

PHILIPPINES

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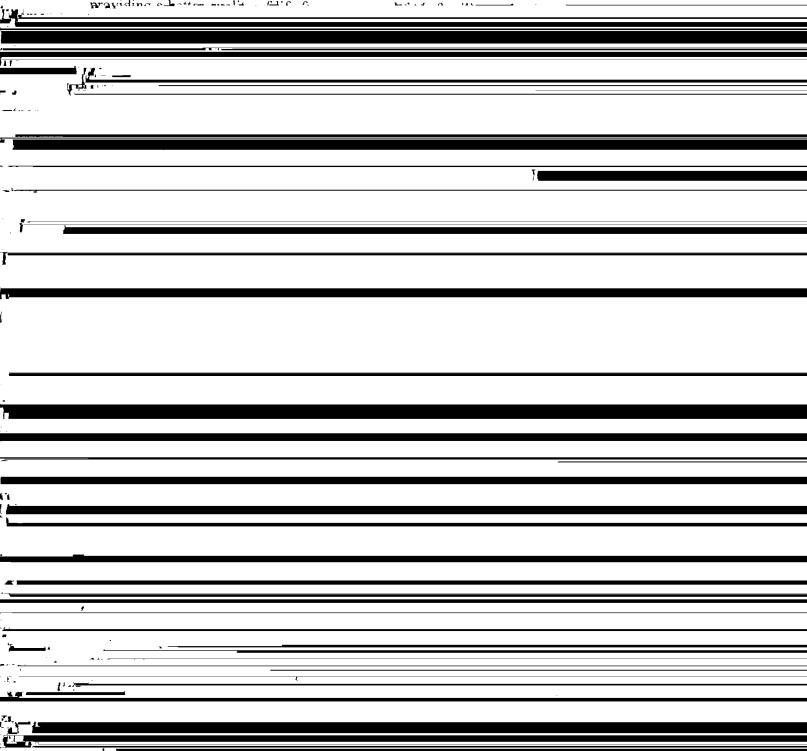
Ms. Alicia R. Bala, Undersecretary for Policy and Programs, Department of Social Welfare and Development

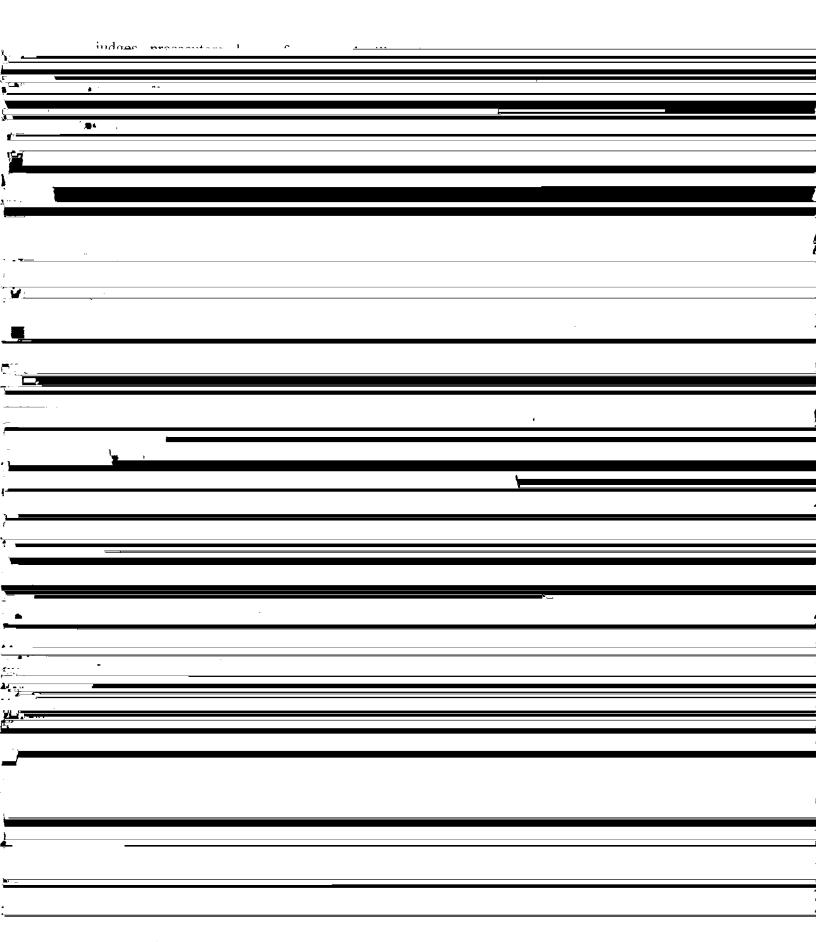
"The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, including Care-Giving in the Context of HIV and AIDS"

53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2 - 13 March 2009 New York

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to share some of the salient experiences of the Philippines in promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. As we look to fifteen years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and more than halfway towards the 2015 MDG targets, my delegation is particularly pleased that the Commission has chosen to devote its discussions on the persistent inequality between women and men, including in terms of their responsibilities. The Beijing Declaration emphasized that the equal sharing of responsibilities and a harmonious partnership between women and men are critical to





Also, to maximize the momentum of preventing and addressing gender-based violence, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women has helped organize a movement of men from various sectors, including leaders in their various fields and communities antly named "MOVE"

-	multilateral development organizations and through partnership with labor unions and employers associations. Furthermore, HIV prevention modules have been integrated in seminars for departing migrant workers, especially seafarers. Currently also, faith-based organizations are engaged in the
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	Despite these programs, challenges remain in containing the spread of the infection, especially the transmission to wives and children. There is still a low level of awareness among the general populace on the modes of HIV transmission, a low prevalence of condom use among males and an inability of many females, especially those in high-risk groups, to ensure their safety in sexual relations.
	Mr. Chair,
. -	The current financial and economic crisis affecting countries and regions around the world should also be seen from perspective of women. In our case, Filining women who work overseas
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