RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PERTINENT LAWS AND POLICIES IN LINE WITH THE UPDATED PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2022 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING AMENDATORY AND OTHER POLICY MEASURES AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT BUDGETARY ALLOCATION THEREFOR, AS NEEDED, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND SAFEGUARD ECONOMIC AND RELATED RIGHTS AND ENSURE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN IN VULNERABLE BASIC SECTORS, INFORMAL SECTORS, BARANGAY MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (BMBEs), AND, MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, AND COOPERATIVES

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares that “the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development”, that “(t)he promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance”, and that the State “values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

WHEREAS, the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 is the comprehensive national framework which serves as the fundamental framework for the government in pursuing strategies, policies, and programs and sets the foundations towards attaining the goal of “healthy and resilient Philippines” consistent with its inclusive, liberalization, market-oriented, and technology-based economic growth and development policy and strategy1;

WHEREAS, promoting the country’s vision set out in AmBisyon Natin 2040, the Plan details strategies, policies, and programs under three main pillars of Malasakit (building a high-trust society), Pagbabago (transforming towards equity and resiliency), and Patuloy na Pag-unlad (increasing growth potential) that encompass major areas such as financing and investment, science and technology, research and development, education and capacity enhancement, legislative reforms, and,

governance (including coordination, data collection and monitoring systems) in order to spur the country’s economic recovery and growth, level up the performance of sectors, promote enterprise development, and generate economic opportunities in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (AFF); industry and services; arts and culture; and migrant Filipino population among others;

WHEREAS, AmBisyon Natin 2040 aims for an economic growth that is relevant, inclusive, and sustainable to progressively improve the quality of life of the majority of Filipinos;  

WHEREAS, the 2021 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on gender statistics relating to work and economic participation showed that labor force participation rate of women from 2012 to 2021 had been considerably lower compared to men, with an average rate of female labor force participation rate at 46.29 percent while the average male labor force participation rate was at 73.12 percent;  

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report, men predominated jobs in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) sector (76.5%), industry sector (91.3 %), transportation and storage (96.7%), information and communication (64.0%), administrative and support service activities (63.2 %), public administration and defense and compulsory social security activities (53.1 %), and arts, entertainment and recreation activities (58.5 %) from 2013 to 2019. The report also provided data on the labor participation of men and women in other specific sectors;  

WHEREAS, based on the PSA statistics, women, who compose 49.4 percent of the country’s total population, are among the vulnerable basic sectors in the country, with poverty incidence rate of 23.9 percent in 2015 and 16.6 percent in 2018;  

WHEREAS, according to the gender snapshots of COVID-19 published by the UN Women Asia Pacific, aside from the challenges experienced in access to healthcare services, gender-based violence and other human rights violations, women in the Philippines also suffered even more from economic insecurity due to loss of livelihood, which in turn has increased the vulnerability of women;  

WHEREAS, the UN Women report also stated that 6.6 million Filipino women are working in the informal sector with lower earning capacity, little to no access to labor protections, including sick leave or protections against dismissal, and in many situations, livelihoods are dependent on public spaces and social interactions, which are now restricted due to COVID-19;  

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https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2020/04/phl-covid%20gender%20snapshot%20april%202020.pdf?la=en&vs=3508  
ibid
WHEREAS, many Filipino women are employed in the service and retail industry, which are among the first sectors affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns and community quarantines, disrupting traditional employment modalities and resulting in workforce adjustments\(^8\);

WHEREAS, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) stated that, in 2020, women-led MSMEs suffered from a decline in sales (overall: 76.6% of microenterprises, 76.9% of small enterprises, and 21.5% of medium-sized enterprises); delivery and transport of goods disruptions; payment of dues, obligations, loans and wages; access to other sources of income; ability to travel; safety of mobility; availability of raw materials; access to platforms to sell products; selling products with short shelf life; and selling of non-essential products\(^9\);

WHEREAS, to sustain the provisions to build resilience provided under programs funded under the Bayanihan to Heal as One and the Bayanihan to Recover as One laws, the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 needs to be re-evaluated and refocus its strategies towards having a healthy and resilient Philippines while facilitating economic recovery;

WHEREAS, it is evident that the existing gender and social inequality existing before the COVID-19 pandemic are now exacerbated and need to be addressed promptly. Existing laws and policies need to be reviewed to ensure that they are proportionate and gender-responsive to help promote employment and economic upliftment among Filipino women and others in the vulnerable basic sectors in order to meet their needs for financing, capacity development and skills, and linkage and marketing support needs;

WHEREAS, there is also an urgent need to ensure that provisions under women-specific laws that guarantee the economic rights of women in marginalized sectors and the micro and small enterprises and cooperatives on financing, investments and trade are effectively implemented as all these necessarily entail jobs generation and provision of other economic opportunities in priority industries, sectors and areas;

WHEREAS, other laws and policies on financing, investments and trade also need to be reviewed to establish their relevance to the economic empowerment of women, as well as to determine the financial and resource allocation needed for the effective implementation of said laws for the benefit of women and groups and enterprises of concern. Among such laws and policies, but not limited to, are the following:

(1) Pertaining to the vulnerable basic sectors: Republic Act No. 8550 (Fisheries Code); Republic Act No. 11321 (Sagip-Saka Act); Republic Act No.8371 (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act); Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons); Republic Act No. 7432 as amended by Republic Act 9994 (the Expanded Citizens Act); Republic Act No. 11291 (Magna Carta of the Poor); Republic Act No. 8425 (Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act); Republic Act No. 10000 (Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act); Republic Act No. 8

\(^8\)ibid.
10816 (Farm Tourism Development Act); Republic Act No. 11057 (Personal Property Security Act); Republic Act No. 11231 (Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act);

(2) Pertaining to women: Republic Act No. 9710 (Magna Carta of Women); Republic Act 7192 (Women in Development and Nation-Building Act);

(3) Pertaining to workers and employees: Presidential Decree No. 442 as amended by Republic Act Nos. 10151, 10395, and 10396 (Labor Code as amended); Republic Act No.11165 (Telecommuting Act) and COVID-related agency or joint issuances by the DOLE, DTI and the DOH; Republic Act No.1058 (Occupational Safety and Health Standards law); Republic Act No.10361 (Batas Kasambahay); Republic Act No. 10771 (Philippine Green Jobs Act); Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act); Republic Act No. 11210 (Expanded Maternity Leave Law); Republic Act No. 8187 (Paternity Leave Act); Republic Act No. 8972 (Solo Parents’ Welfare Act); Republic Act No.11313 (Safe Spaces Act);

(4) Pertaining to enterprises and cooperatives: Republic Act No. 6977 as amended by Republic Act Nos. 8289 and 9501 (Magna Carta for MSMEs as amended); Republic Act No. 10644 (Go Negosyo Act); Republic Act No. 9178 (BMBEs Act); Republic Act No. 6938 (Cooperatives Code) with Republic Act No.11364 (Cooperative Development Authority Charter); Republic Act No. 11337 (Innovative Startup Act); Republic Act No. 10679 (Youth Entrepreneurship Act); Republic Act No. 11032 (Ease in Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act); Republic Act 10693 (Microfinance NGOs Act); and

(5) Pertaining to financing, investment and trade: Republic Act No. 6957 as amended by Rep Act No. 7718 (BOT Law as amended) and its IRR and related policy issuances; Tourism Act, Special Economic Zone Act, the Omnibus Investments Code with the 2020 Investments Priorities Plan and the Strategic Investments Priorities Plan (SIPP); and trade agreements;

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Policy of the Magna Carta of Women states that “(t)he State affirms women’s rights as human rights and shall intensify its efforts to fulfill its duties under international and domestic law to recognize, respect, protect, fulfill, and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, especially marginalized women, in the economic, social, political, cultural and other fields without distinction or discrimination on account of class, age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, ideology, disability, education, and status”;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate committee/s of the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of pertinent laws and policies in line with the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 with the end in view of formulating amendatory and other policy measures and providing sufficient budgetary allocation therefor, as needed, to promote and safeguard the economic and related rights and to ensure equitable economic opportunities and benefits for women in the vulnerable basic sectors, the informal sector, the barangay micro
business enterprises (BMBE), and the micro and small enterprises, social enterprises, and cooperatives.

Adopted,

LOREN LEGARDA