

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	The Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities and its Terms of Reference
Date	2 Jun 2015
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -)

The Maoist Insurgencies (1968 -)

Philippines-NDF

The Philippines have been defined by a series of center-periphery and often ideologically Maoist, separatist insurgencies. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began its war against the central Philippine government in 1968 through their armed wing – the New People’s Army (NPA). Further legitimacy was gained through the establishment of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in 1973. Grievances were predominantly opposed to the corruption and repression under the authoritarian Marcos regime.

Philippines-Cordillera

With the overthrow of Marcos’ regime in 1986, the CPP factionalized further to take on more localized characteristics. The Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) broke away from the NDF in 1986 to focus on the protection of the Cordilleran people and land in northern Luzon. Hostilities were formally ended in July 2011, with an agreement signed between the central government, the CPLA and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) that allowed for the absorption of CPLA fighters into the Philippine Army and the re-working of the CBA-CPLA into a socio-development organisation.

Philippines-RPM-P

Meanwhile, purge among the CPP in the early 1990s, encouraged the formation of a parallel party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (RPM-P). Their armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) which had carried out a number of assassinations during the 1980s at the bequest of the CPP, followed suit and allied themselves with the RPM-P in 1997 forming the (RPM-P-RPA-ABB). Severely weakened by the split with the CPP and with the arrest of several key figures, the RPM-P-RPA-ABB signed a peace agreement in December 2000, which encouraged the RPM-P’s branch in Mindanao to break away in 2001.

The CPP-NPA has only participated in intermittent talks with the government. Talks halted in 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration sought closer ties with the U.S. in the war on terror and added the CPP-NPA to the list of terrorist organisations, renewing violence. Following the launch of a counter-insurgency by the Philippine government, negotiations have been further delayed due to suspected internal differences between the CPP ‘old guard’ and younger members.

The Moro Insurgency (1968 -)

Philippines-Mindanao

The Moro Insurgency began in 1968, in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago after the killing of Moro Commandos, the so-called Jabidah Massacre, by the Philippine Army following a plot to invade Sabah province in Malaysia. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) captured a swath of territory in the mid-1970s. In an attempt to stem the violence, the constitution was reformed and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created 1990 granting a devolution of power to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Following the establishment of the ARMM, the MNLF splintered into a range of smaller groups including Islamic factions such as the

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, GPH Panel Chair; Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Panel Chair
Third parties	Signed in the presence of: Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, Malaysian Facilitator
Description	Agreement by the Parties establishing the Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities and the Terms of Reference it will abide by, which include the mandate, tasks, composition, funding, reporting methods, and duration. The Task Force will undertake all efforts related to socio-economic and development programs for MILF combatants and their communities until an Exit Agreement is signed.

Agreement document [PH_150602_ToR for Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 2, IV. Composition 3. The Task Force shall create a special team on the special socio-economic and development programs for the decommissioned women auxiliary forces of the MILF.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.
Border delimitation	No specific mention.
Cross-border provision	No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	No specific mention.
Elections	No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, III. Tasks - In order to fulfill its mandate, the Task Force shall perform the following tasks:
1. Undertake through agreed modalities the socio-economic and development programs for decommissioned combatants and their communities;
2. Coordinate with government agencies, development partners, private sector and other stakeholders in support of the socio-economic and development programs for MILF combatants and their communities;
3. Prepare procedures and timeline of implementation of socio-economic and development programs for decommissioned combatants and their communities;
4. Implement a communication plan as approved by the Panels;
5. Address implementation concerns at the Task Force level before elevation to the Panels.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 1, III. Tasks - In order to fulfill its mandate, the Task Force shall perform the following tasks: [...]
4. Implement a communication plan as approved by the Panels;

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

Page 1, II. Mandate - The Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities (hereinafter referred as Task Force) shall undertake all efforts related to socio-economic and development programs for MILF combatants and their communities identified under the Normalization Annex of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). It shall assist the Panels identify and implement socio-economic priorities and development projects that will address the needs of MILF combatants and their communities.

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Page 2, IV. Composition

3. The Task Force shall create a special team on the special socio-economic and development programs for the decommissioned women auxiliary forces of the MILF.

Page 2, V. Duration - The Task Force shall continue to exist until the signing of the Exit Agreement.

Page 2, VI. Reports and Recommendations

2. The Task Force shall provide relevant data to the Joint Normalization Committee for the conduct of its monitoring of the implementation of socio-economic and development programs for combatants and their communities.

Page 3, VII. Funding - The GPH shall provide funds for the operation of the Task Force. The Parties may mobilize financial support and technical expertise from local and development partners on matters related to its mandate.

Page 3, VIII. Amendments - This Terms of Reference shall be periodically reviewed by the GPH and MILF Panels and may be altered to meet the prevailing situation.

National economic plan

No specific mention.

Natural resources

No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** Page 3, IX. Confidentiality - All information, data, or opinions gathered, generated or exchanged in connection with the work of the Task Force shall be treated with utmost consideration for the safety and security of the source and the integrity of the peace process. Critical and or confidential information as defined by the Task Force may not be divulged to their respective organizations and other entities.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

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Intelligence services

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**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

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**Withdrawal of
foreign forces**

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

**Crime/organised
crime**

No specific mention.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory Signed in the presence of: Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, Malaysian Facilitator

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.