

[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 329, May 07, 1996 ]

**DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES (NCWP) AS ONE OF THE LEAD MONITORING ARM OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE PHILIPPINE PLAN FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NGO AND PRIVATE SECTOR**

**WHEREAS**, Section 23, Article II of the Constitution provides that the State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation;

**WHEREAS**, the government is committed to women's advancement and to gender equality in all aspects and at all levels, as enshrined in the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) and in conjunction with the Global Platform for Action of the Beijing UN Conference on Women;

**WHEREAS**, the executive branch, through the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), spearheaded the formulation of the national agenda for the protection of women's rights, improvement of their social and economic conditions, promotion of their participation in political decision making and the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the government's policy on gender and development that are primarily undertaken by the Focal Points;

**WHEREAS**, to realize these commitments, the NCRFW and the Women Focal Points in the different governmental departments and bureaus have been mandated to implement the policy of mainstreaming gender and development agenda through various policy actions and executive programs;

**WHEREAS**, the government recognizes the vital roles that women non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in achieving complementation of commitments for higher impact to women nationwide and across sectors and affirms its partnership with NGOs in ensuring that the national agenda for women's advancement is implemented and accomplished;

**WHEREAS**, the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP), now in its 50th year in operation as an umbrella women's organization of 151 national networks and 3,081 councils, continues to play its role as a constant and dynamic NGO partner of the government in the forefront of national development programs for women's empowerment;

**WHEREAS**, the NCWP, since its founding by Francisca Tirona-Benitez, has been implementing gender-focused policy action agenda and programs/projects in its crusade to raise the status of Filipino women, protect their rights and welfare and enhance their roles and capacities as vital change agents in nation-building and development;