



A Network of People
Building Peace



PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE SOUTHEAST ASIA LAUNCH

Outcome Document

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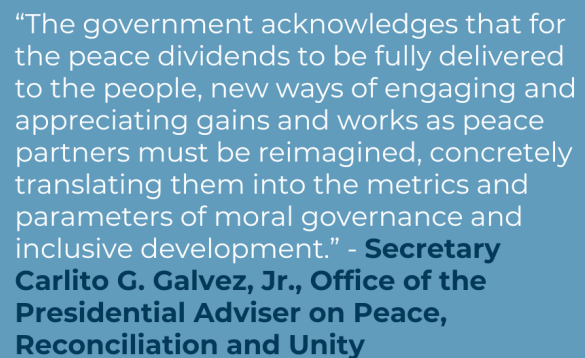
Reimagining and Reenergizing Support for the Bangsamoro Peace Process

Launch of the Principles for Peace in Southeast Asia

Preamble

On July 11, 2023, over 150 key stakeholders of the Bangsamoro Peace Process, including high-ranking officials from national government and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, civil society networks, religious leaders, academics, diplomats, international development agencies, media, and regional peacebuilding practitioners gathered to mark the launch of the Principles for Peace (P4P) in the Southeast Asia region. The event instigated a collaborative and inclusive process of reflection on the Bangsamoro peace agreement and the contributions of diverse constituencies to ensure its success and durability.

The discussions during this event yielded profound insights and substantive pledges, which are distilled into four significant outcomes: firstly, a unanimous consensus on the *need to safeguard the successes of the Bangsamoro peace process and to strengthen its operationalization*. While acknowledging the accomplishments of the peace agreement, participants emphasized the importance of tangible actions to effectively execute its principles and provisions, as echoed in sentiments expressed by influential figures such as **Special Assistant to the President of the Philippines**, Secretary Antonio Ernesto F. Lagdameo, Jr. and **Assistant Secretary for Mindanao Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs**, Mr. Renato Villa, among others.



“The government acknowledges that for the peace dividends to be fully delivered to the people, new ways of engaging and appreciating gains and works as peace partners must be reimagined, concretely translating them into the metrics and parameters of moral governance and inclusive development.” - **Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity**

Secondly, the event *revitalized support and commitments to upholding peace in the Bangsamoro region*. Sectoral leaders pledged to mobilize their communities to address deficiencies and constructively contribute to the peace agreement's realization. The commitment to new approaches to achieve lasting peace from **Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity**, Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., was particularly noteworthy, in light of his Office's critical role in coordinating the implementation of the peace agreement on behalf of the national government.

Recognizing the vital role that pluralism and inclusion play in peace agreement implementation, participants *embraced cross-sector collaboration and partnerships*. The launch event emerged as a unique platform for various sectors to unify under a shared vision and purpose, resonating with the call for collaboration by Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., the **Archbishop Emeritus of Cotabato**, Cardinal Orlando B. Quevedo, and others.

Finally, the discussions among participants underscored the *value of the Principles for Peace as a framework to advance reflection and action on the Bangsamoro Peace Process*. Leveraged as a diagnostic tool, the P4P provided a common language and metrics to analyze the state of the implementation of the peace agreement and to guide strategic thinking on the necessary next steps. Esteemed figures such as the **Chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Implementing Panel**, Hon. Mohagher Iqbal emphasized the relevance and potential of the P4P framework in promoting dignity and accountability in conflict resolution efforts.

The launch event ignited a wave of concrete commitments across sectors, reaffirming the collective determination to propel the Bangsamoro peace process forward, using the P4P as a framework for analysis and decision-making. It thus marked the creation of a participatory and multistakeholder platform to advance the implementation of the peace accords.

This flagship event was organized by the **Principles for Peace Foundation**, the **Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict** (GPPAC), **Initiatives for International Dialogue** (IID), **International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance Inc.** (INCITEGov), and **Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute** (GZOPI). This alliance of partners remains dedicated to nurturing the momentum generated by the launch of the platform and will support stakeholders in translating commitments into actions in this critical period leading to elections and the transition to full autonomy in the Bangsamoro region in 2025.

Key Outcomes

Four common themes emerged from the dialogues and working sessions during the launch event and are distilled into key outcomes:

1. Consensus on the need to safeguard the gains of the Bangsamoro peace process and strengthen implementation of the peace agreement

Participants collectively acclaimed the critical successes of the peace process, notably in halting violent conflict in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and in serving as a laudable example of a locally-led, internationally supported peace accord. They acknowledged a continuing need to take concrete actions to implement the principles and provisions of the agreement to achieve effective and lasting peace. In her remarks opening the event, **longtime Mindanao peace activist and event facilitator Ms. Mags Maglana** noted that the Bangsamoro peace process benefited the region and the country, while also serving a crucial model for the world.

The **Special Assistant to the President of the Philippines, Secretary Antonio Ernesto F. Lagdameo, Jr.** recalled that the Bangsamoro process is “a great point of national pride” and there is “a need for continuity in our efforts to ensure a better future for our country.” Remarks on behalf of the **Assistant Secretary for Mindanao Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Renato Villa**, highlighted that peace in the Bangsamoro is key to wider peace in the southeast Asia region and that, in light of the Philippines ambitions to have a stronger global voice on peace and security – notably through a bid for membership of the UN Security Council – it is important to consolidate peace domestically. **Executive Director of Principles for Peace Foundation, Ms. Hiba Qasas**, recalled that the P4P were deeply inspired by the successes of the Bangsamoro peace agreement and consultations with stakeholders involved the process.

Chair of Principles for Peace Foundation and Former Foreign Minister of The Netherlands, Hon. Bert Koenders emphasized that ongoing efforts around the peace process must address the real drivers of conflict and ensure that peacebuilding mandates do not drift away from the needs of the people. He affirmed that there is a need to ensure that channels for communication are kept open and communities are able to actively contribute to the peace process.

Chairperson of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, Mr. Guiamel Alim, stressed that peacebuilding and peacemaking do not end even after a peace agreement is signed. If anything, they must be continuously and collaboratively reinforced: “coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success.”

Executive Director of Initiatives for International Dialogue and Southeast Asia Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Mr. Gus Micalat, underscored the urgency to act, with a narrow remaining window of opportunity to address structural issues, with local elections in 2025 signaling the end of the transition period in the Bangsamoro.

2. Revitalization of commitment and pledges for peace in the BARMM

The launch event galvanized renewed momentum for peace among attendees. While there was a pragmatic acknowledgement of the ongoing challenges of implementing the peace agreement, there was a strong call from stakeholders across diverse sectors to reignite engagement on peace advocacy and action. Sectoral leaders pledged to mobilize their sectors and communities to address shortcomings and contribute constructively to the implementation.

Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., recognized existing issues of increased horizontal conflicts in the region as an obstacle to peace, yet reiterated the national government's determination "now more than ever, to fulfill to the letter all the commitments it has made under all Bangsamoro peace agreements." He acknowledged a need for new approaches and ways of engaging stakeholders in order for the peace dividends of responsive governance and inclusive development to be fully delivered to the people.

Lead Convenor of the Mindanao Peaceweavers, Ms. Myla Leguro, acknowledged the event and the Principles for Peace as an important platform to spark a collective vision, passion and commitment among those invested in peace in the Bangsamoro. **Board Member of Principles for Peace Foundation and former Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Ms. Teresita Quintos Deles**, evoked the fragility of peace and the need for all stakeholders to care for the Bangsamoro process, to achieve the aspiration of durable and effective peace.

3. Value of cross-sector collaboration and platforms for multistakeholder dialogue

Participants broadly recognized the need for diverse constituencies to contribute to the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace agreement. They emphasized the pressing need to strengthen partnerships for lasting peace and appreciated the event as a rare opportunity for different sectors to come together around a common vision and purpose.

During the cross-sector discussions, ongoing contentious social, economic, security and political issues and potential spoilers of the Bangsamoro peace process emerged. Discussants acknowledged that comprehensively addressing these questions required an inclusive and participatory multistakeholder approach. **Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.**, stated that "it is a humble acknowledgment that the government cannot do it alone and needs reliable partners [...] to help all parties and stakeholders implement peace agreements efficiently and more meaningfully."

Archbishop Emeritus of Cotabato, Cardinal Orlando B. Quevedo, highlighted the importance of bringing stakeholders across different faith groups together to promote a culture of peace, while

Chairperson and President of Coffee for Peace, Inc., Ms. Joji Felicitas B. Pantoja, outlined the crucial role that business and investment actors could play in providing economic stability and sustaining peace and the need to more intentionally integrate them into peacebuilding. **President of the Mindanao State University System, Atty. Basari Mapupuno**, called upon his fellow academics to leverage their role and influence as leaders in education to strengthen young people's understanding of and participation in peace and governance processes.

4. Relevance of Principles for Peace as a common framework to advance the peace process

Through the working sessions, participants deployed the Principles for Peace as a diagnostic tool to assess progress on various elements of the peace agreement. These exercises highlighted the P4P as a practical lens and framework to analyze the state of play of peace processes and design and plan action accordingly.

Chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Implementing Panel and Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, Hon. Mohagher Iqbal, reflected that

P4P's *dignity* principle resonates with the Bangsamoro local concept of *maratabat*, "a framework of order, cohesion, and action that provides individuals with a sense of identity, belonging and purpose within their social structures." He highlighted that principles based on common values can facilitate conflict resolution and promote peace by enabling parties involved in conflicts to find common ground and reach mutually beneficial resolutions, fostering reconciliation and reducing the likelihood of future violence.

Participants also expressed the value of the P4P Foundation's convening capability and its credibility as an independent entity to serve as a connective tissue, convening diverse voices from within and outside the Philippines and fostering solidarity around the common framework of the Principles for Peace.

Secretary General of the New Aceh Consortium and GPPAC SEA Aceh Focal Point, Mr. Juanda Djamal, recalled the similarities between the Aceh and the Bangsamoro conflicts and peace processes and called for greater learning and partnership across countries to leverage the Principles as a foundation to deepen engagement on both agreements. **Executive Director of GZO Peace Institute, Ms. Karen Tañada**, underscored the role of the regional launch of the P4P as an opportunity to establish a broader initiative of convening various stakeholder perspectives, experiences, and learning around a common purpose of strengthening the Bangsamoro peace agreement.

Finally, participants identified the potential of the P4P as a framework for participatory, periodic reviews of the status of implementation of the peace agreement, to inform policy and decision-making and serve as an accountability tool. Indeed, **Special Assistant to the President, Hon. Antonio Ernesto F. Lagdameo, Jr.**, expressed his Office's desire to foster "a longstanding and inclusive process involving multiple stakeholders, who make evidence-based and politically conscious decisions to achieve lasting peace."

Key commitments

Over the course of in-depth, cross-sector discussions, leaders in their fields made various concrete commitments towards advancing the peace process through the framework of the P4P. This included:

- Government representatives stated their desire for more meaningful engagement on the Principles for Peace and to participate in collaborative spaces for analysis with non-government actors.
- Educational institutions pledged to integrate Principles for Peace into curricula and promote inter-faith dialogue.
- Private sector actors committed to explore opportunities to partner with civil society organizations to accompany the peace process.
- Media representatives pledged to amplify the often-sidelined voices from indigenous communities, IDPs, youths, and women and to promote pluralism in their coverage.
- Catholic Church representatives reaffirmed the Church's commitment to coordinate efforts with CSOs and promote in dialogue as tool for peace.
- International development agencies undertook to explore how P4P could be integrated into their peacebuilding initiatives.
- CSO networks pledged to facilitate dialogue among BARMM leaders and engage local government units on taking a more active role in the peace process.

These commitments reflected a collective ambition to work collaboratively to realize the promises of the Bangsamoro peace agreement, in a way that truly addresses the root causes of conflict and minimizes incentives for a resurgence of violence. Participants universally affirmed the Principles for Peace as a significant and practically applicable framework to harness the resources and capacities of their sectors to support continuous, effective and durable implementation of the peace process.

A call to action

The P4P launch event highlighted desire and momentum from all sectors gathered to ensure the success of the Bangsamoro peace process. The event therefore serves as the launch of a broader effort to convene and consolidate a multistakeholder peace constituency to strengthen implementation of the peace agreement. The P4P Foundation, GPPAC, IID, INCITEGov and GZOPI are committed to supporting this process and to realizing the pledges made by various stakeholders during the event. During the remainder of the transition period before the 2025 local elections, this partnership alliance will:

- Continue to engage with key constituencies around commitments made during the dialogue, supporting them to develop concrete plans of action based on the Principles for Peace.
- Convene multi stakeholder platforms for joint assessment and planning around initiatives to address gaps in the peace process implementation and strengthen ongoing processes, with the P4P serving as a guiding framework for analysis and action.
- Support the development of a feedback loop for decision-makers, by facilitating participatory, inclusive and transparent processes for review of the peace process implementation using the P4P as a diagnostic tool. This will generate actionable evidence to support decision-makers in policy and planning.

Appendix I

Offices and Organizations Represented

SPEAKERS		
Joji Pantoja	CEO	Coffee for Peace Inc.,
Guiamel Alim	Chair	Consortium of the Bangsamoro Civil Society
Archbishop Jose Cabantan	Archbishop	Metropolitan Diocese of Cagayan de Oro
Atty. Basari Mapupuno	President	Mindanao State University System
Minister Mohagher Iqbal	MBHTE Minister	Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace Implementing Panel / MBHTE
Juanda Jamal	Secretary-General	New Aceh Consortium
Hon. Carlito Galvez Jr.	Secretary	Office of the Presidential Advisor to the Peace Process
Hon. Antonio Lagdameo Jr.	Secretary	Office of the Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of the Philippines
GOVERNMENT		
Atty. Anna Tarhata Basman	Deputy Floor Leader	Bangsamoro Government
Atty. Sha Elijah Dumama-Alba	Attorney General of Bangsamoro	Bangsamoro Government
Baintan Ampatuan	Member of Parliament	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Atty. Ishak Mastura	Member of Parliament	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Atty. Rasol Mitmug	Member of Parliament	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Nurredha I. Misuari	Member of Parliament	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Atty. Jose Lorena	Member of Parliament	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Omar Yasser Sema	Deputy Speaker	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Raquel G. Javier	Political Assistant and Protocol Officer	DFA Mindanao
Atty. Mambuhay Ayesha Alonto	Representative	Office of Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, Supreme Court of the Philippines
Atty. Abdulwahid Shahana	Representative	Office of Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, Supreme Court of the Philippines
CIVIL SOCIETY		
Yolly Esguerra	/	/

Antonio Apat	Chairperson	Agong Peace Network
Maryland Gargar	Project Officer	Balaod Mindanaw/FORUM ASIA member
Glen Larot	Program Officer	Balay Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
Myla Leguro	Technical Advisor	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Sandino Soliman	OIC Executive Director	Caucus of Development NGO Networks
Exan Salic Jr.	Executive Director	Conciliation Resources
Patrick Stutz	Advisor on Gender and Conflict	Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Bonn (GIZ)
Zineb Naini	Project Manager	ForumZFD
Sofia Paguita	Program Officer	ForumZFD
Atty. Benedicto Bacani	Executive Director	Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG)
Amenodin Cali	Executive Director	Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation
Ibrahim Salic	Executive Director	Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA)
Sittie Aina Mambuay	Youth Representative	Marawi's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Youth Representative
Janinah Hadji Marjan	Youth Representative	Marawi's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Youth Representative
Patricia Sarenas	Chairperson	Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE)
Christine Vertucci	Director	Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute
Villareal Norena	Secretary General	Mindanao People's Peace Movement (MPPM)
Alan Olubabang	Program Officer	Mindanao People's Peace Movement (MPPM)
Carmen Lauzon-Gatmaytan	Coordinator	Mindanao We Act
Drieza Liningding	Chairperson	Moro Consensus Group
Alim Muamar Sharif	Program Manager	Nonviolent Peaceforce
Moya Abelardo	Executive Director	Pakigdait Inc.,
Gimaidee Ann Moya	/	Pakigdait Inc.,
Rev. Daniel Pantoja	Executive Director	PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI)

Amina Rasul	President	Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy
Samira Gutoc	Co-convenor	Ranao Rescue Team
Victor Sapar	Managing Director	Techremote
Myn Garcia	Deputy Country Director	The Asia Foundation
Noraida Chio	Project Lead/BARMM	The Asia Foundation
Hashim Selahuddin	Representative	The Moropreneur
Khuzaima Maranda	Executive Director	Thuma ko Kapagingud Service Organization
Leticio Datuwata	Executive Director	Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG)
Morsidin Husain	Executive Director	United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD)
Elizabeth Yang	National Coordinator	We ACT/PILIPINA
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Ramon Beleno	Professor	Ateneo de Davao University
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Tsuchiya Kisho	Assistant Professor	Center for Southeast Asian Studies
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Julio Teehankee	Chair	International Studies, De la Salle University
Sorhalia Latiph-Yusoph	Director	Meranaw Cultural Heritage Center (MCHC) / Mindanao State University
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Tirmizy Abdullah	Professor	Mindanao State University- Marawi
Prof. Al Mahdi Alonto	Professor	MSU Marawi

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Nik Azura Nik Narson	Program Manager	SUARAM Malaysia
Frank Theera	Executive Director	TRIPNET
Cecilia Jimenez-Damary	Former Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons	United Nations
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Maria Christine Garcia	Head Of Sustainability	Nestlé Philippines Inc.
Dennis Ellormino	Senior Program Officer	Philippines Business for Social Progress
POLITICAL PARTY		
Angelina Ludovice-Katoh	Former AKBAYAN Representative	AKBAYAN
MEDIA		
Rappler		
Sunstar Davao		
The Edge		
Mindanao Times		
Davao Today		
(PTV) People's Television Network		
(PIA) Philippine Information Agency		
ORGANIZERS		

Gus Miclat	Executive Director	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Tuan Nguyen Mahn	Project Manager	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Jones Janelle Estocapio	Project Associate	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Visa Cua	Admin Staff	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Johanna Samonte	KMC Officer	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Sean Apostol	Project Support Staff	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Niaswane Kortonilo	Intern	Initiatives for International Dialogue
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Lucille Espinosa	Finance Officer	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Jessica Jose	Finance Officer	Initiatives for International Dialogue
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