

**CODE-NGO General Assembly Resolution  
Calling for the Immediate Approval of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill**

**GA Resolution No. 15-17-FY2010-11**

Whereas, Article 3, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that

“The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.”

Whereas, the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, which is now pending in the House of Representatives and the Senate, is vital in defining the guidelines for and facilitating the realization of the right to information of the people; as such, the FOI Bill is also crucial in the effort to combat corruption in government;

Whereas, while the Aquino administration, has made important strides for transparency and accountability and has created spaces for meaningful engagement with civil society, it has not yet included in its priority legislative measures the Freedom of Information bill, which is a key instrument in ensuring the institutionalization of the transparency and participatory processes being created today;

Whereas, the Philippines is a founding member of the Open Government Partnership, an international partnership to push for transparent, accountable, and participatory governments, led by the United States and Brazil, wherein the Philippines is the only founding member that does not have a Freedom of Information law, one of the key requirements of the Open Government Partnership;

Now, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to call on the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate, particularly Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Committee Chairpersons Senator Gregorio Honasan and Congressman Ben Evardone, to ensure the immediate approval of the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill;

Be it further resolved to call on President Benigno S. Aquino III to include the FOI bill in the priority legislative agenda of his Administration and to strongly support its approval by Congress;

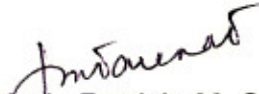


Prepared by:



Sixto Donato C. Macasaet  
Executive Director

Attested to by:



Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas  
Chairperson