intake a day (2,100 kilocalories), as part of MDG 1, is the least likely goal to be achieved by 2015.

To strategically address the post-2015 agenda in the field of food security and nutrition continuous evidence-based policy reforms through equity analyses are necessary. This will ensure a shift to more targeted and integrated hunger and undernutrition programs and convergence with other related sectors such as CCT, water and sanitation, livelihoods and income generation. In addition, this will strengthen national and local systems for effective and quality service delivery, scale-up low cost and high impact food security and nutrition interventions and innovations with strong components of communication for development, and strengthen program monitoring and evaluation. Likewise, supply-side indicators (e.g. data on the country's level of self-sufficiency, volume of food production) should be emphasized given the perennial nature of food insecurity.

Water and Sanitation

Access to clean water and basic sanitation is a human right and universal coverage should be a priority.⁵⁰ With progressive investments of the government in the Salintubig program, universal access to water supply may not be too far off, but the situation is not the same for sanitation. At the present rate of growth there is a risk of missing the MDG target for sanitation. The national government has set its targets for universal coverage for water supply by 2025 and sanitation by 2028 in their roadmaps and plans.

Water, sanitation and hygiene services targets should aim to progressively reduce inequalities. This means targets should be set to reflect human rights obligations to women, children, disabled and other disadvantaged groups. This can pose new challenges when defining pragmatic indicators, but may be possible by monitoring facilities for both girls in boys in schools and considering monitoring facilities for menstrual hygiene management.

In monitoring terms, it would be useful to get information if a household has access to both water supply and sanitation services rather than getting figures separately. The joint figures per household will emphasize the impact of both intervention on personal hygiene and health.

⁵⁰*Resolution A/RES/64/292: The human right to water and sanitation.* July 2010. United Nations General Assembly.

Shelter

Government policy is guided by the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) (Republic Act No. 7279) and the National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NUDHF) 2009-2016. Priorities for the sector are a) urban competitiveness; b) sustainable communities; c) housing affordability; d) poverty alleviation; and e) performance-oriented governance over the period 2009 to 2016.

In pursuit of a comprehensive program for informal settlers across the country, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) has begun formulating a) the National Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy (NISUS); and b) the National Resettlement Framework. These two major strategies will streamline resettlement issues and interventions, and set a national target for ISFs to be provided with shelter assistance.

4.3.1.3 Recommendations

Given a close to 5 percent growth rate over the past decade and a stellar 6.6 per cent economic growth rate in 2012, the Philippines has not fulfilled its potential to significantly reduce poverty during the same period. Inclusive growth and equity remain elusive. Recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- Execution – Improve implementation and enforcement of policy programs and laws to create decent and productive employment
- Resource allocation – Increase investments in social services, sustainable energy and health to continue to accelerate improvement
- Equity consideration – Increase inclusivity of policies, programs and services through:
 - a. Active involvement of key stakeholders
 - b. Better targeting of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized
 - c. Identifying and measuring equity targets and indicators
 - d. Increased access to decent and productive work
 - e. Promoting growth in rural areas and security of tenure in informal settlements (in cities)
- Address both supply side factors (classrooms and hospitals) and social factors (health) influencing service delivery and social outcomes
- National-local linkage – Improve linkages of laws and policies at the national and local levels

4.3.2 THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT⁵¹

(Please see full text of theme Paper in Annex 17.)

4.3.2.1 Assessment and Challenges

Two factors that need to be considered in any future development strategy. These are: 1) the country's physical assets and natural resources for wealth creation and equitable distribution; and 2) the country's vulnerabilities due to natural hazards, including those from climate change. The Philippines is one of the mega-diverse countries of the world and has tremendous marine and coastal resources in addition to sizeable mineral resources. There is tremendous potential to use and manage these resources sustainably to improve the lives of the Filipino people, but this opportunity is threatened by rapid environmental degradation and the threat of natural hazards. The Philippines is also one of the most disaster prone countries in the world.

Weak Governance Regime

Chronic problems are the elite capture of resources and a weak bureaucracy, which have catalyzed environmental degradation and fueled further poverty.⁵ This bureaucratic weakness is manifested in conflicting policies, weak systems, and mechanisms that make it difficult for even the best meaning of duty bearers to initiate much-needed reforms. Recent civil society consultations have also singled out the paradigm of export-oriented, capital-intensive, high speed development and the large-scale plunder of natural resources, especially by companies engaged in extractive and "dirty" industries (i.e. coal-fired power plants), as further intensifying environmental degradation.

Land Use and Urban Planning⁵²

Land use and urban planning are key development gaps in the country. Many LGUs lack land use plans, which causes inefficiencies in the use of resources and can increase the risks from disasters. The government's "Zero Backlog Project", led by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), targets 100% of Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) to be updated by 2013. Only 338 of 1,610 cities and municipalities (20.9%) have completed their solid waste management plans. In Metro Manila, only eight out of 17 cities and municipalities have complete plans.

Lack of urban planning, indiscriminate urban development, lack of investment in water, problems of water resource management, and the impact of climate change threaten water security and sustainability. In addition, uncontrolled urban growth coupled with poor land use planning results in encroachment on protected forests or danger zones like riverbanks. Together with shortfalls in basic services such as proper waste disposal and

⁵¹Section 4.2.2 is based on the theme paper on this subject prepared by UNDP.

⁵Source: *UN Common Country Assessment of the Philippines: a Common View, A Common Journey*. 2004. UNCT

⁵²Draws from the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016

decent housing, these result in clogged waterways and increased flood risk.

Conflicting Uses Resulting in Unacceptable Trade-Offs

A major dilemma of the environment and natural resources sector in the Philippines is that resources with potentially conflicting uses often occupy the same space (i.e. forest and biodiversity resources on top of mineral resources). The challenge has been how to utilize one without destroying the other. Because of expediency, the strategy has almost always been a trade off between competing uses, the priority going to the resource, which is perceived to provide greater economic benefits, albeit only in the short term. Most of the time, it is not only ecological integrity that is threatened, but there is also a danger that culture and traditional ways of life disappear as in the case of IPs' ancestral domains.

Perverse Incentives Fostering Environmental Degradation

The absence of clear incentives for conservation (e.g. equitable access & benefit sharing for ecosystem communities) and inefficient use of environmental resources has fostered economic inefficiency, pollution, environmental degradation, and conflict. There are inefficiencies in the use of space resulting in more prime agricultural land conversions, consequently, threatening food security.

Bio-piracy Resulting in Unrealized Benefits

The Philippines is suffering from "leakage" in revenue generation from the environment sector through bio-piracy of the country's genetic pool. The Philippines' marine waters hold untold economic potential for drugs and fuels. However, the country has yet to stake its rightful claim to the economic benefits of these natural resources, whereas many international pharmaceutical companies have already cashed in. Investment in research and development on the wealth creation potential of these resources as a basis for asserting benefit claims has been consistently low in the government's priorities. In addition, competencies and capacities of the concerned institutions and sectors (e.g. the academe) have not kept up with the rapid developments in this area.

Enhanced Hazards and Disasters due to Climate Change

The tragedies from extreme climate events experienced by the Philippines in the last decade highlight the Philippines' increasing exposure and sensitivity to climate-related hazards. The average cost of each major disaster runs into billions of pesos, which adversely affects the country's economic development gains, not to mention lives lost and people displaced. The cost of typhoon Pablo (Bopha) in December 2012 was estimated at over 36 billion pesos and damage from typhoon Sendong (Washi) in 2011 was estimated at over 2 billion pesos.⁵³ Changing weather patterns are bringing storms to communities that historically have been spared devastation. In the past, Filipinos have been able to rapidly adapt to different weather conditions, but the frequency and severity

⁵³ Source: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. 2012

of natural hazards is outstripping their capacity to cope. This is a serious source of insecurity especially for the poor and most vulnerable.

Unfortunately, the varying approaches on the conceptual convergence and divergence of CCA/DRRM (including the role of environmental degradation as an underlying risk factor) has generated confusion, slowing the critical task of climate/disaster proofing.⁷ However, the national bureaucracy has developed a logical and tested approach for the mainstreaming of CCA/DRRM in the country's planning, programming and regulatory processes, which have defined stages and requirements. A major step for this is a scientifically based risk/vulnerability assessment, which characterizes the hazards and the exposed elements (e.g. population, economic systems) and their interaction.

4.3.2.2 Priorities, Goals and Enabling Policies

The Philippines faces immense challenges to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, but also has great opportunities to protect and utilize its natural resources sustainably for the country's long-term benefit. Below is a list of recommendations in pursuit of a secure and sustainable environmental future.

- a) The Philippines must capitalize on its genetic pool to generate wealth. The potential uses for the country's biodiversity represent a significant future income, which promises to rival that from conventional use. Protocols and mechanisms for genetic resources development including access and benefit sharing schemes must be clearly drawn within the existing national and international frameworks on patenting genetic material and intellectual property rights regimes.

Value adding strategies should be worked out such that the Philippines can generate more wealth from the environment for the sustainable development of the Filipino people. To this end, the wealth creation strategy using the country's minerals should be re-examined, not only in the context of generating more income for the country but also equitable benefit sharing. It should be primarily directed towards eliminating the pockets of poverty in the Philippines. Wealth creation, rather than plain employment generation alone, should be the predominant economic paradigm, with results earmarked for poverty eradication.

- b) Vulnerability reduction from risk sources in the environment can be undertaken in two ways:
 - 1) For intensifying natural hazards due to climate change:
 - i. A systematic, harmonized and normative implementation approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation supported by a strong national policy
 - ii. Support from the concerned national government risk management

⁷To date, 70 of 81 provinces are in various stages of disaster risk/vulnerability assessments and a very small number of cities/municipalities have been subjected to the vulnerability assessment process as pilots.

- agencies as capacity development agents
- iii. Capacitate LGUs and local partners to:
 - 1. undertake the assessment and climate proofing of plans, programs and processes
 - 2. implement comprehensive land use and urban planning to minimize disaster risk
 - iv. Participation of the private sector in risk sharing schemes, especially for the poor, should be adopted and implemented in a normative way.
- 2) For pollution and environmental degradation
- i. Effective land use and urban planning such that cities as centers of settlements and economic activity are optimally utilized, averting unnecessary conversion of precious agricultural land.
 - ii. Adopt a National Land Use Bill – to provide a rationalized land use planning in the country and put in order the national laws on land uses (such as agrarian reform, protected areas, ancestral domain, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, agricultural modernization, mining, and housing) that are sector specific and do not address the cross cutting land use issues.
 - iii. New instruments that enable the market to regulate itself must be put in place, with the government providing appropriate incentives and an enabling environment that spurs efficient use and conserves resources.
 - iv. Agricultural land must be efficiently used, using environmentally compatible ways of production.
 - v. A “green growth” strategy anchored on the Philippines’ extensive renewable energy sources to transform the country from a primarily fossil-fuel dependent agricultural state to a sustainable industrial economy, optimizing the use of its extensive mineral wealth for the benefit of its people.

4.3.3 THEME: ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE⁵⁴

(Please see full text of theme paper in Annex 18.)

4.3.3.1 Assessment and Challenges

Based on the figures released in June 2012, the Philippines’ percentile scores in five out of six World Governance Indicators (WGIs) of the World Bank have dropped significantly since 1996(the year that the bank developed the WGIs). The indicators are voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence or terrorism, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. The Philippines lags behind ASEAN neighbors in multiple indicators and only managed to

⁵⁴Section 4.2.3 is based on the theme paper on this subject prepared by Alex B. Brillantes Jr., PhD

score higher than the 50th percentile (globally) in government effectiveness at 51.7.⁵⁵ The Philippines must do better in terms of governance and reforms are imperative.

There are three major systems that constitute the governance of the Philippines, the political system, the public administration system and the non-state sector.

Among the critical issues confronting the political system are political patronage, elite dominance, and monopoly of power. A manifestation of this is the predominance of political dynasties in the country. In addition, the continued presence of warlords and private armies has exacerbated the problem. The electoral system in the country has been marked by fraud, violence and massive disenfranchisement of voters.

The public administration system faces many critical issues⁵⁶ such as lack of accountability, rampant graft and corruption, poor service delivery, fragmented and uncoordinated systems and structures, excessive influence of partisan politics, a timid bureaucracy, and denial of justice, especially to those who cannot pay or have no legal access.

The non-state sector, which includes business and civil society, also has an important role in the process of governance. There are numerous critical issues, which confront this sector. The poor and disadvantaged are unorganized, have limited knowledge of their human and legal rights, and most of the existing organizations of poor sectors need strengthening and scaling up. One consequence is that the rights and security of indigenous peoples has been ignored to give way to political and business interests. In addition, the media has been commercialized and is controlled by a small elite. The religious sector and faith-based groups are fragmented and divided. Lastly, policies and mechanisms for people's participation and expressing public sentiment have generally been underutilized, distorted and not fully developed.

4.3.3.2 Priorities, Goals and Enabling Policies

Achieving better governance will entail broad and small steps. Below, the priorities for the Philippines are broken down into objectives and then reforms and initiatives to achieve them in the context of the three major systems of governance.

Priorities and Goals

Political System

Objectives

- A political system where citizens are empowered and have greater access and control
- Visionary, dynamic and innovative leaders who give meaning and purpose to “public service is a public trust”

⁵⁵PH fails in 5 World Bank governance standards, July 2012, Manila Times

⁵⁶ These issues and recommendations are drawn from the Manifesto for Civil Service Reform (2010)

Reforms and Initiatives

- Initiate a nationwide grassroots based leadership program
- Private armies should be disbanded
- Adopt a comprehensive political and electoral reform bill
- Support the organization and empowerment of poor communities and sectors for socio-cultural, economic and political advancement while respecting and promoting the autonomy of these organizations from government

Public Administration System

Objectives

- Bureaucracy and society highly intolerant to corrupt practices and behavior
- Civil service system based on merit, not patronage
- Bureaucracy that is efficient, service-oriented and honest, nationalistic and patriotic
- Governance system that builds upon local culture and values of integrity and honesty
- A justice system that is accessible and works for the advantage of the poor
- Armed Forces and security sector that are genuine protectors of human rights and citizens' rights
- Indigenous systems of governance effectively interfaced with formal structures and processes

Reforms and Initiatives

- Use UN Convention Against Corruption as a basis for advocating for the review of current anti-corruption measures and crafting new measures.
- Anchor anti-corruption and justice initiatives along sectoral concerns such as environment, health, education and water
- Promote stronger values formation in the educational system and in the civil service

Non State Sector

Objectives

- Independent media effectively serving the interest and voice of the people
- Strong inter-faith dialogues that foster peace, unity, love and care for the country's poor and disadvantaged sectors
- Effective representation of basic sectors in key governance structures and processes that allow them to express and fight for their collective interests
- Citizens are able to enjoy their human rights without fear or doubt
- Citizens are able to engage effectively with government in analyzing and advocating public finance issues
- Independent, citizen-led governance and democracy review that is regularly conducted by citizens at all levels

Reforms and Initiatives

- Advocate for the freedom of information bill and measures that promote transparency and citizen empowerment
- Encourage citizens and civil society organizations to undergo continuing and expanded education and capacity building in public finance and other governance processes
- Promote stronger values formation in the educational system
- Strengthen the structures and processes for citizens' empowerment and participation in government through local development councils, BUB and local government planning and budgeting

Enabling Policies

Based on the inputs from the national consultations and a review of the literature in the field, the agenda for governance in the future should focus on the following areas:

- (1) Initiate, implement and sustain institutional and structural reforms. These include changes in the fundamental law of the land (charter change), and amendments to basic laws and legislation such as the need to come up with a comprehensive civil service code, and amendment of the decentralization law (local government code) of the Philippines.
- (2) ***Strengthen and enhance initiatives and interventions to reform the behavior of stakeholders in the bureaucracy and among frontline local governments. This is at the core of the argument for values based governance.***
This includes comprehensive capability building and capacity development programs designed and implemented by institutions including those in the civil service, academic institutions (including universities and governance schools in various parts of the country) operating in accordance to the “town and gown” principle of governance. Such programs should be founded on developing patriotism, and the recovery of values.

However, reforming structures and behavior is not enough. These have to be reinforced by the *duty bearers* (leadership) and *claimholders* (citizens) operating within the context of the enabling environment. The following is the suggested framework for reform:⁵⁷

Reform Institutions, Structures, Processes and Procedures:

- Constitutional Reforms:
 - Charter Change that may include serious debate over the adoption of a parliamentary form of government and a federally decentralized structure.

⁵⁷ This section is informed by Brillantes and Fernandez, 2011.

- Amendment of Existing Laws
 - Consolidate all anti-corruption bodies and clarify and strengthen linkages between them (COA, Ombudsman, CSC etc.)
- The Local Government Code
 - Amend the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) formula to include poverty and performance
 - Sectoral representation at the local level
- Review of the state of Mindanao, the ARMM and Bangsamoro.
 - Consider the option of Federalism.
- Passage of New Laws
 - Address the operationalization of the anti-dynasty law described in the constitutions.
- The Civil Service Code
 - Codify laws on the bureaucracy and civil service through the passage of a civil service code.⁵⁸
 - The code will define the scope, role and functions of capacity building institutions such as the Civil Service Academy
 - It should also preserve the autonomy of the civil service.
- Evaluate existing policies
 - Reconcile the information and data bases of various government agencies (NSO, NSCB, BAR, DILG, DOF-BLGF)
 - Unify information system on poverty statistics, and LGU performance

Reform Values and Behavior:

- Develop capacity building modules for use in capacity building institutions including values formation, patriotism, and ethics for public service, gender sensitivity and gender responsiveness
- Design and implement a network of capacity building institutions
 - Network of schools of public administration and governance (Association of Schools of Public Administration of the Philippines (ASPAP))
 - The Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA)
 - Local Government Training and Research Institutes
 - Network in the Asia Pacific Region (LOGOTRI)
- Develop a performance mindset among national and local governments
 - Performance indicators for civil servants
 - Performance indicators for local governments (Local Government Performance Management System (LGPMS))
 - Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH)

Strengthen Leadership in Government:

- Develop partnerships with and between institutions doing leadership capacity building

⁵⁸ Note that the passage of a civil service code has been advocated for since the year 2000.

- Conduct inventory of such institutions (Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy of the UPNCPAG; AIM-Bridging Leaders Program; Pimentel Institute of Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati; Health Leadership Program of the Zuellig Family Foundation)
- Support programs that recognize outstanding leaders (Magsaysay award, Local Government Leadership Award (LGLA), Jesse Robredo award)

Strengthen Citizen Engagement:

- Support citizen engagement in:
 - Anti-corruption activism and promotion of accountability
 - Environmental protection
 - Peace and security
 - Monitoring the MDGs
 - Supporting participation through technology
 - National and local government planning and budgeting
 - Promoting gender-responsiveness in the judiciary and access to justice especially for the poor and the vulnerable groups
- Replicate successful initiatives such as:
 - Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance
 - Citizens report card mechanisms
 - Alternative budgeting approaches (Social Watch and Budget Advocacy Group)
 - Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity
 - Localized Anti-Poverty Program (LAPP) and Pork Barrel Watch (CODE-NGO)
- Design and develop manual for citizen engagement at the national and local level to promote accountability and prevent graft and corruption
 - Inventory of existing “manual” – Ursal, Defensor-Santiago, etc.
- Strengthen and develop networks and partnerships among citizen groups like the Transparency and Accountability Network, citizen groups and academic institutions

4.3.4 THEME: FAIR AND STABLE ORDER BASED ON INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW⁵⁹

(Please see full text of theme paper in Annex 19.)

4.3.4.1 Assessment and Challenges

Bold policy reforms are required at the local, national and global levels to end and prevent crises, promote inclusive growth and ensure sustainable development. In more specific terms global and national efforts should be strengthened to promote environmental sustainability, forge global partnerships for fair trade and just economic order, recognize the right of developing countries to full and accelerated industrialization,

⁵⁹Section 4.2.4 is based on the theme paper on this subject prepared by the Fair Trade Alliance

and overhaul macroeconomic frameworks.

Strengthening Global and National Efforts to Promote Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability is an urgent concern especially for countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change such as the Philippines. Achieving environmental sustainability requires affirmative measures at both the national and global levels. Progress in sustainability has suffered from half-heartedness among national policy makers and international climate change negotiators. So far efforts to force the parties, especially developed countries and the big industrializers, to make concrete commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fund climate change initiatives have failed.

Forging Global Partnerships for Fair Trade and Just Economic Order

The Doha Round, after 11 years of negotiations, remains at an impasse. Concluding the Doha Round is crucial to address structural imbalances in the global trade regime, and countries need to increase efforts to finalize the negotiations. There is an urgent need to remove all trade-restrictive measures introduced since the onset of the global economic crisis, as these measures have affected nearly 3 per cent of world trade. Such trade restrictions further limit the growth prospects and opportunities for job creation in developing countries. At the same time, trade capacities in developing countries need to be strengthened, including through the enhancement of the Aid for Trade initiative⁶⁰, while ensuring that it incorporates the key principles of aid effectiveness and support for countries in integrating trade strategies into their overall national development strategies. A continuing challenge is the pressure on developed countries to open up trade doors to the developing world without relinquishing support or subsidies to their own producers, particularly in agriculture.

The WTO has a clause on “special and differential treatment” (SDT) for developing countries in the WTO Preamble and numerous WTO agreements (industry, agriculture, services, etc.). This provision recognizes that not all countries are equal, but it needs to be operationalized.

Proponents of an out-and-out open global economy are vocal about their demands for tariff liberalization, privatization and economic deregulation, but are fierce defenders of strict protectionist policies on intellectual property rights, which restrict the unhampered flow of technology to developing and least developed countries and make essential products like drugs costly and prohibitive to the masses.

In addition, the proliferation of bilateral and regional “free trade agreements”, has reduced the space for policy flexibility for developing countries to have greater access to

⁶⁰According to the WTO Aid for Trade helps developing countries, and particularly least developed countries, trade. Many developing countries face a range of supply-side and trade-related infrastructure obstacles, which constrains their ability to engage in international trade. The WTO-led Aid for Trade initiative encourages developing country governments and donors to recognize the role that trade can play in development.

technology and patents. These agreements have also prevented developing countries from pursuing industrialization in a relatively independent manner.

Pursuing Policies Aimed at Accelerated Industrialization and Job Creation

Central to the development of a new world economic order is ability of developing countries such as the Philippines to pursue a progressive program of building up their industrial and agricultural sectors. This would be accomplished through a forward-looking “industrial policy” without being hamstrung by IMF or World Bank policy conditionalities and inflexible provisions in WTO free trade agreements. ADB and the World Bank revived the topic of industrial policy in the Philippines when they issued a call for the revival of manufacturing in the country. In recent years manufacturing has stagnated due to neglect, high cost of power and infrastructure, and economic liberalization without a well-crafted industrial policy and plan.

Industrial policies and plans can be strengthened by mainstreaming efforts on improving industrial energy efficiency, creating access to renewable energy for MSME development, stimulating export, increasing trade competitiveness, highlighting environmental protection, and focusing on value-chain intervention especially in the agriculture sector.

Overhauling the Macroeconomic Framework

A reformed macroeconomic framework should reflect the above industrial policy proposal, the MDG targets, and should be balanced, green and inclusive.

4.3.4.2 Priorities, Goals and Enabling Policies

Strengthening Global and National Efforts to Promote Environmental Sustainability

- The most urgent issue in terms of sustainability is a universal and comprehensive agreement to address climate change
- The UN and governments should give equal importance to anticipatory and adaptation measures (in response to climate change), which have direct and immediate implications on the lives of the urban and rural poor in the developing world
- Investment in the renewable energy sector, which tends to be more labor-intensive than current energy generation technologies, will have a double benefit, placing economies on not only a more sustainable, but also a more employment-intensive growth path

Forging Global Partnerships for Fair Trade and Just Economic Order

- Use MDG 8 as a guide for a new world economic order
- A definitive program to address inequities in the global economy and greater policy spaces for developing and least developed countries

- A review of the global and regional rules defining global and regional economic integration
- Fair and balanced trade arrangements
- The “special and differential treatment” provisions in WTO agreements should be acted upon in various trading systems
- Pursue wider use of the trade-related provisions set out in the intellectual property rights regulations of the WTO, together with greater use of innovative mechanisms to lower costs and increase access to essential medicines in low and middle-income countries

Pursuing Policies Aimed at Accelerated Industrialization and Job Creation

- Efforts to support technologically sophisticated modern services and manufacturing must be accompanied by continued support for agriculture
- The agricultural sector, agribusiness and agro-industries in particular, remains the major source of income, food and work for a majority of the poor in developing countries, who are a focal point of the post-2015 agenda
- Productive agriculture is critical for structural transformation. Higher agricultural productivity increases the incomes of smallholder farmers, and creates jobs and increases on-farm and non-farm incomes in rural areas owing to the high labor intensity of agriculture, while agro-processing reduces post-harvest losses and thus promotes food security.
- Public support to facilitate productivity increases is critical, including investments in rural infrastructure and agricultural science, technology and innovation, education and extension services, as well as greater access to credit and financial services, inputs, insurance, markets, land and secure property rights, in particular for women and vulnerable populations

Overhauling the Macroeconomic Framework

- The ultimate goals of macroeconomic stabilization policies should be to achieve stable economic growth and facilitate employment creation
- Price stability and sustainable levels of debt play an important role through their impact on investment decisions. In order to achieve these intermediate goals, countries need policy space for flexibility in the use of macroeconomic tools. These include countercyclical fiscal policy, a monetary policy regime supportive of both sustained growth and price stability, and an exchange rate regime that facilitates macroeconomic and structural adjustment supportive of sustainable job creation. These policies must be complemented by strong and prudent financial market regulation and supervision.
- The details of any such policy mix are country-specific and need to be tailored to national circumstances. Successful implementation will require an enabling global policy environment and international policy coordination.
- The current world economic conditions require more short-term fiscal stimulus to break the cycle of high unemployment, weak aggregate demand and slow growth.
- Reorient government spending to overcome infrastructure bottlenecks and to

- promote sustainable agriculture, energy generation and encourage economic diversification to improve employment and long-run growth prospects.
- Macroeconomic policies should harness structural change and shift resources — both labor and capital — to activities with higher productivity and thus greater potential for adequate remuneration.
 - A coherent set of trade, investment, financial, industrial, education and social policies is important to facilitate structural change and place the economy on a more sustainable and employment intensive growth path.

4.3.5 THEME: PEACE AND SECURITY⁶¹ **(Please see full text of theme paper in Annex 20.)**

4.3.5.1 Assessment and Challenges

Violence and fragility have become the largest obstacles to the MDGs. A child living in a conflict-affected or fragile developing country is twice as likely to be undernourished as a child living in another developing country and nearly three times as likely to be out of school. No low-income fragile or conflict-affected state has yet achieved a single MDG.⁶² In the Philippines, human development remains low in areas affected by armed conflict, as in the case of the bottom five provinces, namely, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.⁶³

The government's avowed commitment to a policy of peace, reconciliation and reunification is premised on the recognition that peace goes beyond the absence of war; rather it is the "*sum total of conditions that ensure human and social wellbeing in all its dimensions*".⁶⁴ The Social Contract of President Benigno Aquino III with the Filipino People contains specific provisions committing his administration to the pursuit of a "*just and lasting peace and rule of law*".

In the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, security is understood as national security that involves the "*whole-of-nation approach, focusing on internal stability, upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state, capability and preparedness against natural calamities and disasters, and reform and modernization of the security sector.*"

The aspiration for peace and security in the Philippines is challenged by long running conflicts, a growing culture of violence reflected in the proliferation of loose firearms, high crime rates in certain areas, and external stresses - all of which make Philippine communities vulnerable to harm.

⁶¹ Section 4.2.5 is based on the theme paper on this subject prepared by Ms. Maria Victoria Z. Maglana

⁶² Source: World Development Report, 2011, World Bank

⁶³ Source: 2008/2009 Philippine Human Development Report

⁶⁴ Source: *Philippine Development Plan*. 2011. NEDA

The country has suffered from armed conflict for nearly half a century. It is among five countries worldwide that have been affected by long drawn-out violence.⁶⁵ ⁶⁶ Various studies point to a sense of injustice and inequity as roots of conflict in the country.⁶⁷ The main conflicts in the country, the communist insurgency and the Bangsamoro struggle for self-determination, have been motivated by the loss of access to land, economic inequality, inadequate delivery of public services, and the exclusion and marginalization of the Bangsamoro, IPs and the poor from the political and socio-economic mainstream. The communist insurgency has been largely agrarian-based, fueled by inequitable access to land and the exclusion of the poor.

The Philippine Government is seeking to advance peace processes through what it refers to as the six tables. These are the a) negotiations for comprehensive political settlement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and b) the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) -National Democratic Front (NDF) - New People's Army (NPA); c) complete implementation of the Final Peace Agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front; and closure tracks with the d) Cordillera People's Liberation Army, and the e) Revolutionary Proletarian Army - Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Alongside the six tables, the Philippine Government is pursuing a complementary track to address the causes of conflict and issues affecting the peace process through programs like the PAMANA (Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan/Peaceful and Resilient Communities Program), the government's program and framework for peace and development. It covers areas affected by conflict and communities that are part of existing peace agreements.

Armed encounters between the government and the MILF have significantly gone down since 2002 and the two parties are in the final stages of fleshing out the annexes to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, a landmark agreement, which will define the parameters for the crafting of Bangsamoro Basic Law. Once ratified by the Philippine Congress, the Basic Law will create a new Bangsamoro political entity expected to bring about the settlement of the 40-year old conflict.

There has not been significant progress in the formal peace negotiations between the government and the CPP-NDF-NPA since the process resumed in 2011 after being stalled for seven years. It is estimated that there is some level of CPP-NDF-NPA activity in 62 provinces across the country.

Inefficiencies and corruption in the justice system, inadequate access by disadvantaged groups to services, and inefficient handling of information on crime and justice are factors that affect redress through judicial processes. This perceived unresponsiveness of

⁶⁵*Human Security Report 2009/2010*. 2010. Human Security Report Project.

⁶⁶ The Human Security Report 2009/2010 lists the Philippines along with Myanmar, India, Ethiopia, and the United Kingdom as among the top five countries in terms of conflict years

⁶⁷Studies by the National Unification Commission (1993), the Philippine Human Development Report (2005) and the Mindanao Trust Fund Joint Needs Assessment (2005)

the judicial system fuels frustration and heightens the sense of injustice among marginalized groups.

The peace and security situation in the Philippines is made more complex by the high incidence of crime in particular areas, including transnational crimes such as trafficking of women and children. Criminality has become a part of the informal economy in a number of areas and is linked to the proliferation of loose firearms. Around the globe the Philippines is ranked 105th among 178 countries in terms of number of civilian firearms, registering an average of 4.7 firearms for every 100 individuals.⁶⁸

The overlapping territorial claims with China, Vietnam and other Asian countries over the Spratly Islands, continuing tensions with China over the West Philippines Sea, and the recent reemergence of the Sabah claim underscore the importance of the external dimensions of national security.

Different capacities – knowledge resources and skills for example – according to gender, location or historical positioning, can be harnessed for achieving peace, security and development goals. Dominant security paradigms continue to be either unresponsive to women’s needs or perpetuate unequal relations between men and women. Inclusive security paradigms that address women and men’s different security and safety needs should be promoted.

4.3.5.2 Priorities, Goals and Enabling Policies

Proposed Vision

Traditional discourse on sustainable human development has tended to sideline peace and security by treating it as an enabling factor, a prerequisite, or a subset of governance. The Rio+20 and the post-2015 conversations are among the few junctures where peace and security is now systematically recognized as an important pillar directly affecting sustainable human development.

In conceptualizing the overall post-2015 framework, Filipino peace and security practitioners and advocates recommend a dynamic rather than static model. The model should recognize the interrelatedness of all the pillars, while also allowing for thematic focus when necessary.

It is recommended that the goals for peace and security 2016 onwards be premised on a shared vision, functioning as guiding star and platform for negotiating the means towards the desired state.

⁶⁸*Small Arms Survey*, 2007, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva)

Desiring to contribute to the international effort for peace and security, the following global vision is recommended:

Global Vision

“A safe and secure world where countries are at peace, communities are safe and resilient, and negotiations are the preferred approach for addressing challenges”

For the Philippines the vision statement for peace and security post-2015 is as follows:

Philippines Vision

“Inclusive peace, and safe and resilient communities”

The emphasis on peace and resilience and the recognition of their interaction comes from the appreciation that resilience is the “*capacity of social systems to absorb stress and repair themselves, as well as a capacity for renewal and adaptation*”.⁶⁹ This capacity is necessary for society to work toward a culture of and for peace and overcome conflicts and their effects. Peace also develops resilience; enabling groups to better absorb shocks and disturbances.

Peace and Security Goals

1. Peacefully Resolve Armed Conflicts

a) *Resolve the Bangsamoro Conflict and Sustain Peace:*

- Successfully implement the Bangsamoro peace agreement: It is anticipated that significant changes will have happened by 2016 in the Bangsamoro New Political Entity (BNPE). An assembly will have been put in place, political parties created, combatants and weapons decommissioned, the Shari’ah court system rejuvenated and more gender-responsive, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and processes will be at work. These will have to be stabilized and sustained to prevent a return to violence. Hence it is vital that the peace agreement be widely understood and supported and the implementation strengthened.
- Strengthen institutions and civil society: A strong civil society is needed to accompany the new political institutions, performing watchdog functions and ensuring that communities are free to elect their leaders. The multiplicity of civil society initiatives is anticipated to have cumulative impact; and CSO actors’ efforts at strategic relationship building -- reaching across divides by establishing contact, building trust, and convening discussions -- will help build social cohesion.

⁶⁹Source: *Pillars of Peace*, 2011, Institute for Economics and Peace

- Protect and include vulnerable sectors: Vulnerable sectors such as women, children, indigenous peoples as well as former combatants and their families will need attention as well as representation in the political system. The key concerns of indigenous peoples concerning the Bangsamoro New Political Entity are their claims to ancestral domain and respect for their “right to self-determination and self-governance through the implementation of Customary Laws and system of customary governance (Tribal Self-Governance)” and the recognition of their identity as distinct peoples with unique cultures and traditions.
- Transitional and restorative justice: Healing and reconciliation processes amongst former adversaries and aggressors as well as communities ravaged by the conflicts need to be pursued:
 - Address the absence of the Bangsamoro and indigenous peoples in written accounts of Philippine history
 - Demand for government to acknowledge erroneous policies such as settlements in the 1960s
 - Acknowledgement of Bangsamoro or other natural collective identity and being Filipino/part of the Philippines
 - Dealing with modern issues as Islamic and indigenous communities.

b) Resolve the CPP-NDF-NPA Conflict

- Resume negotiations and reach a peaceful settlement (ideally before 2015)
- Mobilize international support and generate sustained pressure and encouragement from national stakeholders
- The international community is encouraged to recognize the strategic advantage of a peaceful resolution without requiring a peace agreement as a precondition for their involvement
- Civil society, business and communities should contribute to the peace process

2. End Political Violence

Take Guns out of Politics

- Disarm politicians that have private armies to ensure that communities are able to freely elect their leaders and that democratic processes are followed.
- Stop corruption and elite control over governance and the economy obtained and maintained through firepower.
- Cultivate the demand side for principled politics to ensure that politically mature voters isolate warlord politicians and consistently engage in acts of good citizenship.

3. Promote National Security, Internal Stability and International Accord

a) Address Criminality:

- Reduce high incidence of criminality by stopping proliferation of loose firearms.
- Address perceptions that the security sector has become a source of illegally procured weapons
- Research and combat criminality in the informal economy: drug dealing, arms smuggling, human trafficking, gambling, cattle rustling and usury.
- Protect women and children who are most vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence
- Address violent “rido” (feuding between families, clans or groups)
- Address fear of re-victimization from investigation and judicial process, and weak trust in the law enforcement and judicial systems.
- Address resource problems that constrain the police in effective law enforcement
- Support a comprehensive and integrated system of addressing safety and security at the local level through barangay justice systems, and local peace and order councils to further strengthen meaningful collaboration among duty bearers, enforcers and claimholders
- Create incentive scheme rewarding good performance of LGUs in peace, security and safety
- Set up BNPE to prevent and settle political feuds and interdict criminality in its areas.

b) Security arrangements to defend from threats of incursions by external forces, and fundamentally protect national sovereignty

- Address current practice of allowing the Philippine military to provide security support to foreign-owned industries such as mining, logging and large-scale plantations
 - This practice is often at odds with communities aggrieved by the transnational presence

4. Address Key Concerns of Indigenous Peoples

- a)* Post-2015 the policy environment concerning IP rights should have been translated into effective delineation, control and management of ancestral domains in order to resolve or prevent conflicts.
- b)* Inconsistencies in policy instruments (for example between the Mining Act and IPRA) and problems in implementation arrangements should be ironed out.
- c)* Explore governance arrangements that dynamically connect with local culture, but do not perpetrate patterns that promote inequality and discrimination.
- d)* Government must work with IPs to promote inclusion and governance responsiveness.

5. Strengthen the Culture of and for Peace

a) Security Sector Reform

- Continue security sector reforms, particularly in the areas of recognizing and rewarding good performance (i.e., promotion and recognition system), and motivating police and military to participate in the healing and transformation processes.

b) Education for peace

- Make the peace process inclusive by hearing out those who are affected by violent conflicts
- Strengthen people's peace abilities: to empathize with the other, value differences, build and amplify social cohesion, and manage conflicts through dialogue
- Change "with soul"
 - Encourage belief systems and lifestyles that promote respect for cultural diversity, interconnectedness and spirituality
 - Strengthen connections to enhance the sense of security and wellbeing at the individual and community levels.

6. Engendering Peace

- a)* Women's contribution to peace and security should be valued and women should benefit from the results. Views and practices that denigrate and limit women, and privilege masculinity and patriarchy need to be countered.
- b)* Women's rights and gender equality must be part of the political agenda of the Bangsamoro to uphold the practical and strategic interests of women in the economic, political and social spheres.
- c)* Women's representation in politics should be increased, as well as women's participation in formal institutions of justice including as officers of the court.
- d)* Fully implement UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (on women, peace and security) and the Philippines National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820

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