



# PHILIPPINES

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement delivered by  
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During the Third Committee Debate on  
**Agenda Item 28: Advancement of Women**  
67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
UN Headquarters, New York, 15 October 2012

**Mr. Chairman,**

Thank you for this giving us this opportunity to speak on the important issue of advancement of women, one of the key priorities in our national agenda.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on the advancement of women which identifies areas where gains have been made, as well as, areas where progress is much needed to promote the rights and address the needs of women. My delegation also expresses its sincere appreciation and support for the work being done by UN Women, under the dynamic leadership and guidance of Undersecretary General Mme. Michele Bachelet, in further strengthening the ability of the United Nations to promote and mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made on the advancement of women by Algeria on behalf of the G77 and China and by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The years have shown us an increase in efforts for the advancement of women. Progress, however, has been uneven and inequalities between women and men persist. The elimination of violence against women lies at the core of gender equality and empowerment of women. Regrettably, the prevalence of violence against women worldwide remains high.

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The Secretary General, in his report notes that actions are being taken by the Member States to address violence against women by focusing on strengthening national legal and policy frameworks; enhancing prevention and protection measures; improving knowledge and data collection systems; and facilitating cooperation at all levels. Nevertheless, the underreporting of incidents and existing barriers to access justice, protection and services; insufficient enforcement of legislation; limited allocation of adequate resources to implement laws, policies and programmes and insufficient monitoring and evaluation of their impact and lack of reliable data, present obstacles to curb incidents of violence against women. It is clear that much still needs to be done. Moreover, the global financial and economic crises, food and energy crises and climate change have caused significant setbacks on the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. Women in many parts of the world continue to face manifold disadvantages, violence and discrimination.

Against this backdrop, we call for greater commitment to and effective implementation by Member States 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. We express our support to the Commission on Status of Women and hope for a productive and successful outcome for its forthcoming 57<sup>th</sup> session in 2013 under the priority theme "Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women". Given the significance of the priority theme, it is important that a critical mass of support is generated to come up with a set of concrete recommendations for action by Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local levels, to eliminate violence against women.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Philippines views advancement of women and gender equality as integral to a country's progress. The Philippine 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. Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, serves as our legal framework for the protection and promotion of the gender equality and empowerment of women. It endeavors the pursuit of equal opportunities for women and men, ensuring equal access to resources and to development results and outcome. Cognizant that equality of men and women entails the abolition of the unequal structures and practices that perpetuate discrimination and inequality, the State is mandated to develop plans, policies, programs, measures, and mechanisms to address discrimination and inequality in the economic, political, social, and cultural life of women and men.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Last year, we witnessed the adoption of the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, which has resulted in a major addition to the international human rights framework relevant to the protection of women migrant workers, one of the more vulnerable sectors in society. My delegation, which had an active part in shaping this historic ILO instrument that recognizes domestic work as decent work by ensuring domestic workers' protection, equal rights, and equal opportunities, is pleased to convey that the Philippines is among the first to ratify the Convention and we encourage other Members to consider ratifying the Convention.

As a nation with 1/10<sup>th</sup> of its population beyond its borders, migration remains a major feature in Philippine society as it does in many societies in today's world. While migration broadens economic opportunities and promotes economic independence of workers, it also makes them more vulnerable toward inhumane treatment and many forms of violence and abuse in work places. This is particularly true for migrant women working at the lower end of the job market. Thus, the Philippine advocates for adoption by the international community of targeted measures to specifically address discrimination and violence and exploitation against migrant workers, in particular women and girls.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2013, the General Assembly will be holding, at the level of Heads of State and Government, the High Level Meeting on *Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development for Persons with Disabilities*, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond."

In this regard, we welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, which focuses on the issue of violence against women with disabilities. Violence against women with disabilities remains largely unaddressed and, as noted by the Special Rapporteur, although women with disabilities experience many of the same forms of violence that all women experience — when gender, disability and other factors intersect — the violence against them takes on unique forms, has unique causes and results in unique consequences. We therefore are encouraged to see the growing attention given to the situation of persons with disabilities, in particular women and children, within the context of human rights and social development.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, following the practice of previous sessions, my delegation will submit under agenda item 28(a) the draft resolution on *Trafficking in women and Girls*. We look forward to the valuable contributions and support of all Member States for this important resolution on the advancement of women.

Thank you.