



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

International Conference on Women, Peace and Security

TITLE: WPS: Initiatives and Challenges of Women in the Security Sector

Background/Rationale:

Sulong Peace Inc. (SPI) a nonstock and nonprofit organization has been engaging the security sector in the past years through the capacity-building and promotion of human rights, international humanitarian law and rule of law. This engagement paved the way for a Memorandum of Understanding of SPI with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

Our organization was also the first to conduct the series of consultations together with OPAPP and PCW on UNSCR 1325 in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao that led to the first NAP WPS and also the formation of WEACTION 1325 and heads the secretariat for several years.

SPI, in its engagement with the Security Sector through capacity-building has always incorporated the NAP WPS in its module and lectures for the past years.

In May 2023, SPI together with the Pacific Forum International conducted a 3 day workshop on WPS and Maritime Security funded by the US Indo-Pacific Command. This workshop was participated by GAD offices of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of National Defense, Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard.

SPI built on from the results of the workshop through a project with the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) of the Embassy of Canada specifically to Harness the participation of Women Navy and Coast Guard on WPS and Maritime Security, specifically, to build the capacity, research and policy advocacy for the promotion of the role of women in key leadership position in maritime security as a recognition of the importance of women in ensuring security for the country.

The International Conference on Women, Peace and Security is an important event to be able to share the experiences of the Women in the Security Sector on their initiatives and challenges in the promotion and implementation of NAP WPS especially in the security operations.

The activities and engagements of SPI and Canadian Embassy with the women and men Navy and Coast Guard can be shared and initiate discussions with other service command of the GAD offices of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to be able to engage the discussion and discourse on WPS and Operational Security.

Objectives:

1. To be able to share the initial results of the research conducted on the role of women in the Maritime Security- lessons learned, challenges and recommendations.
2. To be able to provide space for the security forces especially from the Armed Forces, Army and Airforce to also share their experiences and challenges.
3. To be able to share with the other participants of the conference the importance of the participation of women in the security operations especially against external threat against the country.
4. To be able to come up with relevant recommendations and identify steps forward to ensure the meaningful participation and leadership of women in the security operations.
5. To be able to promote and solicit initial support for policy intervention in the security sector on transforming the leadership role of women by including them in the operations.



Canada

Session Format/Flow:

- a. Setting of Objectives and Session Guide
- b. Inspiration Message from the Canadian Ambassador
- c. Sharing of the Initial Result of the Research on WPS and Maritime Security
- d. Sharing of the GAD Army and GAD Airforce on their experiences on WPS
- e. Workshop on the Recommendations and Ways forward (using the 4 pillars of WPS)
- f. Summary and Highlights
- g. Closing

Some key Highlights:

- Challenges and gaps in ensuring the active participation of women, including gender biases, limited opportunities for advancement, and the need for further gender mainstreaming efforts.
- localization of WPS efforts and the lack of appreciation for WPS and GAD among personnel on the ground.
- importance of including women's perspectives and needs in policies, recruiting and retaining women in leadership positions, and collaborating with organizations promoting women's participation. These actions aim to ensure equal opportunities for women.
- there is a need to increase the participation of women in maritime operations and of targeted recruitment efforts, training programs, and mentorship opportunities.
- recognition of women's participation and their designation to key positions for equal career advancement opportunities.
- conducting research and studies on the participation of women in maritime operations; stressing the importance of identifying barriers, exploring best practices, and providing evidence-based recommendations for enhancing women's meaningful involvement