



# PHILIPPINES

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## Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. LIBRAN N. CABACTULAN**

Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines  
to the United Nations

on

***ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN***

under Agenda item 28

Third Committee of the General Assembly

13 October 2010  
Conference Room 1 (NLB)  
UN Headquarters, New York

## **Philippine Statement on Agenda Item 28 (Advancement of Women)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:**

Allow me to thank you at the outset for this opportunity to speak on an important issue which remains a priority in my country's national agenda.

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports on the advancement of women and appreciates the continuing attention given by the UN system to the follow-up and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective.

**MR CHAIRMAN:**

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the G77 and China on the advancement of women.

The advancement of women is a priority in the national agenda of the Philippines. No less than our Constitution makes it a state policy to recognize the role of women in nation building and to ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.

We have established institutional and legal mechanisms specifically designed to reinforce gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. Our national machinery, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) which predates the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), was created in 1975 to provide overall coordination to our national effort. With the enactment of Republic Act 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), the NCRFW was renamed Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) on August 14, 2009.

To ensure the full integration of women for economic, social and cultural development at national, regional and international levels, the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGRD) 1995-2015, a 30 year perspective plan was adopted. Among the plan's significant features is the acknowledgment of the role of women in peace-building efforts and peacemaking initiatives. The plan set forth strategies to empower women for effective peace work which is vital to stability and security for national development.

Recognizing that they are agents of socio-economic growth and change, the Philippine government strongly encourages full participation of women in the economy. Gender-responsive entrepreneurship development is our keystone for poverty elimination and both public and private sectors are mobilized to enhance the capacities of women to participate gainfully in the labor force.

The Magna Carta of Women provides the legislative framework to protect women against exploitation, unsafe safe working conditions and human trafficking. The law ensures decent work standards for women and aims to enhance and develop women's skills,

personal development and integration. It also ensures that protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of migrant women regardless of their work status, and protect them against discrimination in wages, conditions of work and employment opportunities in host countries. Given the number of women in the global Filipino diaspora, full protection of women is a priority of our international initiatives for migrant workers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:**

The challenges Filipino women face are no different from those faced by other women across the globe. Protection from violence, human trafficking, access to education, labor and health are but few of the pressing concerns which confront all women regardless of race or creed.

The full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action which serves as the most comprehensive global policy framework for the full realization of gender equality, women's human rights and the empowerment of women and girls is therefore of utmost importance. Gender equality and empowerment of women is a shared aspiration which can only be realized if women and girls speak with a unified voice not only in the national level but in the world stage as well.

In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), through the adoption of the General Assembly 64/289 on system-wide coherence and extend our felicitations to Ms. Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as the first head of UN Women. We are confident that under her dynamic leadership and guidance, the UN women will further strengthen United Nations' ability to promote and mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Finally, we welcome the adoption of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons which promotes a human rights-based, gender and age sensitive approach in addressing factors that make people, especially women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking. A sustained, committed and strong collaboration with partners in the international community is essential to improve policies and programs geared to end violence against women, promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

Thank you.