



MISYON NG PILIPINAS SA MGA NAGKAKAISANG
BANSANG AT IBA PANG SAMAHANG PANDAIGDIG

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honor to transmit the attached comments/inputs on the concept note for the preliminary study on rural women and the right to food.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

OHCHR REGISTRY

01 JUN 2012

Recipients: HRC-AC.....
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Geneva, 24 May 2012

The Secretariat
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, Palais Wilson
CH 1201 Geneva



Comments of the Philippine Commission on Women on the Concept Note for the Preliminary Study on Rural Women and the Right to Food

I. On Introduction

- The Introduction should already define **who are the rural women** to put into context who will be benefited by the study.
- In the Philippine context, "**Rural Women** are women residing and/or directly working in the predominantly agricultural and coastal communities and forest areas; whether engaged in paid or unpaid, regular or seasonal, on-farm or off-farm activities, food preparation, managing the household, caring for the children and other similar activities, home-based and other environmental management and natural resource-based industries."

II. On The international legal framework applicable to rural women

- **Item 6** can read as : " In addition to this legal imperative.....among which are the rights to education and training.....to decent work, to credit, livelihood, capital and technology, and other economic and social benefits and protection, to property.....to political representation and participation.....on non-discrimination.
- These rights should also include right to protection from disasters, right to resources for food production, right to housing and right to information.
- **On Item 7**, the identification of the international legal instruments should be analyzed vis-à-vis the legal instruments or existing country framework/s on right to food to show the extent of commitment of a country to these international legal instruments.

III. On Patterns of discrimination of rural women

- This section can be expounded by considering two factors : a). that discrimination also stems from the accessibility (or the lack of it) of the vulnerable group to information and in the case of this Study, could be the level of awareness of these groups on the right to food, and b). the recognition that there are different levels of empowerment (or the women empowerment framework) which arise from the degree of discrimination vulnerable groups are experiencing.

IV. On strategies and policies for the legal protection of rural women

- On Item 18 : Other general legal strategies that can be considered are :

- a. food safety by strengthening food management, control and regulatory systems
 - b. equal status between women and men, whether married or not, in the titling of land and issuance of stewardship contracts and patents
 - c. equal treatment as agrarian reform beneficiaries, wherein the vested right of a woman agrarian beneficiary is defined by a woman's relationship to tillage, i.e. her direct and indirect contribution to the development of the land
 - d. recognition of customary rights of women to land
 - e. equal access to the use and management of fisheries and aquatic resources
 - f. equal status in the issuance of stewardship or lease agreements and other fishery rights
 - g. designing women-friendly and sustainable agriculture technology
 - h. economic opportunities for the indigenous and rural women particularly access to market for their produce
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