

## **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE FORMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP FOR THE GRP-MILF PEACE PROCESS**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) (hereafter referred to as "the Parties")

Committed to ending conflict in Mindanao through peaceful negotiations;

Dedicated to the successful outcome of the GRP-MILF Peace Process;

Recognizing the role that interested countries and international non-government organizations (INGO) can play in supporting the success of the GRP-MILF peace process

hereby adopt this Framework on the Formation of the International Contact Group (ICG) for the GRP-MILF Peace Process (hereafter referred to as the "Framework"):

Section 1. Mandate of the ICG. - The ICG is ad-hoc in nature and issue-specific in its engagement consistent with an international dimension in aid of the consensus that will effectively enable them to exert proper leverage and to sustain the interest of the Parties as well as maintain a level of comfort that restores mutual trust. The ICG draws its mandate from both Negotiating Peace Panels and the Third Party Facilitation:

- 1.1. To implement the mutually-agreed approaches during the negotiation on a regular and consistent basis, taking into consideration the mission-specific strategies and security arrangements in cooperation with both Parties;
- 1.2. To determine their mode of operation, including funding, as well as the adoption of their own internal rules consistent with its mandate, function and role; and
- 1.3. To continue its role and function in ensuring the successful implementation of signed agreements.

Section 2. Composition. - The ICG will consist of interested countries accompanying the peace process preferably drawn from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the European Union (EU) as well as accredited INGO to be invited by the Parties in consultation with the Third Party Facilitator.

Section 3. Functions. - The Parties have signed this Framework to engage the function of the ICG in the context herein stated. In connection with its mandate, the ICG will perform the following functions:

- 3.1. To attend and observe the face-to-face negotiations upon invitation by the Parties with the concurrence of the Facilitator;
- 3.2. To conduct visits, exchange views, and give advice on discreet basis in coordination with the Parties and the Facilitator;
- 3.3. To seek out the assistance of recognized experts, resource persons or groups on specific issues in order to support the Parties; and
- 3.4. To meet upon request by any of the Parties at various levels to help resolve substantive issues based on agreed agenda.

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Section 4. Participation of the OIC, EU and Eminent Persons. - The ICG shall invite and engage the OIC, the EU and eminent persons to participate in its activities.

Section 5. Participation of INGO. - Mindful of the interests of the stakeholders to benefit from and expect significant peace dividends from the ICG mission, the Parties will designate INGO that will be accredited along with their named local NGO partners. In relation to the functions of the ICG, the INGO will perform the following roles:

- 5.1. To engage and act as a bridge between the Parties, ICG, Facilitator and their local partners and civil society in support of the peace process;
- 5.2. To exchange views, provide research inputs, give feedback and advice to the Parties in coordination with the Facilitator; and
- 5.3. To establish communication channels in furtherance of peace process advocacy.

Section 6. Relationship with the Facilitator. - The ICG shall coordinate and work closely with the Facilitator. The coordination between the ICG and the Facilitator will be carried out by the representative designated by the former.

Section 7. Confidentiality. - All information, data or opinion generated or exchanged in connection with the work of the ICG shall be strictly privileged and confidential.

Section 8. Safety and Security Guarantees. - The Parties hereby agree to extend the applicability of the GRP-MILF Agreement on Safety and Security Guarantees dated March 9, 2000 to the ICG herein set up.

Section 9. Special Provision. - This Framework shall be subject to revision upon signing of the Comprehensive Compact to extend the function and role of the ICG in the implementation phase.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This Framework shall come into force on the date of its signature.

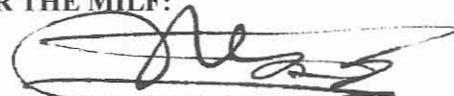
Done this 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

FOR THE GRP:



RAFAEL E. SEGUÍS  
GRP Panel Chairman

FOR THE MILF:



MOHAGHER IQBAL  
MILF Panel Chairman

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:



DATUK OTHMAN BIN ABDUL RAZAK  
Malaysian Government Facilitator