



# Development and Reform Agenda for 2010-13 Summary

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## Summary

This Development and Reform Agenda is organized along four basic pillars – (a) Ensuring Empowerment and Democratization, (b) Reducing Poverty and Inequality, (c) Building Peace and (d) Promoting a Sustainable Economy.

This Agenda builds on existing policy positions being pursued by Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) member networks and base organizations, and by other civil society networks/organizations on key electoral, political, and socio-economic issues.

However, this Agenda does not aim to integrate all the positions and recommendations of the different sectoral and cause-oriented organizations, ending up with a long list of policy recommendations. Instead, it crafts a development and reform framework (the four pillars mentioned above) and identifies a few vital actions that the next Administration should implement in its first three years in office (2010-13) in order to decisively move the country towards democratization and development. In selecting these actions, emphasis was placed on the positions and concerns of the basic sectors, a bias of development non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs). Also, these proposed actions address the most urgent concerns that affect most, if not all, sectors of our society and lay the foundation for other much needed reforms.

This Development and Reform Agenda is the product of a 6-month process (May – October 2009) that included discussions by a 7-person multi-sectoral committee and by a focus group composed of leaders of national PO/NGO networks and other civil society organizations (CSOs) and by seven (7) regional multi-sectoral consultations. It was also discussed and finalized at a national conference on October 2-3, 2009 in Manila.

## I. Triple Crisis - Governance, Economic, and Climate/Environmental Crisis

The Philippines currently faces the triple crisis of mal-governance, global economic crisis, and climate and environment change.

In the political arena, we are in a “democratic recession” characterized by widespread corruption, abuse of power (appointment, budget/fund release, etc.), lack of transparency and accountability, inefficiency, constricting space for people participation, and weakening of democratic institutions (Commission on Elections or COMELEC, Ombudsman, Judiciary, check and balance between the Executive and the Legislative, etc). This crisis in mal-governance stems from our profound lack of sense of national culture that has impeded our progress as a nation since time immemorial.

The global economic crisis is affecting our exports, foreign investments, overseas Filipino worker (OFW) remittances, and ultimately, the jobs and incomes of Filipinos. This is the worst economic crisis since the 1930s and recovery from it will take several years.

Climate change and other environmental problems (forest denudation, coastal degradation, etc.) have now combined to worsen our “natural disasters” brought about by typhoons, heavy rains, and drought.

The program of the next Administration must clearly address these three crises.

## II. Ensuring Empowerment, Democratization, and Good Governance

The people are the primary force of development. Development cannot be separated from empowerment and democratization. At the most basic level, this means that development is founded on the respect for human rights and the promotion of human security. It also includes the practice of good governance through the strengthening of institutions and processes for transparency and accountability, as well as meaningful people’s participation in decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation with regard to development policies, programs, and projects.

The new Administration is faced with the challenge of taking the country out of one of the darkest periods in our history. The current President has been consistently marked by low approval and trust ratings in the last four years, by Filipinos in all geographical areas and social classes. This is not at all surprising given that the President has been hounded by a string of high-level scandals. Other top government officials have not fared better in the court of public opinion. Constitutional bodies such as the COMELEC and crucial agencies for accountability such as the Ombudsman have been weakened. The principles of separation of powers, check and balance and government transparency have been damaged by a President determined to hold on to power thru whatever means.

The country’s new leaders must be at the helm of the renewal of our political institutions. The new Administration must commit itself to the cause of upholding transparency, civil service reform, constitutional reform and genuine people’s participation.

### A. Transparent and Merit-based Appointments and Civil Service Reform:

- Professionalize and depoliticize the civil service by limiting the presidential power of appointment with respect to the Executive branch only to the positions of Cabinet Secretary and Undersecretary.
- Ensure that the appointments to the Cabinet, government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), the Constitutional Commissions and the Judiciary are done in a transparent manner and are based on a set of clear criteria which stress integrity and competence.

- Promote women's participation in governance by monitoring and decisively implementing equal representation of women and men in the civil service.
- B. Transparency, Anti-Corruption, and Government Accountability:
- Appoint a competent and credible Ombudsman who will pursue unresolved cases of corruption and human rights abuses committed by public officers.
  - Certify as urgent the Freedom of Information Bill which gives life to the constitutional mandate for transparency in government (or, if this will be passed into law by May 2010, ensure the effective implementation of the Freedom of Information Act).
  - Institute and/or strengthen existing citizens' charters in all national and local government offices.
  - Clearly identify and strictly regulate the role of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) during the elections.
- C. Constitutional Reform and Federalism:
- Push for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention during the next midterm elections.
- D. People's Participation:
- Ensure that the National Anti-Poverty Commission, local development councils, and other special bodies are functional and have genuine NGO/PO representatives, at least forty percent (40%) of whom should be women.
  - Revoke Administrative Order No. 187 and reinstate the previous AO on the basic sectors of NAPC.

## II. Reducing Poverty and Inequality

Poverty continues to hound our people and is a major concern for development NGOs and POs as it affects the well-being and limits the potentials of the people.

Government data show that at least 30% of Filipinos continue to be mired in poverty. Studies on self-rated poverty would show much higher poverty rates. Also, even with continued economic growth from 2003 to 2006, government poverty statistics prove that poverty incidence has been increasing. The situation would expectedly be worse now with the global economic crisis and its effects on Philippine society, especially the loss of jobs, decreased incomes, and increased government budget deficit.

Poverty in the Philippines is closely linked to inequality. Inequality in the country, as indicated by the Gini ratio (0.4822 at the start of the 2004-10 Medium Term Philippine Development Plan or MTPDP), is one of the highest in the region. Inequality is marked between socio-economic classes and also between geographical regions. The Human Development Index (HDI) of the bottom province (Sulu, 0.35) is less than half of that of the top province (Bulacan, 0.76). Eight of the 10 provinces with the lowest HDI are in Mindanao while all the 10 provinces with the highest HDI are in Luzon, including seven in the two regions nearest Metro Manila. Based on the 2006 figures of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the fisherfolk, farmers, children and women comprised the poorest sectors with poverty incidence of 50%, 44%, 41% and 30%, respectively.

It is imperative that the new Administration address the issue of poverty by immediately and adequately implementing the four existing asset reform laws in our country – the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the Fisheries Code, the Urban Development and Housing Act, and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

Implementing these asset reform measures will also help expand the domestic demand as more people will get to own production and other assets, and increase their income.

The new Administration should also provide safety nets for and facilitate access to social services by the people, particularly the poorest of the poor, and ensure effective coordination of the anti-poverty programs of government, the business sector, and civil society.

#### A. Asset Reform

##### 1) Agrarian Reform:

- Decisively Implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Extension with Reforms.
- Recognize, respect, and support the rights of women farmers and fishers.

##### 2) Fisheries:

- Issue a new Department Administrative Order (DAO) based on the total adoption of DAO No. 2001-17 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, setting aside 15 kilometers of municipal coastal waters for the exclusive use of marginalized fisherfolk, and ensure the immediate delineation of municipal waters.
- Adopt a Joint Administrative Order on fisherfolk settlement (with the various national government agencies concerned) and clearly identify the government agency to implement it.
- Institute policies that will clearly define “women in fisheries”, recognize their contributions to the sector and industry, and require at least 40% women’s representation in all special bodies related to fisheries.
- Have an empowered body with a clearly defined function to ensure the effective implementation of the Fisheries Code.

##### 3) Housing:

- Decisively create and implement a comprehensive shelter plan that will explore and study other alternative mechanisms for delivery of housing services and products.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in housing, from budget preparation to project implementation, by implementing regular performance review of the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) and the National Housing Authority (NHA), and by instituting other relevant safeguards.
- Institute mechanisms for the strengthened implementation of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA).
- Work towards the creation of a Department of Housing that would integrate all of the GOCCs, offices and other agencies working for housing concerns.
- Increase the budget for housing from 0.5 to 2% of the total budget, prioritize socialized housing and ensure the efficient utilization of these funds.

##### 4) Indigenous Peoples (IPs):

- Fast-track delineation and titling under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.
- Enforce the a priori right of IPs within the lands covered by Certificates of Ancestral Land Title (CALTs) over state security and economic development.

#### B. Social Safety Nets for the Poorest of the Poor:

- Implement an expanded conditional cash transfer (CCT) program for the poorest of the poor and integrate this with supply-side reforms in health care and education, in order to avoid policy inconsistency and resource wastage, ensure that all policies, including monetary, fiscal,

trade, as well as industrial and agricultural policies, are cohesively geared towards increased employment.

#### C. Social Services

##### 1) Health:

- Increase PhilHealth coverage among the poorest and most vulnerable sectors, work towards universal PhilHealth coverage, and institute reforms to ensure affordable and quality health care.

##### 2) Education:

- Institute measures to strengthen local school boards, promote a culture-sensitive education system, and community involvement in and improved access to basic education.

#### D. Population Policy:

- Institute a clear and rational population policy that prevents abortions and unwanted pregnancies, fosters the sustainable growth of our economy, alleviates the chronic poverty that besets our people and promotes gender equality and the rights of women.

#### E. Effective Coordination of Anti-Poverty Programs:

- Take an active role in the National Anti-Poverty Commission and ensure that it functions effectively in coordinating and overseeing the anti-poverty programs of government and in partnering with business and civil society organizations.

### III. Building Peace

- Clearly define the national peace agenda which capsulizes the local peace agenda and ensures CSO representation in the peace process.
- Pursue and sustain the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF), and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Mindanao (RPMM), and fully implement previous agreements, including the peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).
- Continue to develop and promote paradigms and frameworks for the peaceful settlement and transformation of conflicts among the Bangsamoro, the Lumads, settlers and other IPs, through consultation, dialogue, and massive information campaigns.
- Address the issue of unregulated proliferation of small arms especially in Mindanao as a peace and security concern.

### IV. Promoting a Sustainable Economy

A sustainable economy means a cleaner and environmentally friendly production and distribution of goods and services. Economic growth cannot be single-mindedly pursued regardless of its cost to the environment even in times of great need such as the present economic crisis.

The new Administration must strike a delicate balance between the needs of our people and the demands of an environment that is rapidly losing its capacity to renew itself. It must enact measures, both legislative and executive, that will protect the environment and conserve our natural resources while ensuring that

the gains of a sustainable development also benefit the most vulnerable of our people.

A sustainable economy also requires an integrated, balanced and sustainable industrialized economy. We need to do more with less by the efficient use of resources, increased investments, stronger stability, and greater socially responsive competition. We also need to strengthen the domestic economy through the promotion of industrialization while at the same time maximizing the international markets.

Our country has become dependent on OFW remittances to keep our economy afloat. We believe that we should aim to generate the needed jobs locally so that Filipinos are not forced to be away from their families to better (economically speaking) their lives. At the same time, we recognize the freedom of Filipinos to seek a better life here or abroad, and that we should ensure that our OFWs are adequately supported and protected wherever they are.

Most importantly, we must stress the development of skills and human capital. A sustainable economy requires us to take a long-term view of the economy, rather than adopting short-term fixes.

#### A. Environment

##### 1) Climate Change:

- Certify as urgent the Disaster Risk Management Bill, strengthening Philippine disaster management capability by institutionalizing the National Disaster Risk Management Framework to decrease disaster vulnerability, increase capability for recovery, and enhance over-all resilience to disasters.
- Work towards the full and speedy implementation of Republic Act 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009.

##### 2) Mining:

- Bring back mining within the framework of national sustainable development, and in the context of prudent respect, protection and fulfilment of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and human rights, and sustainable environment.
- Revoke EO 270-A (Revitalization of the Philippine Mining Industry), reject the National Minerals Action Plan (NMAP), implement of a nationwide moratorium on the approval of new large-scale mining operations and certify of the Alternative Mining Bill (AMB) as an urgent legislative proposal.

#### B. Strengthen the Local Economy:

- Support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to improve the competitiveness of domestic firms and spur job generation
- Promote regular employment and protect the right to security of tenure of workers by pushing for the enactment of the Security of Tenure Bill (HB2453) and by directing the Secretary of Labor to ensure the effective enforcement of existing labor laws and compliance with labor standards.

#### C. Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-processing:

- Adopt sustainable agriculture and organic agriculture and natural farming systems as the framework for the Department of Agriculture's commodity programs.
- Hasten the shift of support services to farmers from subsidy on fertilizers and hybrid seeds, to market support such as information dissemination, organic certification, linkaging, and capacity building.
- Promote agri-processing through various means including strengthening halal certification in the country.



#### D. Investments in and Regulation of Public Utilities:

- Provide for effective and appropriate regulation with multi-sectoral representation of public utilities, including power and water.
- Conduct a comprehensive study of the transportation industry to address issues like monopoly-control/ownership, public safety, among others.
- Invest in and support alternative energy sources.

#### E. Fiscal and Tax Reform

##### 1) Discretionary Funds and Internal Revenue Allotment:

- Direct the funds that would otherwise be allocated to the President's and legislators' "discretionary funds" (Priority Development Assistance Fund or PDAF, President's Social Fund, etc.), to local governments to supplement the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and at the same time instituting measures that would pave the way for the proper use of discretionary funds.
- Support measures that propose the inclusion of magnitude and incidence of poverty in the determination of the IRA.

##### 2) Increasing Government Revenues:

- Increase and index "sin" taxes, impose luxury taxes, simplify the income tax system to minimize loopholes and leakages, and ensure effective collection of taxes and other fees, including an effective program to go after "big time" tax evaders.

##### 3) Budget Impoundment:

- Support the enactment of the Budget Impoundment Control Act, and not resort to the practice of budget impoundment, i.e., withholding the release of fund allocations for political and other reasons, including the generation of savings that the President can use at her/his discretion.

##### 4) Debt Audit:

- Form a Congressional Debt Audit Commission that will scrutinize all public debt and contingent liabilities.

This Development and Reform Agenda is the product of numerous consultations with a broad range of NGOs and POs working in different sectors, both in the national and the provincial level. We subscribe to this Agenda and we will strive to make the Presidential and other candidates in the upcoming 2010 elections study this agenda and adopt its policy recommendations into their platforms of government. We will use this Development and Reform agenda in our various advocacy work and voters' education programs from now until the May 2010 elections, and even after, as we critically and creatively engage the new Administration. We invite other NGOs and POs and other citizens to join us in this endeavor.

## Signatory Organizations:

Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)	Badiangan Multi-Sectoral Initiatives (BMI) Iloilo
Association of Foundations (AF)	Benguet Network of Development Oriented POs, Inc.
Central Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (CenVISNET)	Black and White Movement
Coalition for Bicol Development NGOs (CBD)	Bugasong Multi-purpose Cooperative (Bugasong MPC) –Antique
Cordillera Network of NGOs & POs (CORDNET)	Center for Social Concerns & Development (CESCOD) - Zamboanga del Norte
Eastern Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (EVNet)	Change Politics Movement (CPM)
National Council on Social Development (NCSD)	Christian Youth for Development (CYD) - Occidental Mindoro
Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)	Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines (CMFP)
Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)	Community Organizers Multiversity (COM)
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas(PHILDHARRA)	Coordinating Council of Muslim Organization in the Philippines , Inc. (CCMOP) - Cotabato City
Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE)	Creative Training Research And Consultancy Services For Asia Pacific (CTRC) – Baguio
National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)	Eastern Samar Social Development Organization
Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs (WEVNet)	Family of God's Little Children-Foundation Center, Inc. (FGLC-FCI) - Leyte
Abak na Balen, Inc. Pampanga	Foundation for Growth and Organizational Upliftment of People, Inc. (GROUP) - Misamis Oriental
Agri-Aqua Development Coalition – MINDANAO (AADC-Mindanao)	Hagdang sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc. (HSPFI) - Misamis Oriental
Akbayan Citizens' Action Party (AKBAYAN)	Ifugao Global Entrepreneurs Multi-Purpose Cooperative (IGEMCO) - Ifugao
Aktibong Nagsusulong ng Alternatibong Kultura, Inc. (Anak-Teatro, Inc)	Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People (IRDT) - Zamboanga
Alay sa Kapatid Foundation, Inc. (AKAP) - Baguio	Kaagapay – Occidental Mindoro
Alejandro Go Beltran Development Foundation (AGB) - Cagayan de Oro City	KAANIB Foundation, Inc (KFI) - Bukidnon
Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)	Kabinnulig Para Panagdur-as Iti Abra (KAPPIA Network Inc) - Abra
Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation (AMDF) Lanao del Sur	Kahublagan sang Panimalay Foundation, Inc. – Iloilo
Ateneo School of Government	Kalipunan ng mga Kababaihan sa Sablayan, Kanlurang Mindoro (KAKASA KAMI) - Occidental Mindoro

Koalisyon ng Katutubo at Samahan ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KASAPI)	Participatory Research Organization of Communities and Education towards Struggle for Self-Reliance – Bohol, Inc. (PROCESS-Bohol)
Lakas ng Kababaihan Magsasaka sa Kanayunan (LAKAMBINI)	People’s Alternative Studies Center for Research and Education in Social Development, Inc. (PASCREs)
Liwawa ed Asinan Foundation, Inc. (LEAF)	Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
Luna Rural Development Center and Tour Farm (The Farm) - Nueva Ecija	PILIPINA, Inc.
Mindoreno Movement for Good Governance (GO-GO MINDORO) – Oriental Mindoro	Procurement Watch, Inc. (PWI)
Molo Transport for Unity (MTU) - Iloilo	Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Kapuluan (SAMASAKA)
Muslim-Christian Agency for Rural Development, Inc (MUCAARD, Inc.) - Cagayan de Oro	Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation, Inc.
Nagkaykaysa nga Mannalon ken Mangngalap ti Sudipen (NAGMASUDI) - La Union	Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB)
National Citizen’s Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)	South Pacific Integrated Area Development Foundation, Inc (SPIADFI) - Leyte
NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR)	Surigao Sur Organization for Human Development, Inc. (SSOFHDEV, Inc)
Nutrilinc Pampanga	Technology Outreach and Community Help foundation, Inc (TOUCH) - Cagayan de Oro
Pagbigyan Naman, Inc. - Occidental Mindoro	Ugnayan Lakas ng mga Apektadong Pamilya sa Baybaying Ilog (ULAP)
Pagtinabangay Foundation, Inc. (PFI) - Leyte	United Christian Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (UCFMC) - La Union
Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)	Villa Jeepney Owners and Drivers Association (VILJODRAS) – Iloilo
Pambansang Kilusan nga mga Samahang Magsasaka-Mindanao (PAKISAMA-Mindanao)	Visayas Cooperative Development Center (VICTO)
Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka-Northern Central Luzon (PAKISAMA-NCL/Norte) - Benguet	Zamboanga Coalition of Development NGOs, Inc. (ZAMCODE) - Zamboanga City
Participatory Research Organization of Communities and Education towards Struggle for Self-Reliance – Panay, Inc. (PROCESS-Panay)	Western Samar Development Foundation, Inc (WESADEF, INC)

Organizations who agree to support this agenda are encouraged to inform CODE-NGO so that we can add you to the list of signatory organizations and inform you of relevant updates. Please write to:

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The full version of the Development and Reform Agenda may be viewed at and downloaded from [www.code-ngo.org](http://www.code-ngo.org).

