



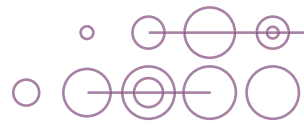
Philippines's Statement

Philippines became a pathfinding country in October of 2016. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the government of Philippines has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Use scientific evidence-based strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children including Strengthening laws and policies to end violence against children.
2. Ensure programs to prevent and respond to violence against children are funded through different government sectors.
3. Strengthen good governance, enhance coordination and provide technical support to local government units.
4. Increase preventative and protective measures to address online violence including online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.





MS. NATASHA JAVED
Partnership Officer
Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Dear **Ms. Javed**:

The Philippine Government through its representative, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is sharing the Outcome Statement on ending violence against children.

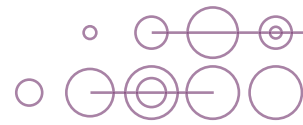
The Outcome Statement was crafted after the High Level Dialogue with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid on April 8, 2021 which was led by the DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito D. Bautista.

Should you have further clarifications, you may email the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Statutory Programs through oadstatutory@dswd.gov.ph.

Very truly yours,


GLENDA D. RELOVA
Assistant Secretary
Operations Group





**OUTCOME STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE
END VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT SERIES
May 2021**

Since the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the Government of the Philippines has shown strong commitment to uphold and protect the rights of children, as also reflected in the laws, national plans of actions and programs developed and implemented during the last decades. The Philippines have further strengthened its commitment to eliminate violence against children through the following declarations and treaties:

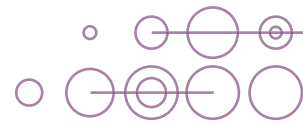
- The Declaration on the Commitment for Children in ASEAN (2001);
- The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013);
- The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children 2016 – 2025;
- The Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017); and
- The ASEAN Plan of Action on Culture of Prevention.

As part of the Government's commitment to End Violence against Children (End VAC), the Philippines, has been accelerating efforts to achieve Target 16.2 along with other related SDG targets (SDG 4,5, and 16). Part of this is the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) 2017-2022, which was developed by the Government of the Philippines in close coordination with civil society, international organizations, and communities following the completion of the National Baseline to End Violence against Children, sets out the main principles, goals, objectives and prioritized actions and mechanisms for preventing and addressing Violence against Children.

Three years into the implementation of the Plan, the landscape where children operate and revolve has changed. The world is grappling with the socio-economic effects of a global pandemic which has exacerbated the existing drivers for violence against children and created new risks and vulnerabilities for children and their families. Economic stresses combined with the easy access to technology have increased the prevalence of online sexual abuse and exploitation and escalated tensions within families are putting children at risk of violence. Quarantine restrictions to mobility have limited access to child protection services and impacted negatively on children's well-being.

The Government has responded to these new challenges by scaling up access to child protection services across the continuum of care, while also expanding the provision of social protection schemes to families in need. However, the dimension and complexity of Violence against Children and the goal of building a safer environment for children during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, require a concerted effort and strong partnerships among government agencies, local government units, civil society, international organizations, the academe, Faith-based organizations, the private sector, and communities.



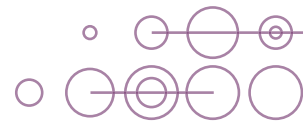


It is in this context that the High-Level Dialogue between the Government of the Philippines and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, was conducted in April 2021.

The High-Level Dialogue resulted to commitments from the Philippine Government to:

- 1. Continue to ensure good governance and enhance coordination.**
The National Network to End Violence Against Children - the national network established by the Council for the Welfare of Children for the management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the PPAEVAC - will be revitalized and roles, responsibilities and core capacities of the sectors involved will be re-defined. The Government will also: i) harmonize the PPAEVAC to ensure that all seven pillars of INSPIRE are covered by assessing and mapping existing programs and developing components that are not yet covered; ii) include specific outputs on the COVID-19 response; Review the Plan of Action and include specific Outputs on the COVID-19 response; iii) include measurable goals and targets and ensure their alignment to the National Development Plan and where administrative data will be systematically used and analyzed to report on the progress on SDG 16.2.
- 2. Generate and use scientific evidence in programming to prevent and address VAC.**
Additional investments will made to: i) ensure that the PPAEVAC has measurable and time bound targets for violence reduction and indicators and that M&E systems are in place to track implementation; ii) strengthen and harmonize the case management system across key DSWD bureaus, DSWD critical national government agency partners, and Local Social Welfare and Development Offices; iii) evaluate the PPAEVAC to inform future endeavors to End VAC; iv) prioritize coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority and the National Economic and Development Authority to work towards identifying and optimizing opportunities to generate and collect data on violence-against-children-related indicators for regular SDG 16.2 reporting.
- 3. Ensure adequate funding through fiscal sustainability.**
The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management shall be engaged as regular members of the NNEVAC and the National Economic Development Authority to ensure the PPAEVAC as well as other programmes to prevent and respond to VAC will be adequately funded across government sectors and with intent towards strategic collaboration.
- 4. Develop and implement the results-based integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanism which links the results to the six PPAEVAC Key Result Areas that are in line with the INSPIRE Strategies.**
Ensure that sufficient resources will be allocated by the Department of Budget and Management for the establishment of a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation

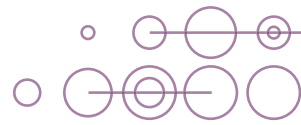




division within CWC. CWC, as Chair of the NNEVAC, will convene the Network to develop the Results-based M&E framework of the PPAEVAC, as well as other mechanisms to strengthen inter-agency monitoring systems.

5. **Strengthen legislative priority agenda.**
Legislation on ensuring the protection of children from violence will be prioritized. Efforts to provide and ensure continued access to services of child victim-survivors and their families will be reviewed and adjusted to better respond to gaps. CSOs have conveyed willingness to support to help ensure compensation packages are in place and accessible for victim-survivors. Internet service providers will be obligated to comply with existing laws that will protect children, both online and offline. Legislative advocacy to Increase the Minimum Age to Determine Statutory Rape, the Special Protections against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy, and Elimination of Child, Early, and Forced Marriages will also be continued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Council for the Welfare of Children, and key allies.
6. **Strengthen alternative parental care through adoption and foster care system.**
Existing policies that promote and support foster care and adoption will continue to be implemented, as placing children in residential care is always a measure of last resort. Efforts will also be made to strengthen reintegration and alternative care programs.
7. **Increased technical support to Local Government Units.**
National Government will be providing guidance in developing a well-planned devolution program on codification of laws on children to promote greater and systematic participation of local government units, communities, and children to prevent and respond to VAC, address mental health issues, and ensuring a sufficient number of qualified human resources at the grass root level.
8. **Strengthen Awareness Raising Campaign on All Forms of VAC** in order to promote a change in attitudes, behaviors and practices, as well as continue the engagement of stakeholders at all levels across all sectors in identifying areas of cooperation and collaboration that will warrant more impact of interventions. We should also maximize the use of available resources including expertise on addressing VAC.
9. **Increase preventive and protective measures against violence and abuse in cyberspace, especially online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.** A whole of society approach is integral to harness collaborative response across all levels of government and the private sector, to include addressing legislative and policy gaps; implement laws and regulations that protect children online; and increasing investments to support children, parents and caregivers, teachers, and child protection frontliners to identify, report, and ensure a multi-disciplinary, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed response to online violence.





10. **Strengthen the protection of the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration** particularly displaced children from their homes, including those who are affected by conflict, poverty, disaster, climate change, and environmental degradation, abuse, and exploitation and the protection of stateless/migrant children of Overseas Filipino Workers found beyond the borders of the country.
 11. **Continue to fulfill and respect the right of children to ethically, meaningfully, consistently, and sustainably participate in policy development in all levels of government.** Children will be provided platforms as venues to express their views and advocate for their rights.
 12. **Affirm the Country's commitment to the global community to lead the way in ending violence against children as a Pathfinding Country.** The Government will continue to be guided by the INSPIRE Strategies and will commit further adapt, scale-up, and sustain programs to end VAC. With the guidance of the INSPIRE Adaptation and Scale-Up modules, the NNEVAC will identify national programs that will be scaled-up and develop action plans for implementation.
 13. **Strengthening the whole of nation approach** by continuously coordinating with the global partners, continuously including children in all aspects of program development, and opening our doors to dialogues on this agenda.
- The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to build an enabling environment that respects, protects, promotes, and fulfills the rights of all children.**

