HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 21ST GRP-MILF
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The 21st GRP-MILF Technical Committee Meeting was held on March 6 to 7, 2000 at the Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City.

1. At the meeting, it was agreed that respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) shall be immediately organized according to the six (6) clusters of agenda items presented by the MILF. Each TWG shall be composed of one (1) Chairman, four (4) Members, and one (1) Secretary. The TWGs shall prepare their respective position papers on their assigned agenda items which shall serve as the bases of their discussions to establish points of consensus. Contentious points shall be elevated for discussion at the Technical Committee level before submission to the Peace Panels.

2. Both sides agreed to hold a joint meeting of their respective TWGs on 27 March 2000 to establish specific procedures and to adopt a timetable to complete their tasks. It was agreed that these tasks should be completed within one (1) to two (2) months from the date of the initial joint meeting (see attached Timetable).

3. At the Technical Committee meeting it was also agreed that the MILF proposals for an Agreement on Safety and Security Guarantees and for a Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws shall be discussed by the Peace Panels during its 3rd Round of Formal Talks on 8-9 March 2000.

4. The Technical Committees took note of Joint Resolution No. 001, Series of 2000, from the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCHRAs), Independent Fact-Finding Committee (IFFC), and Quick Response Team (QRT) and adopted Recommendation No. 4 of the resolution, stating the following:

"That the members of the three bodies, as far as it is applicable, be allowed to attend formal meetings of the Peace Panels, subject to the pleasure of the Chairmen or the nature of the matters taken during meetings."

Done this 7th day of March 2000 at the Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City.

FOR THE GRP:

FOR THE MILF:

EDIR. ALMA R. EVANGELISTA
Chairperson, GRP Technical Committee

PROF. MONER M. BAYUNAID
Chairperson, MILF Technical Committee

RESOLUTION No. 01
Series of 2000

A RESOLUTION MANDATING THE ORGANIZATION, SPECIFIC TASKS, AND INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE SIX (6) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS TO CLUSTER THE NINE (9) AGENDA ITEMS PRESENTED DURING THE 3RD ROUND OF GRP-MILF FORMAL PEACE TALKS

WHEREAS, during the 1st Formal Meeting on 19-20 January 2000 at the Da’wah Center, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, both GRP and MILF Peace Panels have adopted and approved the proposed talking points of the GRP-MILF Formal Peace Talks as submitted on 7 January 1997 and elaborated on 25 February 1997;

WHEREAS, during the said meeting, both Panels tasked their respective Technical Committees to cluster the nine (9) talking points and to create the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of both Parties which shall formulate position papers on the clustered Agenda Items;

WHEREAS, during the 2nd Round of GRP and MILF Formal Peace Talks held on 1-2 March 2000 in Cotabato City, a consensus was made to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented for discussion into six (6) aggregations;

WHEREAS, in the aforementioned meeting, the Technical Committees of both Panels were directed to discuss the proposed organization and specific tasks of the TWGs which will discuss the cited Agenda Items;

WHEREAS, in compliance with the aforesaid directive, the Technical Committees of both Panels during the 21st GRP-MILF Technical Committee Meeting on 6-7 March 2000 in Cotabato City discussed the organization, specific tasks, and indicative schedules of the TWGs;

NOW, THEREFORE, the GRP and MILF Peace Panels do hereby resolve the following:

1. To approve the creation and organization of the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the GRP and MILF which will prepare position papers on the clustered Agenda Items;

2. To designate TWG Chairpersons, Members, and Secretaries;

3. To task the TWGs with the following:

   3.1 To conduct a joint GRP-MILF TWG Meeting on 27 March 2000 to discuss and adopt rules and procedures, joint meetings, and the format to be adopted for the position papers;

   3.2 To establish the specific tasks of the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the GRP and MILF which will prepare position papers on the clustered Agenda Items;

   3.3 To finalize the indicative schedule of meetings of the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the GRP and MILF which will prepare position papers on the clustered Agenda Items;

   3.4 To submit the final position papers on the clustered Agenda Items to the Technical Committee of both Panels for approval;

   3.5 To submit the final position papers on the clustered Agenda Items to the GRP and MILF Peace Panels for approval;

   3.6 To submit the final position papers on the clustered Agenda Items to the GRP and MILF Peace Panels for approval;"
3.2 To prepare their respective position papers from 30 March to 30 April 2000. For this purpose, research/studies/consultations may be conducted during this period.

3.3 To hold joint TWG follow-through meetings from 3 May to 17 May 2000 for the purpose of discussing their respective position papers and establishing points of consensus on the Agenda Items assigned to them. Contentious/unresolved concerns shall be elevated for discussion at the Technical Committee level.

SIGNED this 9th day of March 2000 at Cotabato City, Philippines.

For the GRP:

[Signatures]

For the MILF:

[Signatures]

AGREEMENT ON SAFETY AND SECURITY GUARANTEES

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), hereinafter referred to as the Parties, in the interest of upholding, protecting and keeping the peace process moving towards a lasting and peaceful solution to the armed conflict in Mindanao, hereby agree on the following:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) hereby extends safety and security guarantees to MILF members who are directly and principally involved in the GRP-MILF Peace Talks. These MILF members, for the duration of the peace talks, shall not be restrained, searched, seized, and harassed on their persons or property in connection with their participation or involvement in the peace talks, except in cases of commission of common crimes such as crimes against persons, chastity, property and other similar offenses. Appropriate identification cards shall be jointly issued by the GRP and MILF Peace Panel Chairmen to MILF members covered by this Agreement.

2. The MILF shall submit a list of their members who shall be extended protection under this Agreement.

Signed at the Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City this 9th day of March 2000.

For the GRP:

[Signatures]

For the MILF:

[Signatures]