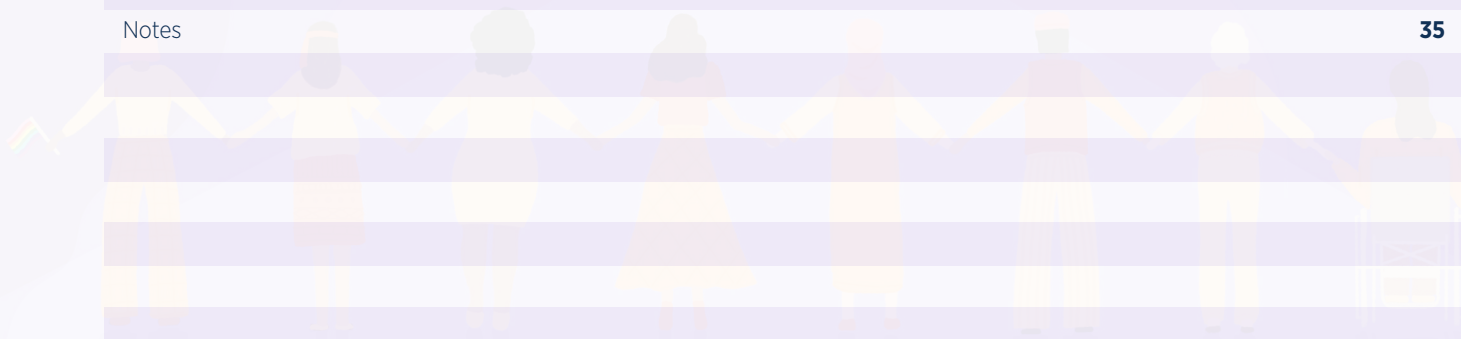


Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2023-2033



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FOREWORD



The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) is a testament to the Philippine government's unwavering commitment to integrating gender-responsive approaches into the country's Comprehensive Peace Process. The NAPWPS is not merely a document, but a symbol of our nation's vision of ensuring that the views, experiences and needs of women are not only heard, but more importantly, woven into the fabric of the nation's peacebuilding and security initiatives.

This ten-year plan is the culmination of the extensive collaborative efforts of our various peace stakeholders. I extend my gratitude to the member-agencies of the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security, civil society organizations, local governments, and sectoral experts whose invaluable input and unwavering dedication have shaped this comprehensive roadmap for women empowerment. The consultative process that was used to create this plan was inclusive and wide-ranging. It symbolizes our commitment to greater gender inclusivity, recognizing that diverse perspectives are essential in crafting robust and effective peacebuilding and development strategies.

It is worth noting that the NAPWPS is not a 'stand-alone' document. It aligns seamlessly with our overarching goal of managing, directing, integrating, and supervising a gender-responsive Comprehensive Peace Process. We acknowledge

that sustainable peace can only be achieved when it is deeply rooted in gender equality, inclusivity, and justice. This plan serves as a guide post that will ensure all our initiatives result in a more equitable and secure future for all.

In light of the dynamism in our world, we must take into account emerging realities that are anticipated to shape the country's socio-political landscape over the next decade. This is why the NAPWPS has been designed to be both adaptive and forward-looking; ensuring its effectiveness in addressing these global challenges as they arise. As a nation, we must keep abreast of these developments so that our peace and security interventions, especially for women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, will remain relevant, timely and most of all, responsive.

As we embark on this transformative journey as outlined in the NAPWPS, I call upon all our stakeholders — government line agencies, civil society organizations, local governments, academic institutions, and community-based organizations — to join hands and work together to ensure its successful implementation. These will ensure that Filipina women play a central and active role in peacebuilding and security efforts.

May this plan serve as a beacon of hope, a catalyst for positive change, and a guiding light towards a future where peace, equality, and unity prevail.

SEC. CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR.

Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Chair, National Steering Committee on Women, Peace, and Security

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT



The 2023-2033 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) is the fourth generation of the Philippines' landmark framework that ensures the protection of the rights of women and children in areas affected by conflict. It is the country's response to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 of 2000 and the Beijing Platform for Action with its 12 critical areas of concern including "women in armed conflict" and "the girl-child." The 2023-2033 NAPWPS recognizes that women are affected differently than men in situations of armed conflicts. It also acknowledges the significant contribution of women's meaningful and substantial participation, representation, and leadership in peace processes.

The fourth iteration of the Philippines' WPS Agenda highlights the importance of a strengthened collaboration between the government and civil society, multi-level implementation at the national and local levels, inclusion of emerging issues such as digital peacekeeping and cybersecurity, and the introduction of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning System (MEALS) as a framework for measuring and enhancing the impact of programs/projects. The integration of MEALS requires the collection and analysis of data, identification of needs-based approaches, ensuring accountability of stakeholders, and adapting to new learnings and mechanisms.

Section 10 of RA 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) of 2009 states that "Women have the rights to protection and security in times of disasters, calamities, and other crisis situations, especially in all phases of relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and construction efforts." Moreover, Section 29.b and 29.c of the MCW highlights the significant role of women in peace processes and aims to "ensure the development and inclusion of women's welfare and concerns in the peace agenda in the overall peace strategy and women's participation in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation and rebuilding of conflict-affected areas;" and "the institution of measures to ensure the protection of civilians in conflict-affected communities with special consideration for the specific needs of women and girls."

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) has demonstrated its commitment to implementing the UNSC Resolution 1325 by issuing Joint Memorandum Circular 2014-01. This circular integrates Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiatives into the annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plans and Budgets, as well as the GAD Accomplishment Reports of National Government Agencies (NGAs). As the primary policy-making and oversight agency, the PCW strongly advocates for the promotion of women's economic, social, and political empowerment. In partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, the PCW also monitors and assesses the implementation of laws and policies on women, including the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) embedded in the UNSC Resolution 1325 of 2000.

As Vice Chair of the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS), the PCW recognizes the significant contributions of all the members of NSCWPS, civil society organizations, and sectoral experts in completing the NAPWPS. PCW acknowledges that the fourth generation of the NAPWPS is a living document that will continue to evolve to ensure that emerging issues affecting the rights and welfare of women and children in areas of armed conflict are addressed. Looking ahead, we hope that the 2023-2033 NAPWPS not only upholds the rights of women and children in areas of armed conflict but also transforms peace strategies into gender-responsive mechanisms towards a sustainable and lasting peace and unity in the country.

ATTY. KRISTINE ROSARY E. YUZON-CHAVES
Executive Director and Officer-in-Charge
Philippine Commission on Women

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The book "Sex and World Peace" asserts that the best predictor of a state's peacefulness is its treatment of women. This assertion is exemplified by the achievements of figures such as Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, the first and only woman to sign a major peace accord on behalf of her government. The success of the Comprehensive Agreement with the Bangsamoro highlights the vital role Filipino women play in leading effective conflict transformation and peacebuilding, in all their diverse and intersecting identities.

The NAPWPS 2023–2033 aims to continue this proud legacy. Such a pursuit would not have been achievable without the support and guidance of President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr., the Chair and Vice-Chair of the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS), the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) led by Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) under the leadership of Executive Director Kristine Rosary Yuzon-Chaves. Building on the foundations laid by its predecessors, the fourth-generation NAPWPS is the culmination of collaborative efforts from members of the NSCWPS Executive Committee (ExeCom) and Technical Working Group (TWG), the RGADCs, WEAct 1325, and various other CSOs, WROs, PWDOs,

IPOs, and grassroots women. The contributions of international partner, UN Women, and local partners such as Oxfam Pilipinas and WeAct 1325, and stakeholders from the academic and religious sectors, have been invaluable. The support of bilateral partners including the Government of Australia, Global Affairs Canada, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom have ensured that technical and logistical assistance were available in the process of developing the NAPWPS.

As we look towards 2033, we envision a Philippines where women, in all their intersecting and diverse identities, play a central role in shaping an inclusive, just, and sustainable peace and security landscape. This vision extends beyond merely including women in peace processes; it involves actively empowering them to lead and make decisions that impact their lives and communities. We aspire to create a society where the safety, rights, and opportunities for women are not only protected but are also the cornerstones of our national peace and security strategies. Together, we are committed to fostering an environment where every woman's voice is heard, valued, and has the power to influence a future of enduring peace and prosperity for the Philippines.

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CHAIR

Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU)

VICE CHAIR

Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Department of National Defense (DND)

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

National Commission for Muslim Filipinos (NCMF)

National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Department of Education (DepEd)

Department of Health (DOH)

Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

Philippine National Police (PNP)

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)

Department of Agriculture (DA)

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC)

National Electrification Administration (NEA)



ABBREVIATIONS

ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
ASEAN	Association of SouthEast Asian Nations	NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	NGA	National Government Agency
BWC	Bangsamoro Women Commission	NGO	Non-Government Organization
CHR	Commission on Human Rights	NSCWPS	National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security
CSO	Civil Society Organization	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CSPP	Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promoting	OPAPRU	Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs	P/CVE	Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government	PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Program
DND	Department of National Defense	PCW	Philippine Commission on Women
DOJ	Department of Justice	PDP	Philippine Development Plan
DRMM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	PTVE	Preventing and Transforming Violent Extremism
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PWDO	Persons with Disabilities Organization
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	RAPWPS	Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
GAD	Gender and Development	RBM	Results-Based Management
GAD AR	GAD Accomplishment Report	RGADC	Regional Gender and Development Committee
GBV	Gender-based Violence	SALW	Small and Light Weapons
GEDSI	Gender Equity, Disability, and Social Inclusion	SGBV	Sex and Gender-based Violence
GMSS	Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System	SGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sexual Characteristics
GPB	GAD Plan and Budget	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication Materials	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
INGO	International Non-Government Organization	VAW	Violence Against Women
IP	Indigenous People	VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
IPO	Indigenous Peoples Organization	WEACT 1325	Women Engaged in Action on UN Security Council Resolution 1325
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular	WPS	Women, Peace and Security
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and other identities	WRO	Women's Rights Organization
LGU	Local Government Unit		
LSB	Local Special Body		
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning		
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front		
NAPWPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security		

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Collective Stakeholding

The concept of shared responsibility, participation, and ownership among various stakeholders, communities, or entities in addressing common challenges, often in peacebuilding or governance contexts.

Comprehensive healing programs

Holistic initiatives or interventions designed to address the physical, psychological, social, and emotional needs of individuals who have experienced trauma or violence, ensuring their recovery and well-being.

Criminal Justice Systems and the Four Pillars

The foundational components of a criminal justice system, typically consisting of law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary, and corrections, working together to prevent and address crime.

Crises

Critical situations or events that pose a significant threat to individuals, communities, or societies, often lead to disruption, instability, and severe challenges that require immediate action.

Crisis Management

The strategic planning, coordination, and response activities undertaken to effectively address and mitigate the impacts of a crisis. It involves taking actions aimed at resolving the immediate crisis, ensuring public safety, and restoring normalcy.

Emergencies

Situations or occurrences that demand immediate attention due to their potentially harmful effects on individuals, communities, or the environment, often requiring swift and coordinated response efforts.

Early Warning Early Response (EWER) Systems

Mechanisms designed to detect, anticipate, and provide timely information about potential crises or threats, enabling proactive measures to prevent or mitigate their impact. These systems can vary in application between disaster management and conflict situations but generally involve pre-emptive actions.

Gender and Conflict-related Human Trafficking

The illegal trade and exploitation of individuals, particularly women and girls, for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or other forms of servitude in conflict-affected areas, often involving gender-specific vulnerabilities.

Gender and Conflict-related Illicit Drug Trade

The illegal trafficking, production, distribution, or sale of narcotics or controlled substances in conflict zones, often exploiting gender-based vulnerabilities or dynamics.

Gender and Conflict-related Shadow Economy

Illicit economic activities that emerge or thrive in conflict or post-conflict settings, often exploiting gender dynamics, including informal trade, smuggling, or black market operations.

Governance

The process of decision-making and implementation of policies and actions by individuals, institutions, or entities within a societal framework. It encompasses the structures, processes, and systems through which authority and power are exercised and managed.

Government Uniformed Services (BJMP, PCG, Forest Guards, BFP, etc.)

Refer to various official bodies and agencies established by the government for specific purposes, such as prison management (BJMP), coastal guarding (PCG), forest protection (Forest Guards), firefighting (BFP), etc.

Local Special Bodies

Refer to the Local Development Council, Local Health Board, Local School Board and Local Peace and Order Council.

Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)

A set of priority actions and interventions designed to address reproductive health needs in humanitarian settings, with a particular focus on the initial phase of a crisis or emergency.

Participation

A core pillar of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda emphasizing the importance of women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes and governance at all levels related to conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding.

Protection

A pillar of the WPS agenda that focuses on preventing and addressing gender-based violence in both conflict and post-conflict situations.

Prevention

A pillar of the WPS agenda that highlights women's agency in preventing the outbreak or recurrence of conflict. It acknowledges the crucial role that women can play in addressing root causes of conflict, thereby contributing to the promotion of peace and security.

Relief and Recovery

A pillar of the WPS agenda that underscores the need to incorporate a gender perspective into both humanitarian and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. It seeks to ensure that relief and recovery initiatives specifically address the distinct needs of women and girls, contributing to the reconstruction of societies in a way that promotes gender equality and fosters just and lasting peace.

Sex and Gender-based Violence

Acts of violence, abuse, coercion, or harm inflicted on individuals, with a tendency to disproportionately affect women and girls, based on their biological sex or socially constructed gender roles.

SPHERE Standards

A set of principles and minimum humanitarian standards in four technical areas of humanitarian response: Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), Food security and nutrition, Shelter and settlement.

Terrorist Organizations

Groups or entities that use or advocate the use of violence and intimidation for political, religious, or ideological purposes, aiming to instill fear and achieve their objectives.

Violence Against Women and Their Children

Any act or series of acts committed by an intimate partner or family member that result in physical, sexual, psychological harm, or suffering to women and their children.

Violent Extremist Organizations

Groups or entities that espouse extremist ideologies and resort to violence or coercion to advance their beliefs or causes. They often exploit societal vulnerabilities and grievances to recruit followers.

Women's Rights Organizations

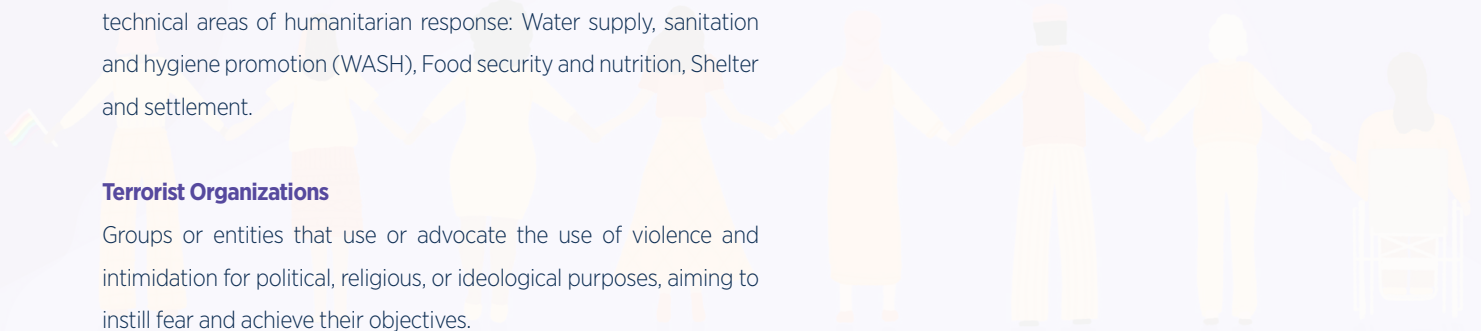
Groups or entities dedicated to advocating, promoting, and protecting the rights of women. They address issues of inequality and discrimination, promote women's empowerment in a variety of fields, and strive toward gender equality.

Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice

A network or community of individuals, organizations, or institutions committed to sharing knowledge, best practices, and expertise related to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda that includes enhancing the leadership and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and relief and recovery

Women, Peace and Security Pool of Experts

A group of individuals with specialized knowledge and experience in the field of women, peace, and security, often consulted for guidance, advice, or subject-matter expertise.



BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The development of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAPWPS) in the Philippines was a result of collaborative politics involving civil society organizations (CSOs) and the government. This process began in 2007 and included multiple rounds of regional cluster consultations, where civil society organizations and national and local government agencies, including the security sector, participated to determine the key action points to be included in the NAP. The official launch of the NAPWPS took place in March 2010, subsequent to the signing of Executive Order (EO) 865. This executive order established the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace, and Security (NSCWPS) as the institutional implementing infrastructure for the NAP.

This 10-year NAPWPS spanning from 2023 to 2033 represents the Philippines' renewed commitment to recognizing the dynamic and complex roles played by women of diverse and intersecting identities before, during, and after conflict. These roles encompass active participation as peace agents, leaders, survivors, and vulnerable sectors. Anchored in the insights gleaned from comprehensive national-level evaluations and collaborative multi-stakeholder assessments of the 2017-2022 NAPWPS, the 2023-2033 iteration seeks to build upon past achievements while addressing identified gaps and limitations. It continues to broaden the country's approach to address the challenges faced by women of diverse and intersecting identities during situations of armed conflict and acknowledges their valuable contributions to peacebuilding.

This updated plan also upholds the principles outlined in the Philippine Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), which emphasizes the promotion and protection of women's rights, particularly in conflict situations. Aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, which recognizes the integral role of peace and security as foundational elements for sustainable development, the updated plan adopts a comprehensive whole-of-government approach with gender mainstreaming as a key cross-cutting measure. This is further reinforced in the Five-Point Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Agenda which follows the principles of conflict-sensitivity and peace promotion (CSPP), a whole-of-society approach, and empowers constituents, with particular

attention to vulnerable groups, towards meaningful participation, healing, and reconciliation. These efforts harmonize seamlessly with the overarching impact statement of the NAPWPS.

Recognizing the intersection of the Gender and Development (GAD) agenda and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, this plan explicitly recognizes that finding paths of cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders and duty-bearers to integrate the two independent but interconnected concepts is crucial. Specific attention is given to the role of the NAPWPS in proactively creating a space wherein the mitigation of sex and gender-related violence (SGBV) is intertwined with creating avenues for the active involvement of women with diverse and intersecting identities in conflict prevention, resolution, and transformation as well as in relief and recovery and peacebuilding.

Evolution of the Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

As alluded, the development of the NAPWPS in the Philippines started in 2007 through a collaborative effort between civil society and the government. This process involved multiple rounds of regional cluster consultations with various civil society organizations (CSOs) and national and local government agencies, including the security sector. Through these consultations, pivotal action points were identified and subsequently incorporated into the NAPWPS. In March of 2010, the signing of Executive Order 865 marked a significant milestone, designating the NSCWPS as the overseeing designated body responsible for the implementation of the NAPWPS.

The 2010 NAPWPS was a trailblazer in more ways than one, being the first NAPWPS in Southeast Asia, and uniquely crafted through extensive collaboration between government and civil society, defying a common trend of existing National Action Plans at the time.¹ By 2014, refinements were made to the document, ensuring that the indicators could be concrete targets that the national government agencies and local government units were able to achieve.

Aside from streamlining its indicators, another significant feature of the amended 2014-2016 NAPWPS was its

convergence with development.² It featured the inclusion of the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) program of the Philippine government that ought to be harmonized with the Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets of conflict-affected areas or communities vulnerable to conflict. Achievements during this phase of the NAPWPS included the inclusion of gender provisions in the peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a historic milestone marked by the first and only woman Chief Negotiator signing the peace agreement with a rebel group. Additionally, it witnessed the adoption of the initial Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (RAPWPS) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).³

Building on the successes of the NAPWPS thus far, the third generation of NAPWPS incorporated “key recommendations made in the 2015 Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 such as the prioritization of conflict prevention, framing women peace and security from a human rights perspective, participation and leadership of women in all levels of the peace project, transitional justice, inclusive and participatory localization efforts, combating extremism by supporting women peacebuilders, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach to implementation, and financing initiatives aimed at materializing women, peace and security” (NAPWPS 2017-2022).⁴

Further, the sunset review of the second generation of NAPWPS surfaced the need to improve how the NAPWPS should be framed. Spurred by reflections from civil society organizations and implementing local and national government agencies, the NAPWPS has undergone a notable transformation, now being firmly anchored in human rights and women's agency. This marks an enhancement from its previous iteration, which primarily emphasized the government's protection and prevention mandate. The decision to put primacy on human rights and women's agency highlights the mandate of duty-bearers to treat women and girl children not merely as passive beneficiaries or victims but as active agents of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Like its predecessor, the inputs for this recent iteration of NAPWPS are anchored on the government-led, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder process. This process engaged key sectoral agencies,

civil society, including religious leaders and the academe, subject matter experts, the NSCWPS Executive Committee (ExeCom) and Technical Working Group (TWG), and various stakeholders, particularly rights-holder groups and duty bearers. Led by the sunset review of NAPWPS 2017-2022, the various drafts of the Fourth Generation NAPWPS underwent numerous consultations with a forward-looking perspective to inform the drafting, revision, and finalization of NAPWPS 2023-2033.

Moreover, alongside existing literature on the global, regional, national, and local operationalization of the WPS agenda, the key documents instrumental in formulating this Fourth Generation NAPWPS comprise consolidated insights from the sunset review of NAPWPS 2017-2022, the assessment report on the implementation of BARMM Regional Action Plan WPS 2020-2022, and the proposed Eleven-Point CSO agenda for the NAPWPS.

Insights from NAPWPS Sunset Review and Other Relevant Assessments

NAPWPS Sunset Review

Through a comprehensive national-level, multi-stakeholder process that looked into the implementation of the NAPWPS 2017-2022, the Sunset Review took stock of the achievements, identified gaps and setbacks, and provided a blueprint for the strategic direction set forth in the updated NAPWPS. From the Sunset Review, it was found that within its five-year implementation period, the Third Generation NAPWPS achieved the following:

- There is a significant increase in women's participation in the peace process. This is exemplified by instances such as the active involvement of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) and Social Welfare Committee in the decommissioning process, particularly within the security aspect of the Program for Normalization in the Bangsamoro.
- Women who were on the peace panel and other Moro, Indigenous, and Christian women contributed significant technical support to the peace talks. Their contributions encompassed notable achievements such as the drafting of the peace agreement and the adoption of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.
- Women's concerns and welfare were integrated into the peace agenda and outcome documents. The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, the Comprehensive Agreement and the

Bangsamoro Organic Law provide for women's participation in the Bangsamoro Government, including resources and programs for their welfare.

- Active CSO support in policy advocacy and implementing programs and projects on WPS in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas, particularly in the Bangsamoro.
- Presence of an increase in the recognition of women's role in peacebuilding and enhanced gender responsiveness through the instituted mechanism and policies within security agencies.

In the same series of activities, the following gaps in the implementation of the 2017-2022 NAPWPS were surfaced:

- **Fragmented implementation of pillars.** The implementation of the NAPWPS is carried out in silos, with agencies often focusing only on raising awareness about the NAPWPS. Despite successes in raising awareness about the NAPWPS, there is a considerable need for a more comprehensive integration at the local level. The current emphasis on organization-focused awareness initiatives falls short when it comes to translating awareness into concrete actions. This gap is evident in the inconsistent incorporation of NAPWPS programming into local development plans, local Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets, and Gender and Development Annual Reports (GAD ARs). Moreover, the concentration of peace and security efforts in Mindanao, particularly in BARMM areas, is driven by funding priorities. It remains a challenge to fully localize WPS similar to what was done in BARMM, especially since it appears that WPS is still considered an "international mandate or niche concern" rather than a gender equality and peace agenda that seeks to understand the differential impact of security crises on women and men in order to ensure an effective response.
- **Lack of intersectional lens.** The current NAPWPS falls short on intersectional lens, particularly in addressing the needs of children in armed conflict and situations involving girls and youth. This gap results in an incomplete understanding of the barriers hindering women and girls from various intersecting contexts, preventing their full participation in community projects related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation. It also leads to the exclusion of some genders in the discourse and implementation of NAPWPS. For example, it was noted that "the capabilities of youth, men and boys, and LGBTQIA+ community are not being utilized enough to aid in the promotion of NAPWPS.

- **Vague and binary language.** The NAPWPS frequently employs language that is not only vague but also tends towards binary expressions, often lacking explicit clarity. For example, terms such as gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women (VAW) are used interchangeably. The NAPWPS also lacks language that promotes inclusivity and intersectionality, resulting in uneven representation and invisibility of Indigenous Peoples (IP) women, women of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), among others.
- **Limited public consciousness and awareness of NAPWPS.** Both at the national and local levels, there is scarce information about the existence and detailed provisions of the NAPWPS. Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials concerning NAPWPS do not effectively convey enough information in the native language, resulting in decreased levels of appreciation and awareness among the general public.
- **Decline informal CSO-government collaboration.** Collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the government has decreased from the first generation to the current third generation of the NAPWPS. This is attributed to the unlawful association to non-state armed groups and unlawful arrests in various parts of the country, especially those in the countryside, and is exacerbated by the lack of a robust legal framework that protects the rights of CSOs working on human security. Some grassroots organizations have developed reservations about establishing partnerships with the government, whether local or national, and including its agencies and instrumentalities.
- **Limitations in data collection.** While ensuring sex-disaggregated data is widely recognized by duty-bearers and stakeholders, the collection of conflict-disaggregated data and other contextual information, such as natural disasters and intersectional identities of women and girls, remains inadequate. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework lacks a comprehensive set of quantitative and qualitative data necessary for tracking the long-term impacts of interventions. It is crucial to highlight that most interventions only operate at the activity level, reflecting a fundamental gap in implementation.
- **Underutilization of GAD plan and budget.** The Gender and Development (GAD) Plan and Budget (GPB) and GAD Accomplishment Report (GAD AR) are underutilized in the implementation of the NAPWPS, despite the existence of the PCW-OPAPP Joint Memorandum Circular 2014-01. This reflects

the reality that WPS is far from being mainstreamed and integrated into all branches of government. For example, there is a lack of programming for psychosocial services for VAW desk officers and other personnel that handle sex and gender-based violence in the context of conflict and lack of engagement with NAPWPS within the legislative and judicial branches, among others.

- **Lack of harmonization with government-mandated plans.** The current NAPWPS falls short on intersectional lens, particularly in addressing the needs of children in armed conflict and situations involving girls and youth. This gap results in an incomplete understanding of the barriers hindering women and girls from various intersecting contexts, preventing their full participation in community projects related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation. It also leads to the exclusion of some genders in the discourse and implementation of NAPWPS. For example, it was noted that “the capabilities of youth, men and boys, and LGBTQIA+ community are not being utilized enough to aid in the promotion of NAPWPS.”
- **Poor implementation of M&E mechanisms.** Enhancing the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism for NAPWPS is crucial due to the fact that the Gender Mainstreaming and Monitoring System (GMMS) of the PCW faces limitations in effectively monitoring specific NAPWPS initiatives within GPB and GAD AR submissions. It could be beneficial to introduce an additional feature enabling the tracking of WPS-specific entries within the GMMS. Further, local M&E mechanisms for NAPWPS also exhibit insufficient capacity to oversee the implementation of NAPWPS.

Lastly, the sunset review identified salient emerging issues that are to be included in the Fourth Generation NAPWPS, ensuring its resilience over the ten-year period. These issues include: Women and Human Security; Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Climate Security; Health Security; Sex and Gender-Based Violence; Human Rights, Access to Justice and Legal Reforms, and Transitional Justice; Masculinities and Intersectionalities; Digital Peace and Security; and Promoting a Culture of Peace and Tolerance through peace education in formal and informal channels.

11-point CSO Agenda

The 11-point CSO agenda consolidated the various threats/issues/concerns related to peace and security that civil society actors find paramount in their community. Each agenda item aligns with one of

the four pillars of NAPWPS and constitutes an integral component of the Civil Society National Action Plan for Women, Peace, and Security for 2022-2028. The consultations, spearheaded by Women Engaged in Action on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (WEACT 1325), gathered inputs and recommendations, which were then synthesized. The 11-point agenda of the CSOs can be summarized into these cross-cutting themes:

- **Proactive approach to address armed conflict.** This entails identifying the root causes and drivers of armed conflict, including but not limited to socio-economic and political factors such as poverty, discrimination, impunity for injustices, and abuse of power, among others. It emphasizes the need to intensify social reforms and poverty reduction programs that target the diverse and intersecting needs of women, girls, and the youth. Recommended interventions include legislating specific statute for internally displaced persons, fast-tracking the passage of the Human Rights Defenders Bill, and strengthening the implementation of special laws such as the Universal Health Care Law, Mental Health Law, Reproductive Health Law, Indigenous People’s Rights Act, Alternative Learning System Law, etc. The primary consideration in implementing these measures should be the distinct needs of marginalized sectors, taking into account their intersecting identities based on age, gender, ability, indigenous group, etc.
- **Gender-sensitivity in all spaces and levels of governance.** To safeguard and empower women and girls, creating secure spaces for marginalized identities is imperative. Strengthening access to justice involves implementing effective mechanisms that address grievances while being culturally sensitive, gender-responsive, and child-centered. While acknowledging communities with plural legal systems, it should not supersede the respect for women’s human rights, including their right to access justice. Access to justice mechanisms should operate seamlessly from pre-conflict to post-conflict situations, necessitating the establishment of preventive measures against gender-based sexual violence. Achieving full implementation requires institutionalizing and enhancing a culturally sensitive and gender-sensitive approach at all levels of government, encompassing the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Thus, peace-promoting and rights-based perspectives must be integrated into government plans, policies, processes, programs, and services (e.g. WPS lens in DRRM and environment planning, etc.). The aim is to ensure that gender considerations

and women's perspectives are consistently considered and incorporated across all government sectors.

- **Active participation of women in decision-making processes.** It is recommended that gender parity in peace panels and other peace mechanisms be set at 50%. There should also be women's representation in the National Steering Committee for Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS) – the determination of which should be through an autonomous process of selection among different CSOs or women's rights organizations. This is an explicit recognition of the active role that women play in the whole peace process, including monitoring and evaluation. Strengthening community-based monitoring systems and other participatory initiatives at the community level is crucial to fostering more inclusive and secure platforms and spaces for discussions, contributing to the sustainability of peace.
- **Strengthened capacities of women, girls, and CSOs for conflict response.** To ensure active participation of women, girls, and youth and facilitate access to justice, it is recommended to provide capacity-building activities for them and all community members. These activities should not only enhance the agency of women and girls but should also empower them and other community stakeholders to respond effectively to both vertical and horizontal conflicts at the community level. While focusing on women and girls, capacity-building efforts should also include other community actors, such as men, boys, and grassroots organizations. This operationalizes a whole-of-government approach not just in responding during conflict but also in monitoring and evaluating post-conflict situations.
- **Strengthened role of CSO.** Civil Women and Human Security; Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Climate Security; Health Security; Sex and Gender-Based Violence; Human Rights, Access to Justice and Legal Reforms, and Transitional Justice; Masculinities and Intersectionalities; Digital Peace and Security; and Promoting a Culture of Peace and Tolerance through peace education in formal and informal channels.

BARM RAP WPS Assessment

The enhanced Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (RAPWPS) stands out as a unique document in the Philippines, as it contextualizes the national action plan to the realities of the region. Lessons can be drawn from the RAPWPS, including

the importance of adapting action plans to fit local circumstances while remaining aligned with the national plan. The RAPWPS focused on various sectors such as aid and development, security, local government unit (LGU) receptiveness, and advocacy, with geographic areas of focus chosen based on their relevance to conflict transformation.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the transitional period for the Bangsamoro region, significant peace initiatives were carried out. These initiatives encompassed capacity-building training, psychosocial and mental health support for women in conflict, values transformation training, creating spaces for women in civil society organizations (CSOs), establishing referral pathways for violence against women and children (VAWC), integrating the WPS agenda in municipalities, and forming support systems like the Community of WPS practitioners. Other achievements included the formulation of the Bangsamoro Gender and Development (GAD) Code and the review and formulation of local GAD codes.

The assessment also shed light on emerging issues within the women, peace, and security agenda, such as local armed conflicts (rido), climate change, engaging diverse populations, cybersecurity, and the role of women in normalization processes. However, addressing the intersectionality and diversity of women's experiences posed a complex challenge. Implementation challenges included a lack of technical resources, adherence to health protocols during the pandemic, limited accessibility to conflict areas, inadequate data for baselining, misconceptions about women's roles in Islam, and a reliance on post-disaster aid mentality.

These findings stemmed from the assessment of the Bangsamoro 2020-2022, which succeeded the ARMM Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security 2017-2019—the first regional instrument on WPS. The focus has shifted from cascading down or localizing the national action plan to propagating upwards, emphasizing the need to elevate and expand the implementation of WPS initiatives.

Contextualization Workshop and Vetting of the Draft NAPWPS 2023-2033

The Workshop was organized by OPAPRU in partnership with the UN Women to deepen the context and salient issues that inform the substantive and programmatic direction of the draft NAPWPS 2023-2033. This gathering exemplified a rigorous consultation process,

ensuring that the draft NAPWPS 2023-2033 was enriched with valuable insights from diverse stakeholders, both from the government agencies and civil society organizations. Participating agencies include Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Philippine National Police (PNP), Regional Gender and Development Committees (RGADCs) of Cordillera Administrative Region and Davao, UN Women, Oxfam Philippines, and WeAct 1325.

Sectoral experts in their respective fields were invited to share their insights and expertise:

- **Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer** Women and Human Security
- **Prof. Rufa Cagoco-Guiam** WPS, Disaster, and Climate Security
- **Dr. Angela Zafrá** WPS, Disaster, and Climate Security
- **Atty. Maria Cleofe Gettie C. Sandoval** WPS and Health Security
- **Sittie Rajabia Monato** WPS and Gender-Based Violence
- **Prof. Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza** WPS, Human Rights, Access to Justice and Legal Reforms, and Transitional Justice⁵
- **Prof. Jovanie Espesor** WPS, Men, and Intersectionalities
- **Nery Ronatay** WPS, Men, and Intersectionalities
- **Gaelle Demolis** WPS, Digital Peace and Security
- **Prof. Melanie Reyes** Peace Education and Mainstreaming in Formal and Informal Channels

The workshop yielded significant recommendations as sectoral experts delved into their respective domains. Firstly, they emphasized the importance of conducting a comprehensive analysis of conflict root causes, delving into the gender dynamics within conflicts, exploring women's roles in climate risk and health security, and clarifying the varied roles of diverse identities in human rights. They also advocated for strengthening current institutional responses, recognizing supplemental frameworks such as the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) agreement, addressing women's underrepresentation in cybersecurity decision-making, and approaching peace education challenges through a holistic perspective.

During the visioning exercise, participants outlined crucial aspects for the proposed vision statement. This included involving academia

across sectors, recognizing the contributions of non-government organizations (NGO) and private sector, refining language and terminology, delineating government roles in policy frameworks, emphasizing Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, underscoring collective responsibility, employing sensitive language use, enhancing the vision statement with both conciseness and detailed elaboration, and taking into account regional concerns, diverse definitions of peace, and operational terms.

In examining the draft, proposed changes sought a shift back to NAPWPS from the National Action Plan on Gender, Peace and Security due to contentiousness around the term "gender," quantifiable targets for increased women's participation, highlighting CSOs' roles, addressing gender inequality in formal and informal economies, prioritizing evidence-based data, broadening the WPS strategy to include diverse foreign policy and emerging issues, and ensuring an effective monitoring and evaluation system for NAPWPS implementation. These recommendations and revisions aim to create a comprehensive and inclusive framework for advancing peace, security, and women's participation in the Philippines, addressing multifaceted challenges across various sectors and dimensions.

RBM Workshop

Conducting a Result-Based Management Workshop played a crucial role in advancing the formulation of a results-driven monitoring and evaluation framework for NAPWPS 2023-2033. Simultaneously, it strengthened the capabilities of the NSCWPS Technical Working Group, enriching their skills in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) practices. The workshop not only provided participants with a structured process for creating a roadmap to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for NAPWPS but also underscored the importance of clarifying roles within the M&E Technical Working Group before initiating the framework development to avoid last-minute revisions. Aligning the M&E framework with government policies and engaging NEDA and PCW M&E teams in formulating key performance indicators for NAPWPS emerged as crucial steps. The workshop highlighted the substantial workload ahead and emphasized the need to establish an M&E team within OPAPRU to effectively lead the implementation of NAPWPS over the next decade.

RGADC Consultation

The enhanced Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace,

and Security (RAPWPS) highlighted the imperative for women in all their diverse and intersecting identities to address unique peace and security challenges. In response to the localization challenges identified in the Sunset Review of the NAPWPS 2017-2022, the PCW's Technical Services and Regional Coordination Division (TSRCD) convened a gathering of various Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) representatives. This consultation aimed to orient the RGADC representatives on the NAPWPS, presenting the Sunset Review results, while fostering their appreciation of their pivotal role in its localization. The outcome was a locally informed, comprehensive perspective on the peace and security landscape, contributing significantly to the development of the NAPWPS 2023-2033.

Multi Stakeholder Consultations and Final Validation

OPAPRU organized two multi-stakeholder consultations to meticulously assess and refine the latest iteration of the draft NAPWPS 2023-2033. The first consultation unfolded in the virtual realm, leveraging online platforms, while the second occurred in a physical setting. Participants in both consultations represented a diverse spectrum, comprising individuals from various government agencies and civil society organizations.

In the online consultations, participants were strategically grouped to delve into the content of specific pillars assigned to them. This facilitated focused discussions and allowed for a comprehensive exploration of each element. On the other hand, the onsite consultations opted for a plenary format, bringing all participants together for collective deliberations.

Given that the substantive aspects had already undergone thorough examination in previous sessions, the focus in these consultations shifted towards finer details, including sentence construction and semantics. This nuanced approach aimed to refine the clarity and precision of the draft document.

One pivotal insight emerged during these discussions—a notable perspective from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Despite their active involvement in the implementation of NAPWPS programs, projects, and activities, CSOs underscored their oversight roles. They emphasized that, beyond direct participation, their responsibility as overseers and advocates for accountability remained integral to the success and effectiveness of the initiatives outlined in the NAPWPS. This recognition adds a layer of depth to understanding

the multifaceted engagement of CSOs in the broader landscape of women, peace, and security initiatives.

Similarly, a dedicated meeting took place with the National Steering Committee (NSC) to unveil the conclusive draft of the NAPWPS. The purpose extended beyond a mere presentation; it was a collaborative effort to glean additional recommendations and insights from the NSC. Furthermore, the session sought a commitment from the committee members regarding the plan's implementation, with a specific focus on action points aligned with their functions and offices.

The engagement with the NSC went beyond a one-way communication, creating an environment where the committee members actively contributed to the refinement and success of the NAPWPS. They were given ample time to provide their final comments, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive review process. This approach not only acknowledged the expertise and perspectives of the NSC members but also solidified their ownership and dedication to the effective execution of the plan.

New Features of the Fourth Generation of the NAPWPS

Theory of Change

The NAPWPS 2023-2033's Theory of Change revolves around a comprehensive framework designed to foster sustainable peace, catalyzing positive transformations in the lives of women within conflict-affected areas and amid circumstances marked by threats to peace and security. It positions itself at the forefront of the ongoing debate on whether Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) should be perceived primarily as an issue of peace and security or an integral facet of gender equality. This resolute stance is a strategic response to the evolving international peace and security landscape, where powerful nations continue to endorse war and engage in conflicts worldwide.

The NAPWPS' Theory of Change is not merely a theoretical abstraction; it's a dynamic and unwavering commitment to creating sustainable and transformative impacts for women amidst the complexities of peace and security. This strategic blueprint charts a course towards tangible and enduring outcomes, placing paramount importance on the empowerment and active participation of women across the entire spectrum, from conflict prevention and resolution to the intricate processes of post-conflict reconstruction. In a world grappling with persistent conflicts and power imbalances, the NAPWPS stands as

a beacon of resilience, advocating for a future where the agency of women becomes an undeniable force for lasting peace and security.

Action Plan Highlights

This section will briefly explain the primary goals and strategies of the new fourth generation NAPWPS 2023-2033. It will highlight the significant changes and innovations compared to the previous generations of the NAPWPS and give readers an insight into the priorities for the upcoming decade. (*Collaborative Efforts*: Describes the institutional partnerships and collaborations between and among the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS) and other relevant government instrumentalities and civil society organizations (CSOs)).

Building on the new features of the third-generation NAPWPS 2017-2022, which embraced a broader approach to addressing the situation of women in armed conflict and recognizing their contributions to conflict transformation, while also anchoring its focus on expanding women's role in various peace spaces and recognizing their vertical and horizontal vulnerabilities, as well as crafting a localized WPS that is inclusive and reflective of the needs, aspirations, and contributions of women, this segment will highlight the new and innovative aspects of the fourth-generation NAPWPS 2023-2033. It will explain how these new features are designed to address the challenges identified in the reviews and better meet the goals of promoting women's roles in peace and security.

Essentially, the 2023-2033 NAPWPS operates on a renewed commitment to address the root causes of conflict. In doing so, it allows lead implementing agencies and civil society actors to shift from a reactive perspective towards a more proactive one in addressing and responding to conflict, especially as it intersects with new and emerging realities. The five new features of this fourth generation NAPWPS are thus anchored on this overarching thrust.

This shift in the NAPWPS is consistent with its goal of implementing its policies using a rights-based approach, with a focus on ensuring that victims and survivors of conflict, especially women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, have access to justice. As a proactive document, the current NAPWPS also highlights the substantive pillar of empowerment and protection to emphasize their active role in comprehensive peace processes, conflict prevention and transformation, and peacebuilding.

As such, one of the key features of the 2023-2033 NAPWPS is that it adopts future-proofing strategies to be resilient to both existing and emerging new realities. Indicators are enhanced with the view that non-traditional security concerns – such as threats to health security, cybersecurity, and climate change, among others – complicate conflict dynamics and exacerbate resulting (and existing) inequalities, marginalization, and insecurity. Duty bearers are therefore called upon to strengthen the institutionalization efforts of NAPWPS so that it is incorporated primarily in the developmental plans, GPBs, GAD ARs of subnational governments, implementing agencies, and inter-agency bodies. Strategic resiliency is also achieved by:

- Harmonizing key laws and directives (e.g. RA 9710 or the Magna Carta Act of Women, RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act, among others) to address the multidimensional impact of gender-based violence in the context of conflict; and,
- Developing a WPS database in each implementing agency, integrating it into the GAD database, and subsequently institutionalizing a consolidated WPS database. This consolidated WPS database is crucial for mainstreaming a monitoring and evaluation system across all pillars of WPS, rather than limiting it to a separate support pillar.

Another major feature of this NAPWPS is its explicit recognition of diverse SOGIESC, particularly those involved, whether directly or indirectly, in the full process of conflict prevention and transformation, and peacebuilding. Their experiences can undoubtedly enrich and provide additional guidelines for implementing this NAPWPS. Duty-bearers are explicitly mandated to create an enabling environment where women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, can substantively and meaningfully be represented, participate, and take on leadership roles in these processes. This can be achieved by, among other measures, first surfacing such distinct and intersecting contexts through the creation of databases in relevant agencies. These databases may be disaggregated by sex, gender, age, disability, and other distinct contexts identified by the relevant agencies. As a corollary, there is a pivot towards a more inclusive language in the NAP, moving away from a dichotomized view of gender.

The third major feature of this 2023-2033 NAPWPS is its full integration into all GAD-related mechanisms. While guided by JMC No. 2014-01 on how WPS can specifically be integrated into GPBs and GAD ARs, this

NAPWPS goes one step further by explicitly requiring duty bearers to fully integrate and institutionalize a gender perspective in all initiatives geared towards conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation. This entails not only the integration of NAPWPS in national and subnational peace and order, development, and natural disaster councils and integrating the WPS resource pool into the existing GAD resource pool, but also by developing new mechanisms such as peace education and comprehensive capacity development programs on relevant WPS topics.

A fourth major feature of this fourth generation of NAPWPS is its explicit recognition of the contributions of civil society organizations to the entire process of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Therefore, CSO representation is now included in the NSC WPS to facilitate their meaningful participation in the peace process and in shaping the future direction of the NAPWPS. This action point aims to address the declining participation of CSOs in the formal structures of WPS for the past years.

To further create an enabling environment for CSOs' meaningful participation, this current national action plan emphasizes end-to-end support for CSO stakeholders. This includes the following: a) continuous and scaled-up capacity-building activities to allow organizations working on the ground to dynamically respond to multidimensional issues relating to conflict; b) a holistic psychosocial services infrastructure for CSO-service providers and victim-survivors of conflict alike; and, c) access to justice services, particularly for women and girls who are victim-survivors of conflict-related sexual gender-based violence (e.g., integrating principles of the Safe Spaces Act in developing evacuation and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps; establishing a clear, efficient and effective reporting and documentation system for sexual gender-based violence in conflict areas).



National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) 2023-2033 Framework

The Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS) is guided by two primary outcomes derived from UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, forming the cornerstone of its two substantive pillars. These two outcomes are treated as the two substantive pillars of the NAPWPS. The first substantive pillar, Empowerment and Participation, is dedicated to empowering women and ensuring their substantive and meaningful representation, participation, and leadership in various peace-related spheres. This includes their participation in peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction processes. In addition to these primary outcomes, the NAPWPS strongly emphasizes two complementary support outcomes. The second substantive pillar, Protection and Prevention, centers on protecting women's human rights before, during armed conflicts, and in post-conflict situations. This pillar underscores the imperative of creating a safe and secure environment for women and men in all their diverse and intersecting identities and upholding their rights throughout all stages of conflict.

The framework incorporates two supporting pillars, designed to foster an environment conducive to the achievement of their respective goals. Two support pillars are also included in the framework to create an enabling environment for these pillars to achieve their purpose. The first support pillar is Promotion and Mainstreaming, which aims to promote and integrate a gender perspective across all dimensions of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding efforts. This involves raising awareness of women's roles, This entails promoting greater awareness and appreciation of women's roles, addressing gender disparities, and fostering inclusive practices within peace and security initiatives. The second support pillar is Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning, which seeks to establish a robust system for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on implementing the NAPWPS. This system is critical to ensuring accountability, measuring progress, and achieving the goals outlined in the action plan. Combining these primary and support outcomes, the NAPWPS offers presents a comprehensive framework dedicated to for advancing women's rights, promoting gender equality, and enhancing women's meaningful participation in peace and security processes. It signifies reflects the

Philippines' commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, aligning and aligns with international instruments on women's empowerment, gender equality, and peacebuilding.

The Role of the Support Pillar

The two supportive pillars—promotion and mainstreaming, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning—are crucial in reinforcing the two substantive pillars of empowerment and participation, and prevention and protection. These support pillars serve as governance-specific mechanisms and considerations that facilitate achieving the outcomes outlined in the substantive pillars.

Promotion and mainstreaming

The promotion and mainstreaming pillar is a pathway for the substantive pillars to achieve their desired outcomes. It recognizes that, as a matter of governance and public policy, integrating NAPWPS action points under the two substantive pillars requires a whole-of-nation approach structured around inter-agency cooperation, multilevel implementation, and multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement.

By promoting and integrating WPS principles—empowerment and participation, and protection and prevention—into conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation initiatives, this supportive pillar ensures the institutionalization of gender perspectives throughout these processes. This supportive pillar ensures that gender perspectives are institutionalized throughout these processes. It emphasizes the need to address gender disparities, foster inclusive practices, and guarantee that ensure initiatives are gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive, and peace-promoting.

Through full integration and implementation of the NAPWPS in relevant mechanisms at the national and local levels, policies and action plans can be formulated or reviewed, ensuring the mainstreaming of that gender perspectives are mainstreamed into the governance frameworks related to that concern security and development. Capacity development programs on WPS

topics further contribute to promoting gender equality and empowering women to meaningfully participate in peace and security processes, programs, and mechanisms.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning

The monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning pillar provides the necessary infrastructure for accountability in implementing WPS interventions. It recognizes that a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system must be established to ensure effective progress, tracking, and reporting of the NAPWPS implementation. Moreover, the reframing towards MEAL where accountability and learning are accounted for, signifies the NAPWPS commitment to monitor progress and ensure we learn throughout the process.

Developing a specific NAPWPS MEAL framework facilitates the systematic enablement of the documentation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the NAP's implementation, utilizing evidence-informed tools and mechanisms. This ensures diligent tracking of that progress, is tracked, the measurement of impact, is measured, and accountability of stakeholders are held accountable for their commitments. Regular reporting on the NAPWPS implementation of the NAPWPS enhances transparency and fosters continuous learning and improvement.

By incorporating these two support pillars, the NAPWPS framework recognizes the governance elements essential for the effective implementation of the substantive pillars. Promotion and mainstreaming, along with monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning, provide the foundation and infrastructure for impactful WPS interventions promoting comprehensive outcomes in the strategies undertaken by both government and non-government entities collaborating to ensure the meaningful role of women in conflict transformation. This approach also ensures a robust, rights-based protection and prevention strategy for women.

The Mutual Reinforcement of the Substantive Pillars

The two substantive pillars of the NAPWPS—empowerment and participation and prevention and protection—are inherently interconnected and mutually reinforcing. The pillar of empowerment and participation recognizes that women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, have the agency and capability to be active change agents in conflict transformation and post-

conflict development. It emphasizes the importance of meaningful representation, participation, and leadership in decision-making processes and activities related to peace and security. On the other hand, the prevention and protection pillar focuses on safeguarding women's human rights, particularly in conflict-affected situations. It seeks to prevent and address incidences of VAWC and SGBV, which often escalate during conflicts.

These two substantive pillars are mutually reinforcing due to their shared objectives and strategies. Empowering women and promoting their active participation in peace processes and decision-making effectively enhances their capacity to contribute to conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding. Women's perspectives, experiences, and expertise bring unique insights and approaches to addressing the root causes of conflicts and achieving sustainable peace.

Simultaneously, the prevention and protection pillar complements empowerment and participation by creating an enabling environment that ensures the safety and security of women. By addressing the structural barriers and gender inequalities that make women more vulnerable to violence and discrimination, this pillar creates the necessary conditions for women's meaningful engagement and participation. It strengthens women's agency by guaranteeing their fundamental rights, protecting them from harm, and dismantling discriminatory norms and practices.

Operational Mechanisms of the NAPWPS 2023-2033

To achieve the goals set out in the NAPWPS 2023-2033, this section will outline the operational mechanisms that facilitate the mainstreaming, implementation, and short-term and end-term monitoring and evaluation of the interventions outlined in this document, along with detailing the process and the institutional structure.

1. National Steering Committee on Women, Peace, and Security (NCWPS)

The NCWPS is an inter-agency committee created through and mandated by Executive Order 865 series of 2010 to implement the NAPWPS. It is composed of the following national government agencies: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Commission on Women

(PCW) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU).

Pursuant to Section 5 of EO 865 s.2010, the mandate of the NSCWPS are as follows:

- Update and/or revise the NAP as necessary;
- Provide overall policy direction, as well as manage, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and report on the implementation of the NAP;
- Tap domestic and international donor agencies and non-government organizations for technical assistance and financial support to facilitate the implementation of the NAP; and
- Perform such other functions and powers as may be deemed necessary, incidental or proper to its mandate.

2. Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) - Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP, now OPAPRU) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2014-01

The JMC between the PCW and OPAPRU articulates the specific guidelines for integrating WPS into the GAD Framework, particularly within the GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB). The JMC provides specific steps that agencies and sub-national entities (i.e., LGUs) playing a role in the NAPWPS implementation, must follow in preparing their respective GBPs related to WPS. It specifically mandates concerned agencies to identify PAPs with WPS dimensions through gender and conflict analysis.

3. Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028

Chapter 13 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 entitled “Ensure Peace and Security and Enhance Administration of Justice” recognizes the critical need for a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to ensure peace and security - a key element recognized in the NAPWPS.

While Chapter 13 is focused on a general view of peace and security, it aligns with the NAPWPS by recognizing the gendered dimensions of conflict. Notably, the chapter highlights cross-cutting strategies that explicitly complement the NAPWPS, including the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the protection of vulnerable groups in conflict-affected communities, as well as the strengthening of legal protection and assistance for victims.



National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) 2023-2033

Vision Statement

By 2033, we envision a Philippines where women, in all their diverse, and intersecting identities, actively shape an inclusive, just, and sustainable peace and security landscape.

Impact Statement

The NAPWPS 2023-2033 is committed to transforming the peace and security landscape of the Philippines by guaranteeing equitable access to vital resources and opportunities to women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, leading to their substantive and meaningful representation, participation, and leadership in decision-making of the country's peace and security policies and programs.

The core section of the NAPWPS 2023-2033 outlines the specific actions and strategies that will be pursued over the next decade. It reflects a strong commitment to advancing the role of women in peace and security, drawing from lessons learned from previous plans and the latest insights and research on gender and development. This updated version of the NAPWPS retains the two substantive pillars of empowerment and participation, and protection and prevention, as well as the two support pillars of promotion and mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation.

Building on the lessons learned from the implementation of the previous NAPWPS and considering new and emerging issues, the action points under the two substantive pillars and two support pillars have been enhanced. These enhancements consider insights gathered from consultative meetings, discussions, and engagements with stakeholders involved in the development, institutionalization, implementation, and monitoring of the NAPWPS. As a forward-looking 10-year plan, the NAPWPS aims to anticipate the complexities of conflict and its implementation by projecting and addressing new and emerging issues.

To address these emerging issues, they are integrated into the four pillars of the plan. This integration allows the substantive pillars and support pillars to proactively anticipate new challenges, identify initiatives, and implement strategies to address them. It is important to note that this plan is a living document, incorporating new and emerging issues whose full effects are not yet fully understood at the time of writing. Insights derived from literature reviews, workshops, national consultations, and high-level meetings have informed the considerations and formulation of this plan.

The subsequent sections of the plan will articulate the impact statement, followed by a detailed exploration of each pillar. The first substantive pillar will focus on empowerment and participation, followed by the second substantive pillar addressing prevention and protection. The support pillar of promotion and mainstreaming will be discussed next, and finally, the fourth pillar of monitoring and evaluation will be examined.

SUBSTANTIVE PILLAR I

Empowerment and Participation

The substantive pillar on empowerment and participation recognizes the crucial need to underscore the importance of women's empowerment and their holistic and meaningful participation in peace and security processes. It acknowledges that addressing gender inequalities and amplifying the agency of women from diverse and intersecting identities is essential for conflict transformation and post-conflict development. By integrating a gender approach across all stages of the peace process and implementing institutional reforms in the security sector, this pillar aims to improve the status of women and promote their active role as change agents.

Key themes emerging within this substantive pillar include the integration of a gender approach in all procedures and mechanisms of the peace process, the explicit inclusion of provisions for gender and women's political and economic empowerment in peace agreements, and the active engagement of civil society and grassroots organizations. These themes highlight the importance of recognizing the diverse identities and experiences of women, ensuring their representation and leadership in decision-making processes, and addressing gender disparities that hinder their participation. Additionally, the pillar emphasizes the need to address gender inequality in both productive and reproductive labor, as well as in land and property rights, to enable women's active engagement during post-conflict reconstruction.

Furthermore, the substantive pillar focuses on enhancing the role and status of women in the security sector. It calls for comprehensive programmatic design and policies to facilitate the recruitment, training, deployment, and career advancement of women from diverse backgrounds within the security sector. The creation of institutional mechanisms and increased representation of women in decision-making positions, both nationally and internationally, further contributes to the realization of this pillar. By prioritizing women's empowerment and meaningful participation, this substantive pillar seeks to create a more inclusive and equitable peace and security landscape. It recognizes that women in all their diverse and intersecting identities possess the agency and capacity to be active change agents in conflict transformation and post-conflict development. Through the implementation of these key themes and actions, this pillar aims to address the existing gender inequalities, amplify women's voices, and foster sustainable peace and security.

Outcome Statement

1.1 Women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, through meaningful and substantive representation, participation and leadership, are active change agents in governance, conflict transformation and post-conflict development.

Outcome Strategy

1.2 Application of the gender transformative approach in all levels of policies, procedures and mechanisms on peace and security, before, during, and after conflict situations. These shall cover comprehensive peace processes that seek to address gender inequalities in the politico-economic lives of women as well as institutional reforms in the peace and security sector to improve women's status.

Action Point 1 Gender perspective integrated in the formal peace process or Track 1.

- 1.1** Ensure that women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, including former women combatants and rebels, occupy at least 30%,⁶ with the goal of reaching 50%⁷ of leadership positions in peace panels, peace agreement implementation, and other peace mechanisms.
- 1.2** Explicitly integrate gender-transformative provisions for women's political, socio-cultural, and economic empowerment into peace frameworks, agreements, and implementation plans.
- 1.3** Strengthen the NSCWPS' lead role in the policy-making and direction setting of gender mainstreaming in peace frameworks, negotiations, agreements, and plans blueprints and mechanisms for implementation and review.

1.4 Ensure CSOs partnership with the NSCWPS, the lead policy-making and direction-setting body for mainstreaming gender in peace frameworks, negotiations, agreements and plans, through consultations, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAPWPS.

Action Point 2 Meaningful and substantive representation, participation and leadership of women of diverse and intersecting identities in Tracks 2 and 3 peace processes.

2.1 Active inclusion of civil society⁸ and people's organizations, women's rights organizations, persons with disabilities organizations (PWDOs), indigenous people's organizations (IPOs) and grassroots women's constituencies⁹ at all stages of the peace process.

2.1.1 Ensure strict compliance to the provisions of Magna Carta of Women,¹⁰ guaranteeing a minimum of 40% women representation in local development councils (LDCs), and adopt measures to achieve the same percentage of women in other local special bodies (LSBs) and planning bodies in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas.

2.2 Provide end-to-end¹¹ capacity-building initiatives for women of diverse and intersecting identities in conflict-affected/vulnerable communities, focusing on areas such as peace, human rights, governance, economic empowerment, humanitarian response, climate change adaptation, cybersecurity, and emerging digital technologies that impact peace and security.

Action Point 3 Sustained NAPWPS initiatives that actively collaborate with peace, human rights, and women CSOs, WROs, PWDOs, IPOs, and grassroots women of diverse and intersecting identities.

3.1 Provide continuous support to awareness raising initiatives and capacity building of CSOs regarding women, peace and security, and other relevant women's rights instruments.¹²

3.2 Institutionalize community engagement for CSOs and grassroots women through inclusive platforms and spaces for discussions and community-based initiatives to sustain peace.

3.3 Strengthen CSO collaboration to effectively engage the NAPWPS with governance institutions,¹³ bodies, existing peace and development mechanisms, and task forces at the regional and local levels.¹⁴

Action Point 4 Addressed gender inequality in the formal and informal economy,¹⁵ productive and reproductive labor, as well as in land and property rights to enable women to actively participate during post-conflict reconstruction.

4.1 Support grassroots women's economic empowerment initiatives as pathways to peace and development.

4.2 Conduct awareness-raising and capacity-building on women's economic rights, specifically in land and property rights and land reform,¹⁶ in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable communities.

4.3 Incorporate protocols that ensure the involvement of women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, in the decision-making process for land reform grants.

4.4 Support the participation of women impacted by conflicts, including women former combatants, women impacted by extremist ideologies, those affected by extremist ideologies,¹⁸ women IDPs, and those trapped in ongoing violence, in both the formal and informal economy.

Action Point 5 Improved and expanded role and status of women of diverse and intersecting identities to participate and lead in the security sector.

5.1 Establish and enhance enabling institutional mechanisms for the strategic maximization of women's contribution in the uniformed service.

5.2 Enhance policy and comprehensive programmatic design for recruiting, training, deploying, career-pathing, placing, and assigning women of diverse and intersecting identities in the uniformed service.

5.3 Increase the number of women in decision-making positions in uniformed service.

5.4 Increase the representation of women of diverse and intersecting identities in leadership and decision-making positions at strategic, operational, and tactical levels in the uniformed service.

5.5 Increase the participation of women, especially from the security sector, in international committees and inter-state initiatives¹⁹ related to

gender, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, shadow economy, illicit drug trade, human trafficking, and WPS.

5.6 Generate and continually update evidence on the underlying and structural barriers in recruiting, training, deploying, career-pathing, placing, and assigning women in decision-making and leadership positions in the security sector to address gender gaps.

5.7 Institutionalize the capacity-building programs on WPS and Gender Equity, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) of uniformed personnel.

5.8 Include proportional number of former women combatants and rebels in their integration from non-state armed groups into the government uniformed services as part of peace process implementation.

Action Point 6 Ensured meaningful and substantive representation, participation, and leadership of women in managing responses to crises including health, climate, disaster, human-induced, and other complex emergencies, with gender mainstreaming integrated across all stages.

6.1 Integrate gender responsiveness to both existing and new early warning and early response mechanisms that respond to disasters and violent conflicts.

6.2 Ensure gender mainstreaming in capacity development programs in the DRRM thematic areas.

Action Point 7 Institutionalization of gender-transformative transitional justice and access to justice programs through documentation of crimes, tribunals, institutionalization of symbolic commemoration and awareness-raising of communities.

7.1 Support the enactment of gender-sensitive transitional justice policies at the national and local level.

7.2 Ensure that transitional justice²⁰ and social healing initiatives are attentive to the unique issues of women and men in all their diverse and intersecting identities who are survivors of atrocities and human rights violations.

7.3 Empower women in the process of truth-telling and memorialization.

Action Point 8 Ensured women's meaningful and substantive representation, participation, and leadership in cybersecurity planning, design, governance, and law enforcement efforts.

8.1 Increase capacity of women grassroots organizations, women peacebuilders, and human rights defenders on cybersecurity and digital peacebuilding.

8.2 Ensure women's meaningful and substantive representation, participation, and leadership in the legislation, planning, design, and governance of technology and cybersecurity for peace and security.



SUBSTANTIVE PILLAR II

Protection and Prevention

This substantive pillar of the NAPWPS presents a comprehensive approach to protect the human rights of women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, with a particular focus on those from diverse and intersecting identities in conflict-affected and vulnerable situations from horizontal and vertical forms of violence and preventing such occurrences. This pillar underscores the need for prevention and intervention measures to address various forms of conflict, whether human-induced or arising from natural disasters. It recognizes the importance of a rights-based perspective, prioritizing access to justice for victims and survivors. Moreover, it actively seeks to include and involve civil society by coordinating, consulting, and meaningfully collaborating with civil society organizations in the implementation of this pillar. The plan also recognizes the complexities and threats faced by duty-bearers, both in the government and civil society; thus, this pillar considers the necessity of developing and implementing protocols to protect duty-bearers. Through the integration of NAPWPS into national government frameworks related to security and development, along with the establishment of a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive inter-agency humanitarian protection and rehabilitation program, the vulnerabilities of women in conflict contexts will be specifically addressed.

Outcome Statement

2.1 The human rights of women and men, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, are protected at all times—before, during, and after various conflict situations and complex emergencies. Incidents of violence against women, their children, and sex and gender-based violence that violate human rights and international humanitarian law are prevented.

Outcome Strategy

2.2 Integration of NAPWPS into national government frameworks related to security and development, particularly those relevant in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas, and the development of a comprehensive WPS, gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive and peace promoting (CSPP) interagency humanitarian protection and rehabilitation program that specifically addresses the context of various conflict situations and the vulnerabilities of women and men in all their diverse and intersecting identities.

Action Point 10 Women and men²¹ in all their diverse and intersecting identities who are impacted, displaced by, and vulnerable to different forms of conflict (i.e., vertical and horizontal), are immediately and sustainably provided with gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant, comprehensive, immediate, and sustained protection from sex and gender-based violence (SGBV).

10.1 Establish and promote gender-sensitive and CSPP safe spaces for the protection of women and men, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, impacted by and prioritizing their safety before, during, and after conflict situations and complex emergencies.

10.2 Implement essential life-saving SGBV services at par with SPHERE standards.

10.3 Institutionalize the generation of evidence on the differential vulnerabilities of women and men, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, in situations of insurgency, tribal wars, rido, communal conflict, criminal violence, violent extremism, terrorism, and other complex emergencies.

10.4 Ensure the protection of women and youth, with diverse and intersecting identities, who are affected by extractive industries and other development projects.

10.5 Operationalize a standardized gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant quick response for local and international humanitarian relief and assistance for displaced women and men, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, by relevant frontline agencies.

10.6 Ensure the establishment of gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant protection/security mechanisms for displaced women and men, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, including those staying with relatives and friends, by relevant frontline agencies.

10.7 Establish Women-child-friendly spaces (WCFS) as a standard procedure in all evacuation areas and internally displaced peoples (IDP) camps.

10.8 Relevant NGAs and LGUs, develop guidelines that are gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant for preventing, responding to, and after-care to conflict-related Sex and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).²²

Action Point 11 Women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, affected, displaced, and vulnerable to various forms of conflict (i.e., vertical and horizontal) have expeditious access to comprehensive healing, rehabilitation, and recovery programs and services.

11.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant humanitarian rehabilitation and recovery program, with a particular focus on shelter, health (including psychosocial programs), social health insurance, livelihood, and educational support.

11.2 Establish and ensure the functionality and accessibility of Women Peace Centers (WPCs) designed to cater to the needs of women in all their diverse and intersecting identities from conflict-affected or vulnerable communities.

Action Point 12 Women in all their diverse and intersecting identities who were victims of conflict-related violence have full access to victim and survivor-centered legal remedies, including transitional and restorative justice.

12.1 Facilitate immediate and efficient referral systems, parallel interventions, case management, reporting/documentation, investigation, prosecution, and resolution of conflict-related SGBV, including early and forced child marriages, rape, prostitution, trafficking practiced. This shall include data gathering on SGBV for ongoing conflicts that have been amicably settled at the local levels, as well as those resolved through traditional/customary laws.

12.2 Provide gender-responsive and CSPP-compliant legal assistance programs for women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, who have experienced conflict-related VAWC and SGBV.

12.3 Provide a gender-responsive, CSPP-compliant legal assistance program for women and men in all their diverse and intersecting identities who have experienced conflict-related SGBV.

12.4 Include gender and transitional justice in negotiated peace agreements, as well as in the mechanisms of their implementation.

12.5 Fast-track the implementation of laws and policies that respect the housing, land, and property rights of IPs, persons with disabilities, and marginalized sectors.

12.6 Develop, institutionalize, and monitor appropriate gender-sensitive, CSPP-complaint protocols for the handling of captured, arrested, and surrendered women rebels and political detainees.

12.7 Develop, institutionalize, and monitor human rights-based protocols for detaining and interrogating suspected women in all their diverse and intersecting identities associated with violent extremist and terrorist organizations.

12.8 Provide assistance and legal services for women human rights defenders accused or detained, ensuring the safety and protection of witnesses testifying on their behalf.

12.8.1 Provide legal redress to women human rights defenders and activists wrongfully accused and detained in the context of conflict.

12.8.2 Provide needs-specific initiatives related to the protection, psychosocial support, healing and development programs, as well as access to justice for children, especially young women and girls born of conflict-related rape. This includes orphans and adheres to specific laws, including but not limited to Republic Act 11188 also known as the "Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act", and Republic Act 11596 also known as the Prohibition of the Child Marriage Law.

Action Point 13 Women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, from frontline agencies and CSOs deployed in conflict-affected or prone areas, as well as situations of complex emergencies, have access to security and protection.

13.1 Develop and implement deployment protocols and coordinating mechanisms that ensure the physical and psychosocial security and well-being of women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, from frontline agencies and CSOs.

Action Point 14 Institutionalized gender-responsive conflict prevention mechanisms, including early warning and early response systems, to avert conflict-related violence.

14.1 Develop the capacities of members of community-based early warning and early response systems in integrating WPS into protocols and monitoring.

14.2 Strengthen gender-responsive initiatives to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, including within the context of peace agreements.²⁴

14.3 Promote the protection of women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, affected by environmental degradation, particularly women environment defenders.

14.4 Provide holistic social support to address differentiated needs from disaster-prone and conflict-affected/vulnerable communities.

Action Point 15 Women former rebels and combatants, along with their families or women as immediate family members of former combatants, benefited from reintegration, rehabilitation, and normalization programs, including amnesty for women former rebels with pending criminal cases.

15.1 Ensure access for women former rebels and combatants, their families, and/or women immediate family members of former combatants to shelter, health, social health insurance, livelihood, and educational support that are responsive to their unique needs and vulnerabilities, including amnesty for women former rebels with pending criminal cases.



SUBSTANTIVE PILLAR III

Promotion and Mainstreaming

The support pillar on promotion and mainstreaming within the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS) underscores the government's commitment to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and the mainstreaming of the WPS agenda in all peace and security initiatives. This pillar recognizes the need to elevate women's roles, address their vulnerabilities, and enhance public consciousness regarding their contributions to peace and security. In its latest iteration, the support pillar aims to promote and mainstream the NAPWPS by integrating gender equality, women's empowerment, and the WPS agenda in all peace and security initiatives. It focuses on integrating gender perspectives, addressing disparities, and fostering women's meaningful participation and leadership.

Moreover, in light of the new and emerging issues identified in sunset review and national consultations, this pillar takes a proactive approach by advocating for the mainstreaming of the NAPWPS in government actions, security issues, and development areas such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, health emergencies, and the fourth industrial revolution.

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a central theme within this support pillar. It emphasizes addressing gender disparities and creating opportunities for women's meaningful participation and leadership in peace and security processes. Furthermore, mainstreaming the WPS agenda across all relevant initiatives ensures that gender perspectives are integrated and prioritized, contributing to the advancement of gender equality goals. Another significant theme is the cultivation of greater public consciousness and appreciation for women's roles and vulnerabilities in peace and security contexts. This involves raising awareness, challenging stereotypes, and fostering inclusive spaces that recognize and value the diverse contributions of women.

Outcome Statement

3.1. Gender perspective institutionalized in all initiatives geared toward conflict prevention, conflict resolution and conflict transformation.

Overall Strategy

3.2. Full integration and implementation of the NAPWPS in all relevant mechanisms at the national and local levels (i.e. GPBs, GAD ARs, national and subnational peace and order/development disaster councils, among others); formulation and/or review of policies and action plans by all implementing NGAs, LGUs, and inter-agency bodies; and development of comprehensive capacity development programs for NAPWPS stakeholders on relevant WPS themes,²⁵

Action Point 17 Integrated WPS in policy entry points for gender mainstreaming, including, among others, the GAD Agenda, GAD Code, and local plans in all identified conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas.

17.1 Develop and implement a policy mandate and mechanism for NAPWPS within the gender mainstreaming initiatives of various agencies, informed by a thorough analysis of conflicts and the aspirations of affected communities.

17.2 Develop and implement WPS policies and PAPs within the GAD Agenda and GAD Code of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and LGUs, as reflected in their annual GPBs and GAD ARs.

17.3 Institutionalize capacity development programs on WPS to NGAs and LGUs.²⁷

17.4 Establish a WPS pool of experts and community of practice²⁸ among relevant NGAs and LGUs for localization and mainstreaming.

17.5 Capacitate and strengthen the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) on WPS, and CSPP approaches in all cycles of program management.

Action Point 18 Mainstreamed WPS perspective in all existing government programs and projects in the menu of government post-conflict and rehabilitation services.

18.1 Engage in legislative and policy advocacy work towards the passage of bills and operationalization of policies supporting the WPS agenda in the Philippines²⁹ and its autonomous regions.³⁰

18.2 Ensure comprehensive gender-sensitive and CSPP implementation of PAMANA programs.

18.3 Ensure anti-insurgency policies and initiatives³¹ adhere to local and international human rights standards of rights-based approach to peace and conflict resolution.

18.4 Ensure gender-responsive and CSPP-compliant implementation of government services for Indigenous Peoples.

18.5 Enhance awareness using appropriate local languages of WPS-related policies and other laws concerning vulnerable groups such as Persons with Disabilities and Indigenous Peoples particularly those that involve rights and social protection.³²

Action Point 19 Reviewed and strengthened national and local mechanisms implementing the NAPWPS and their respective local action plans.

Action Point 20

Mainstreamed WPS in environmental governance and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM).

Action Point 21 Engaged the Legislative, and Judiciary Branches of the Government at both at the national and local levels in the implementation of the NAPWPS.

21.1 Interface with relevant House and Senate Committees³³ on the implementation of the NAPWPS, ensuring meaningful representation of women in all aspects.

21.2 Provide capacity building for the Judiciary and Legislature on WPS and gender-responsive policy-making and the criminal justice system in conflict-affected communities, ensuring meaningful representation of women in all aspects.

Action Point No. 22 Implemented WPS at multi-levels and engaged various stakeholders.

22.1 Create and update WPS Action Plans at the level of NGAs and relevant agencies (i.e. NSCWPS)

22.2 Draft, update, and/or implement regional, provincial, and local Action Plans on WPS that reflect the unique peace and security context, concerns, and contributions of women (e.g. BARMM RAP WPS) in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable LGUs.

22.3 Integrate and implement WPS into the Strategic Plans of the Regional GAD Committees (RGADCs).

Action Point 23 Aligned with the appropriate action points of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security.

Action Point 24³⁴ Institutionalized WPS in peace education in formal and informal settings.

24.1 Support institutions offering peace and conflict courses, modules and classes to integrate WPS in their curricula and promote women's pivotal roles in historical peace movements, conflict resolution, and nation-building.

24.2 Develop CSPP-compliant WPS learning materials and modules for informal learning settings such as peace summits, brown bag sessions, temporary learning environments, among others.

24.3 Enhance research and educational materials, incorporating multimedia resources and interactive modules that spotlight women's contributions to peacebuilding, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

Action Point 25 Developed a recognition program for NGAs and LGUs with exceptional WPS programs.

SUBSTANTIVE PILLAR IV

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning

In response to the identified weaknesses in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) component of the NAPWPS 2017-2022, there has been a notable shift toward developing a comprehensive MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) system. This shift recognizes the necessity of moving beyond traditional M&E approaches and adopting a more holistic and dynamic approach that encompasses accountability and learning aspects.

The transformation to MEAL reflects an understanding that monitoring and evaluation alone are insufficient to capture the complexity and impact of WPS interventions. Integrating accountability and learning components within the MEAL framework ensures a more robust and evidence-informed approach to documenting, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting the implementation of the NAPWPS.

By embracing the MEAL approach, the NAPWPS seeks to enhance transparency, effectiveness, and adaptive learning, while also addressing identified weaknesses in M&E and strengthening the overall implementation of the NAPWPS. Moreover, this shift towards MEAL aligns with insights derived from the sunset review, national consultations, and the CSO agenda, where limitations of the previous M&E framework were consistently highlighted. The inclusion of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the MEAL process is deemed instrumental for enhancing effectiveness and ensuring a more inclusive and participatory approach. Actively involving CSOs in the MEAL system integrates their expertise, perspectives, and experiences, contributing to a more comprehensive and contextually grounded assessment of the NAPWPS implementation. This collaborative approach aims to restore and strengthen CSO participation and involvement, leveraging their valuable contributions to the monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning processes.

In summary, the shift to MEAL represents a significant advancement in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning within the NAPWPS. It addresses the limitations of the previous M&E framework and seeks to improve effectiveness, transparency, and adaptive learning. The integration of CSOs in the MEAL system ensures broader participation and enriches the assessment process with diverse perspectives. Together, these efforts contribute to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the NAPWPS.

Outcome Statement

4.1 Strengthen multi stakeholder accountability in the implementation of NAPWPS through the development of a comprehensive system to document, monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation, using evidence-informed tools and enabling mechanisms.

Outcome Strategy

4.2 Development of a comprehensive and broad-based NAPWPS Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning system characterized by collective stakeholding.

Action Point 26 Gender perspective integrated in the formal peace process or Track 1.

26.1 Establish a collaborative Results-Based Management (RBM)-informed MEAL System for NAPWPS.

26.2 Regularly collect sex, age, and disability disaggregated data, at a minimum, by relevant agencies through the GAD and WPS reporting, as well as other peace and security mechanisms

26.3 Harmonize WPS-related MEAL mechanisms with existing global, regional, national, and local reporting systems.

26.4 Develop a comprehensive database system for the implementation of the NAPWPS.

26.5 Harmonize Country Reports with international mechanisms specific to women in conflict situations, as well as peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and peacemaking, including conflict prevention, resolution, and transformation.³⁵

26.6 Institutionalize annual reporting internally to the NSCWPS and externally to other publics, such as the Committee on Peace, Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality, and the Civil Society Forum..

26.7 Conduct a comprehensive national-level, triennial multi-stakeholder midterm review to track and monitor the implementation, harvest the learnings, and identify the need for updating the NAPWPS; and conduct a terminal evaluation at the end of 2033.

26.8 Strengthen reporting mechanisms for agencies implementing Official Development Assistance (ODA)-funded GAD PAPs in armed conflict areas, ensuring the integration and reporting of WPS in all cycles of program management.

26.9 Strengthen partnerships with civil society and people's organizations, women's rights organizations, persons with disabilities organizations (PWDs), indigenous people's organizations (IPOs), and grassroots women's constituencies in the monitoring and evaluation of the NAPWPS.

26.10 Enhance agency policies and programs to ensure a human rights-based approach to peace and security in alignment with local and international human rights standards. This involves integrating critical aspects, such as foreign policy dimensions and international peace and security, with specific attention to challenges like migration, trafficking, trade, and other global issues within the broader framework of human security.

Action Point 27 Promoted evidence-based learning, documentation, and knowledge sharing to support research and initiatives for generating evidence on current and emerging themes in WPS.

27.1 Support research and evidence-generation initiatives for WPS policies and programs, addressing emerging themes, including economic security for women in all their diverse and intersecting identities vulnerable to conflict. This encompasses research on women in governance, legislation, and the judiciary, health security, and the impact of customs, traditions and other factors on WPS.

Action Point 28 Provided capacity-building for key implementing agencies and LGU to monitor and evaluate their implementation of NAPWPS.



Monitoring and Evaluation Roadmap for the Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

Step 1: Report on key issues on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) planning

Analyze key issues on M&E planning using the existing policies and indicators related to NAPWPS and as implemented by various government agencies in the country

Consider a review of best policies and/or practices from different countries and evaluate if this can be adopted in the Philippine setting. This is significant to constitute a profound NAPWPS from the previous draft and its current provisions; and to seek compromise that will address the different needs across agencies.

Step 2: Establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) and Adhoc Committee on M&E

Identify responsible agencies who previously worked and currently working with the NAPWPS. Understand their interests, expectations and potential contributions to the M&E process. Form a dedicated TWG comprising representatives from identified government agencies, NGOs, and other key stakeholders.

Parallel to this, the Adhoc Committee will be composed of technical experts that can provide guidance and concrete recommendations in the finalization of the M&E plan, especially the indicators to track the success of NAPWPS implementation.

Step 3: Strategic alignment meeting with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

A critical turning point in the M&E process is starting a Strategic Alignment Meeting with the NEDA. The main objective is to situate the M&E of the NAP WPS on the broader Evaluation framework of the country and develop a mutual understanding with NEDA in order to provide a coordinated approach to evaluation and framing that is appealing to all stakeholders. The goal of this is to promote collaboration on the evaluation framework and terminology used to evaluate the NAPWPS.

The evaluation procedure will be elevated as a result of this strategic alignment. It entails a thorough investigation of the NAPWPS's intricacies, enabling a common adjustment of methodology and terminology. By achieving this, the strategic alignment meeting will not just strengthen a common understanding of language and evaluation standards but also the clear and realistic outcomes and action points.

Step 4: Desk Review of the NAPWPS and alignment of indicators

Once the TWG/Adhoc Committee on M&E and NEDA come up with realistic outcomes and action points, there is a need to align this with intent of the NAPWPS. This will cover the penholding, scoping, data collection, analysis, and framing of various indicators.

The desk review acts as the framework, enabling a thorough analysis and comprehension of existing frameworks. This practice will lead in the creation of the indicators handbook/protocols. Hence, ensuring these indicators are not only comprehensive but also in line with international, regional, and national norms.

Another purpose of the desk review is to come up with an essential benchmark (or baseline) for further evaluations. Determine the monitoring frequency, whether it be quarterly or yearly, making sure it is in harmony with the nature of the indicators and the chronology of the NAPWPS for efficient tracking.

Step 5: Refine indicators, identify data sources, choose the data collection methods, assign responsibilities

Refine indicators as part of the M&E process by coming to an agreement, and choosing collection methods. Choose relevant methods such as interviews or focus group discussions, while taking feasibility and cost into consideration. Data sources to consider include government reports and surveys. Make sure that everyone who is involved in data collection, analysis, and reporting understands their roles and responsibilities.

Step 6: Develop data analysis and resource consideration

Establish a structured procedure for data analysis and the creation of ongoing reports within the M&E framework. To ensure consistency and enable efficient communication of thoughts and conclusions, clearly specify the format and content of these reports. Making sure that resources are allocated properly to aid in the plan's successful execution.

Step 7: Develop an Indicator Handbook/Protocols for the NAPWPS

Create a detailed indicator manual or methodology to kick off the M&E process. To produce a final result that acts as a unified and useful resource for effective monitoring and assessment, make sure to incorporate crucial components from the entire workshop while also clarifying and refining indicators.

Step 8: Printing and dissemination of the Indicators Handbook/Protocols for the NAPWPS

Once the NAPWPS Indicators Handbook/Protocols are finalized, its dissemination to stakeholders are crucial in working for the NAPWPS agenda. its dissemination to stakeholders are crucial in working for the NAPWPS agenda. This will kick start the progression of the finalized action plans in the Philippines from 2023-2033.

FOOTNOTES

- 1** As cited in the “National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security Implementation: The Philippine Experience”, 2016, 39-40.
- 2** <http://2012.ateneo.edu/ls/soss/political-science/news/research/women-peace-and-security-philippines-decade-later-blueboard>
- 3** <http://2012.ateneo.edu/ls/soss/political-science/news/research/women-peace-and-security-philippines-decade-later-blueboard>
- 4** As cited in <http://2012.ateneo.edu/ls/soss/political-science/news/research/women-peace-and-security-philippines-decade-later-blueboard>
- 5** Including women in the Anti-Drug Campaign, Human Rights Defenders, women deprived of liberty
- 6** Global standard
- 7** According to the Philippine Commission on Women’s Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Plan
- 8** With emphasis to international, local, and community-level women-led organizations
- 9** This includes non-SEC registered, organized group of women.
- 10** Chapter IV Section 11 Clause B of the Magna Carta of Women
- 11** Covering activities from the provision of training sessions, monitoring the utilization of newly-acquired skills, up until it is assessed that the communities are able to independently operate in relation to their respective skillsets.**12** Magna Carta of Women Chapter V, Section 29; CEDAW General Recommendation 30; and NAPWPS
- 13** Primarily RGADCs and RPOCs
- 14** This covers provincial, municipal, city, and barangay.
- 15** Formal and informal economy must be linked to social protection interventions.
- 16** With emphasis to indigenous and ancestral domains.
- 17** Women former combatants refer to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade, former rebels, and rebel returnees
- 18** Women impacted by extremist ideologies refer to those impacted by the Abu Sayyaf, BIFF, Daesh-inspired ideologies, to name a few.
- 19** Inter-state initiatives include but are not limited to UN Peacekeeping, ASEANAPOL, and the INTERPOL.
- 20** Narrative on TJ (i.e. truth-telling, right to know, right to justice, right to reparation, guarantee of non-recurrence, land-related issues, among others)
- 21** Due to the fact that men generally are the ones to hold arms such as small and light weapons in conflict-affected communities, there is a pressing need to include men in all their diverse and intersecting identities to provisions that tackle promotion and prevention.
- 22** This covers forms of VAW directly resulting from the situation of conflict and humanitarian issues including, but not limited to trafficking, rape, and sexual harassment.
- 23** Including but not limited to vertical and horizontal conflict, sex and gender based violence, armed conflicts, and prolonged displacement.
- 24** Includes the implementation of relevant laws and policies (i.e. normalization; end of hostilities, disposition of firearms, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration).
- 25** Relevant WPS themes include but are not limited to Human Security; Disaster, and Climate Security; Health Security; Sex and Gender-Based Violence; Human Rights, Access to Justice and Legal Reforms, and Transitional Justice (Including women in the Anti-Drug Campaign, Human Rights Defenders, women deprived of liberty); Men, and Intersectionalities; Digital Peace and Security (Digital Peacebuilding, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity); and Peace Education and Mainstreaming in Formal and Informal Channels.
- 26** Various forms of conflict include, but are not limited to resource disputes, social conflicts, domestic violence, political governance, electoral violence, ideological clashes, and tensions in the West Philippine Sea, among others.
- 27** Including programs on GAD, GEWE, SDGs, WPS, CEDAW General Recommendation 30, NAPWPS, Magna Carta of Women (i.e. relevant provisions on armed conflict and peace), socio-cultural, economic and political empowerment of women in post-conflict reconstruction, and on PAMANA Implementation.
- 28** This refers to a group of trainers within their respective organizations as well as a group of inter-agency trainers that will be formed through integrating WPS in the GAD Resource Pool.
- 29** Including but not limited to the Cyber security Act, IDP Law, Anti-Discrimination Act, and the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission
- 30** Including but not limited to the Bangsamoro GAD Code, Local Governance Code, IP Code, Electoral Code, and legislations related to IDPs, Mental Health, Persons with Disabilities, and Mujahideen/ Mujahidat Veterans’ Office and provisions for widows and orphans of war.
- 31** This is applicable to the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), and other relevant agencies and programs.
- 32** Social protection refers to government services such as mandatory health coverage and expanded benefits.
- 33** Such as the committees on peace, women, children, family relations, and children, family relations, and gender equality.
- 34** Refer to Executive Order No. 570 Series of 2006 on “Institutionalizing Peace Education in Basic Education and Teacher Education”
- 35** Including, but not limited to CEDAW, BPFA, WPS, SDG 16, and ASEAN RPA WPS.

