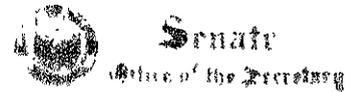


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAR -5 P6 03

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *J*

P.S.R. No. 1218

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON
MARCH 8, 2015 ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

WHEREAS, International Women's Day, which emerged from the social movements in North America and across Europe at the turn of the twentieth century, "is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women."¹

WHEREAS, in 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March.

WHEREAS, the United Nation's theme for International Women's Day 2015 – "Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It!" "envisions a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination."

WHEREAS, women in the Philippines and around the world are active partners in the political, social, and economic life of their communities and play a critical role in not just providing and caring for their families but in substantially contributing to the growth of economies.

WHEREAS, in 1995, at the Fourth World Conference for Women, 189 states, including the Philippines, agreed to and signed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Commission on Women, "[t]he Beijing Platform for Action or the BPfA is a landmark document for advancing the rights of women and gender equality worldwide. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The international community came to a consensus and agreed to a comprehensive blueprint of commitments supporting the full development of women and their equality with men in many key areas. The BPfA affirmed the principles that would govern future actions and strategies for women, and firmly set in place an agenda for empowering women by integrating their concerns in

¹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/iwd/history.html>.

national plans and policies. Governments and the UN agreed to promote gender mainstreaming as a strategy to ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programs at the national, regional and international levels.”²

WHEREAS, according to the Beijing Platform for Action Progress Report prepared by the Philippine Commission on Women, “[i]n terms of overall progress achieved, the country showed good standing in certain global indicators on gender equality. In 2013, the Philippines rose to 5th rank (from 8th in 2012 and 2011), in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF) making it again the only Asian country to be included in the top ten. According to the WEF (2013), this rise in rank is due to the small improvements in the Political Empowerment and Economic Participation and Opportunity sub-indexes. The Philippines is also the only country in Asia and the Pacific that has fully closed the gender gap in both education and health, placing it in the first rank in the area of educational attainment and health and survival (life expectancy).”³

WHEREAS, despite the Philippines’ “notable achievements especially in closing the gender gap and in empowering women in the areas of political participation and in education... the progress of its work is hampered by persistent poverty, health and environmental issues.”⁴

WHEREAS, there is a need to support the laudable goals of the International Women’s Day not only to reaffirm the role of women in the Philippines but to recognize as well the need to continue to address the obstacles towards addressing lingering gender gap issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to support the goals of International Women’s Day as it recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the growth and development of the Philippines and reaffirms its commitment to not just end discrimination and violence against women and children but, ultimately, to ensure their safety and welfare.

Adopted,


SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

² <http://www.pcw.gov.ph/publication/beijing-platform-action-bpfa-20-philippine-progress-report>

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*