



# PHILIPPINES

MR. CHAIRMAN

CHEONG JOHNSON DELIVER

## STATEMENT

BY

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**PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THIRD COMMITTEE DEBATE**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 28**

**(ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN)**

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**PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

## Philippine Statement on Agenda Item 28: Advancement of Women

**MR. CHAIRMAN:**

Allow me to thank you for the giving of the opportunity to speak on the important issue of advancement of women.

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports which serve to enrich our discussions. We appreciate the commendable attention given by the UN system to advancement of women and the standards have maintained high gender equality and the empowerment of women high on the international agenda.

**MR CHAIRMAN:**

My delegation congratulates the statements made by the G77 and China on the advancement of women and Malaysia on the behalf of ASEAN.

Last year, we celebrated the gains and strides taken on the advancement of women. We commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and we witnessed the establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. Much progress has been made in the advancement of and empowerment of women. Gender equality is no longer just a women's issue but a human rights and a development issue.

This year, we have the opportunity to focus on areas where progress is much needed and work on the pressing concerns faced by legal women, older women and migrant women workers. The importance of addressing their needs cannot be overemphasized. Their concerns are a call to action. Their advancement is vital to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals. Their empowerment is integral to our society's progress.

**Mr. Chairman:**

With the 2008-2009 global financial and economic crises and energy crises and the impact of the current crisis, the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, rural women in many parts of the world continue to face manifold disadvantages and discrimination.

In view of the improvement on the situation of women in rural areas, the Secretary General stated that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their exclusion from decision making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid work.



This is unfortunate and could indicate that the vast economic potential of rural women in many parts of the world remains untapped despite the growing recognition that women and indigenous women are critical to achieving poverty reduction, food security, environmental sustainability and other aspects related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

A systematic and strategic integration of the economic empowerment of women in rural areas into national development strategies and plans, including in areas of rural development, infrastructure and local governance is clearly needed if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. Chairman:**

Violence, abuse and discrimination against the right of women to participate fully in all spheres of society – be it economic, political or social.

My delegation also notes the Secretary General's report that action has been taken nationally, regionally and internationally to address violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and that the number of States parties to relevant international instruments has increased. We are encouraged by the adoption of the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers which was included in a major addition to the international human rights framework for the protection of women migrant workers. My delegation is proud of its contribution in shaping this historic ILO instrument which recognizes domestic workers' decent work conditions and workers' protection, equality and equal opportunities.

Much, however, remains to be done.

Key gaps persist in respect of implementing global normative and policy frameworks related to protecting women migrant workers against discrimination, violence and violations of their rights. Further targeted measures to address discrimination and violence against women migrant workers are lacking and undocumented women migrant workers remain particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation and discrimination. This is unacceptable.

**Mr. Chairman:**

The Philippines views advancement of women and gender equality as a key indicator of country's progress and discrimination against women in any form as a practice in society. No less than our Constitution makes it a policy to protect the life, liberty and women in action building and to ensure the fundamental rights for the benefit of women and men.

Republic Act 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, serves as the legal framework to protect women against discrimination, exploitation, unsafe working conditions and human trafficking. The law ensures that Filipino women are legally protected from all forms of violence and from discrimination in employment, education, and training; that women are guaranteed these rights in times of disaster; that



... are provided with comprehensive health care and information, and that women are afforded equal treatment before the law. ... in matters relating to marriage.

The Magna Carta of Women is also a particular focus on the rights of women in marginalized sectors such as small farmers and rural workers, informal sector workers and the urban poor, indigenous women and those with disabilities, as well as older women and boys. The law ensures their right to freely, affordably and securely access reproductive health services, and their right to their cultural identity. It guarantees education and protection of their health, safety and women legal status of their work status, and protects them against discrimination in wages, conditions of work and employment opportunities in host countries.

The Magna Carta of Women further ensures mandatory training on human rights and gender sensitivity to all government personnel involved in the protection and defense of women against gender-based violence, and mandates local government units to establish a violence against women desk in every barangay to address violence in cases.

As regards women's participation and representation, the law provides for affirmative action in the civil service, development councils and planning bodies, as well as political parties and international organizations, including the private sector.

To complement and support domestic policies and legislation, the Philippines continues to promote and support initiatives for the empowerment and advancement of women at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Cognizant that women make up a large number of the world's most vulnerable and highly dependent natural resources for their livelihood and are disproportionately vulnerable to and affected by climate change, the Philippines at the 10th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) spearheaded a resolution on mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies.

**UNCTD Chairman:**

... cooperation with partners in the international community to address the program, gender and violence against women, promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

My delegation is optimistic that significant progress can be achieved for the advancement and empowerment of women. With the establishment of UN Women, we have no doubt that the UN system's strengthened mandate in gender equality and empowerment of women will be further enhanced.

In line with the mandate of previous sessions, my delegation together with Indonesia will submit a joint proposal to the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the valuable contributions and support of all member states for this important resolution on advancement of women.

Thank you.