Addressing Poverty and Inequality towards Agenda 2030: A Policy Forum
International Center for Public Administration, NCPAG, UP Diliman, Quezon City
August 23, 2019, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Important highlights of the collaborative policy forum between the Coordinating Council for People’s Development and Governance and the United Nations Development Program – Philippines (UNDP-Philippines), through its program on Accelerating BUB through Inclusive and Effective Governance in partnership with the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and with support from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The policy forum themed “Addressing Poverty and Inequality towards Agenda 2030” re-examines the Philippine government’s social and economic policies in relation to its SDG commitments and identify policy reform areas specific to social services delivery – including but not limited to health, education, employment, housing, disaster resiliency and disaster response, water supply and sanitation, electrification, roads network in rural areas.

1. About 87 civil society organizations with more than 165 participants comprising peoples’ organizations – Lumad, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolks, women and children, urban poor, faith-based organizations, non-government organizations, schools and members of the academe, international aid institutions, including students attended the forum. (See Annex 1)

2. Mr. Harvey Buena, UNDP Program Manager, in his welcome remarks underlined the critical role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in achieving the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) which aims to meet the needs of the people towards eradicating poverty. CSOs as voices of the people they work with, those who are left behind, and as watchdogs, are key in ensuring that information on the private sector’s SDG contribution is channeled into development processes outlined in the 17 SDGs. The gathering is an acknowledgement of the diversity of organizations pushing the SDGs - in terms of type, size, capacity, and focus. The policy dialogue in addressing poverty and inequality aims to bring everyone closer to the achievement of Agenda 2030, providing a conducive platform for peer learning, coordination and solidarity with the UNDP global partnership for social development.

3. Dr. Roland Tolentino, professor at the College of Mass Communication at the University of the Philippines and CPDG Chairperson in his opening remarks noted the forum as a positive step towards working together collectively involving specially the marginalized in addressing poverty and inequality. Addressing poverty and inequality requires a critical understanding of its
structural causes to genuinely provide effective policy actions. He underlined the need for a rights-based approach to development to guide Philippine socio-economic policies. This includes active participation of the people in all aspects of development including governance. He called on everyone to start pushing for a People Economics that promotes sustainable and equitable use of the country’s natural and human resources; an economics that recognizes genuine people’s participation in development. And enjoined the participants to join hands to move and act as equal partners in development towards finally attaining the common goal of genuinely meaningful progress for all.

4. The morning session set the framework of the discussion on how poverty and inequality must be addressed, and how the UNDP – Philippines in partnership with the government is ensuring that no one will be left behind in charting the path towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

   a. Ms. Chricelyn L. Empong, a grade 11 Lumad-Manobo student displaced from the military operations in her school in Mindanao and now continuing her studies at the bakwit school set up for them by the Save Our Schools (SOS) network in Quezon City shared the Lumad student’s struggles and of their families in their ancestral domains in Mindanao. Chricelyn said that she wants to be a farmer as they are taught sustainable methods of farming in their Lumad schools in Mindanao. As of August 2019, some 136 Lumad schools have been forced to close down by the military operating in Lumad areas. This led to some 4,000 Lumad students to stop schooling. She related that personnel of the DSWD, the DEPED, the NCIP and local government officials accompany the military in the closure of their schools. They have noted 48 cases of the military setting camp in their schools. Among the many casualties of military operations in Lumad schools are three students who are victims of extra judicial killings or EJK. These data are not included in the reporting of the government in its voluntary national review under SDG 16. The SOS network recorded 87 cases of military attacks in Lumad schools before the declaration of martial law in Mindanao and during the two years of martial law, 584 Lumad schools suffered from military attacks affecting more than 1,700 Lumad students and 1,356 teachers. In 17 November 2018, Chricelyn’s father was murdered because of his activities defending their ancestral lands and education of the Lumad children. All the Lumad school children and their families aspire for is to have an education that is pro-people, one that considers and respects Lumad culture, an education that is scientific and promotes nationalism, not the education that caters to the needs of other countries or the global market. What is happening in Lumad ancestral domains in Mindanao is also happening in ancestral lands of indigenous peoples (IPs) globally like in the burning of the Amazon forests in Brazil because of corporate plantations, logging and mining operations. Much like what is happening in Davao del Norte where 54 Lumad schools of the Salugpongan have been closed down to prepare the way for corporate encroachment in the Pantaron Mountain Range in Northern Mindanao. Chricelyn called on the government to end martial rule in Mindanao, recognize and respect IP rights to their ancestral domains, their right to self-determination, including their right
to education. Let the Lumad students be critical and analytical youth who can contribute to the betterment of the nation.

b. The sharing of Chricelyn Empong gave the human face in the discussion of **Mr. Jose Enrique Africa** (IBON Executive Director and member of the CPDG Board of Trustee) in his discussion of “**Governance, Social Policy, and the SDGs: Addressing Poverty and Inequality**”

People’s welfare is affected by many factors and the single most important factor is the economy, both directly and indirectly. The economy will determine what (life) to choose and how, more importantly how we organize our economic life and who benefits from the economy. All these is determined by our governance. Sadly, the country is having a governance problem right now.

Mr. Africa outlined his discussion into three parts: (1) where are we with the SDGs; (2) we’re where we are with the SDGs because of the governance we have; and, (3) what needs to be done is that we need unilateral reforms and a true democracy.

It was pointed out that we are very slow in achieving progress in many of the SDGs. The slowest progress is on SDGs No. 1 on ending poverty, No. 8 on decent work and economic growth, No. 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, and No. 10 on reducing inequalities, because there are very serious problems in terms of regression in key areas of our economy.

Despite the various anti-poverty programs implemented including the 4Ps, about 54% of the country’s population are hungry and millions of Filipino children especially among the poorest are stunted and undernourished. Declining economic growth, amid all the hype of Philippines being among the fastest growing economies in Asia, from 2016 through 2018 has seen the slowest jobs generation of 81,000 annually (compared with the past administrations). Since some decades now since 1980 because of neoliberal policies of privatization, deregulation and liberalization, manufacturing and agriculture, the productive sectors of Philippine economy and the primary drivers for national industrialization, have been on a decline. This decline explains why the economy has not been generating enough jobs and millions of the Filipino labor force are being pushed into precarious, low paying service jobs and abroad (about 10 million to 11 million). Wealth is concentrated in a few families. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) is still basically a very market driven following the neoliberal framework of development. The problem is free market policies have not driven development anywhere they are implemented. All countries in the whole world did not achieve any level of agricultural and industrial development not under free market framework of development. China, US, Western Europe countries all went to a stage of implementing protectionist, socialist policies before opening up to free
market. There’s an increasing concentration of economic and political power under those free market economic policies. Since 2010 and 2011 the gross revenues of conglomerates as a percentage of GDP has been increasing. In the same manner, the net incomes of the few rich Filipinos vis a vis GDP has also been increasing. There is a problem here where few families accumulating that wealth and capital, can transform to political power. A few families deciding on the most important economic policies leads in undemocratic economic outcomes and eventually political outcomes.

Because of these problematic economic policies, we have a regression which has led to problems with peace, justice and strong institutions which all falls under SDG 16. The violence the country is experiencing right now includes increasing state perpetuated violence such as in the government’s war on drugs that has claimed about 6,600 lives from July 2016 to May 2019. The Commission on Human Rights reports triple this number at 27,000. Human rights groups also recorded 266 EJKs, 2,443 illegal arrests, 404 frustrated killings, 378,336 indiscriminate firing and bombardment; 89,534 threats and harassment; these include the closure of Lumad schools. There is a general trend of neoliberal authoritarianism that attacks the organized groups pushing for genuine reforms in the economy – for socio-economic and political rights, for democratic governance which goes so much against goal 16.7 on more democratic decision making. The declaration of martial law in Mindanao and of the undeclared martial law in many parts of the country in the Visayas and Luzon islands has seen the commission of crimes with increasing impunity. A big problem in terms of more democratic governance- is that the last few years has seen a systematic attack on first the basic institutions of liberal democracy, the resurgent attacks against members of the executive, legislative and the judiciary, but also against critical civil society and even mass media. There is also a problem in civilian bureaucracy being increasingly headed by former military officials which as of midyear 2019, there are 73 former police and military officers already holding civilian positions in the bureaucracy.

All these outcomes are the result of very conscious policy choices. We’re where we are right now because of the kind of governance we have. Policies reflect the governance we have.

While there are progressive measures in the PDP, like free land distribution, unemployment insurance, social protection floor, but the history of Philippine economic policy making, and policy practice, chances are these will not be implemented. Despite a lot of desirable measures potentially positive and helpful like increasing agricultural productivity, but if implemented under the current state of affairs in the Philippine economy, they will only exacerbate inequality and will only benefit the few. Benefits will depend on how the economy is organized including who owns the means of production. Measures most likely be genuinely pursued under the
PDP is the debt driven infrastructure, regressive tax reforms and foreign investment liberalization. Foreign investment liberalization did not really develop the country. How foreign investments operate in the Philippines only made foreign corporations richer from our natural resources, cheap labor force, and from our markets, but without making real contribution in spending for agriculture and industry.

Infrastructure while necessary is NCR, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog centric – all are high-income regions in the country. On financing our development, the government has resorted to a regressive tax system through the tax reform acceleration for inclusion (TRAIN) program which has taken money out of the poorest sectors of Philippine society and into the pockets of the rich by collecting higher taxes on consumer goods.

**What kind of development policy do we need to genuinely address poverty and inequality?** The way to resolve poverty and inequality is through a rights-based approach to development. The two main areas on how to get there are (1) economic development through industrialization and rural development; (2) social policy understood to mean social protection and social services. These two must be implemented under a foundation of democratic governance because whatever bright ideas we have on those social and economic policies, if we don’t have democratic governance, they will not happen along with income and asset distribution, if those with control right now don’t want to give it up, development is not going to happen.

Most important is recognizing the role of the state as the sole entity having the sole authority, responsibility, accountability to get development. Coming from a rights-based approach and all the layers and permutations, and nuances ascribed to it, the problem is big so the need for a comprehensive understanding of poverty. The problem is big enough that the state should intervene widely. There is a need to acknowledge the primacy of state obligations to the people, over market forces, over profits. Third with such strong interventions that the state must do, the state has to be democratic. We don’t want to give the state more power to keep the rich, rich and the wealthy wealthier. We also will uphold greater participation in decision making. These have strong legal basis including the constitution which have various provisions for democratic participation and defining the role of the state. But with Charter Change, these provisions will be removed, including provisions on ESCR but also a lot of human rights laws. Imperfectly there are a few imperfect laws like the recently passed Magna Carta for the Poor although it will only address 10% of what needs to be done. The point is there are legal bases to implement a rights-based approach to aid in policy making.
We have to accept and embrace the fact that Philippine agriculture and manufacturing has declined over the last four decades because of globalization. Some of the things that we need to do:

1. Redistribute wealth, income and assets
2. Government support like subsidies, increase in skills in technology, finance, insurance, infrastructure (part of the whole package of support);
3. Major reforms in foreign trade and investment policies
4. Protect our domestic agriculture and industry - if the biggest economies (US and China) can protect their economies, why can’t we?
5. Regulate foreign investment
6. Social policy should be universal, comprehensive and transformative
   a. Universal because it’s a right and not be treated as charity. Everyone should have the basic social services and social protection as much as allowable by the current economic circumstances
   b. Transformative, social policy should be packaged alongside a broader program for structural change where do resources go, what kind of social protection would be given and for whom.
   c. Social policy should be funded by the resources generated by a strong economy. Otherwise there will never be enough resources to fund social policy.

7. In terms of democratic governance, we have to reverse the authoritarian drift. The attacks on civil society especially the most organized groups of farmers, workers, and urban poor groups, they should be protected as the heart of democratic governance. Foundations of democracy – increasing people’s participation, strengthening government capacity, reforming the political party system, among others. The most immediate problem at hand with governance, the political forces pushing most for change are the ones attacked most heavily. We cannot talk about democratic governance in abstract when there are attacks on democratic forces right now. *(See power point presentation; Annex 2)*

c. “Leaving No One Behind: Monitoring Development Outcomes” was discussed by Mr. Marsmath Baris from the Institutions and Partnerships program of the UNDP.

Mr. Baris gave a snapshot of the initiative of the UN program on leaving no one behind (LNOB). There are 232 indicators in monitoring the SDGs implementation, but more may be added from the citizen’s generated data (CGD) by CSOs which the government through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has recently launched.
There are five steps to operationalize leaving no one behind: (1) gather evidence; (2) prioritize and analyze the data; (3) what should be done; (4) how to measure and monitor progress; (5) how to advise accountability for leaving no one behind.

That the national aggregates tend to mask the realities at the local level. CSOs have this responsibility of providing valuable data from the grassroots communities they are working with.

The Department of Health has developed geographic data which it started in 2010 and is now updated to 2018. Data generated is from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. There is also the community-based monitoring system or CBMS which is a rich source of data collected by LGUs. The CBMS national repository is with NAPC and the DILG but this wealth data is not being accessed. CBMS is a census and covered more than half of the barangays in the country. Poverty maps can be generated using the CBMS which also has GPS coordinates of the HHs surveyed.

Likewise, there is the big data or admin data by government agencies, which are also underutilized for evidence-based planning and budgeting. To identify and prioritize data gaps the CGD is now considered for official reporting for the SDGs by PSA, but only a few were invited to be part of this CGD. Unfortunately, CSOs working with the grassroots especially POs were not consulted.

Operational guidelines of the UN SDG group include: (1) causal analysis (2) goal pattern analysis (3) capacity gap analysis.

Mr. Baris pointed out that some of the problems we are seeing and addressing on the ground may only be symptoms not the root causes and these are those factors that has something to do with our culture. To identify sectors of the population being left out Mr. Baris introduced the menti.com tool which disaggregates data to see sectoral information.

In bringing down the concept of LNOB, the voluntary national reviews on SDG implementation should include LNOB assessment. There is an effort, by the PSA who very silently, issued the initial report of multi-dimensional poverty index or MPI. MPI attempted to see, assess who are being left behind in Philippine society. There is a composite index of 13 indicators generated from the Philippines statistical system which can still be enriched and fine-tuned with the CGD.

The UNDP was also able to come up with a system for generating feedback from members called development live where stakeholders can give feedback on DepEd program for example. DILG is also using DevLIVE for monitoring of roads. The platform is in place and likewise the mechanism for feedback on monitoring development outcomes. *(See PowerPoint presentation)*
Questions from the open forum that followed were from the Humanity and Inclusion on the utilization by the UNDP of the Washington group of questions which monitors data on persons with disabilities (PWDs); Nurturers of the Earth on health and sustainability of imported consumer goods; the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura on unrealistic data generated by the PSA such as the poverty data using problematic methodologies of measuring poverty, and on the TRAIN package 2.

Mr. Baris said the Washington group of questions is being used in the subnational SDG reports. CBMS and in-house data collection of the UNDP has indicators on disability. Across instruments UNDP deploys especially household level censuses data on PWDs, including on solo parents, data on children, child laborers are being gathered. On produce from abroad being dumped in the Philippines, this is part of SDG, on sustainable consumption and production. The UNDP has a portfolio on this effort on inclusive and sustainable development pillar. As regards the PSA data its official government data. BUT there are other ways on how we can collect more accurate data. The MPI methodology is one. On the CBMS proxy indicators are used and not just rely on income.

Mr. Africa on imported junk food including bottled water from Indonesia, government should step in to help people think and act rationally. Individually rational is not necessarily socially rational. Intervene in the market by making socially desirable goods cheaper, and socially undesirable goods expensive. What should be done: for example, in rice importation, what is the carbon footprint of importing rice? The more important question is why is it more expensive to produce rice in the Philippines? There is no support. We can produce sustainably, and government intervention is important. We can have an economy that is just. This won’t happen overnight definitely not under a market economy. On the TRABAHOf which is the name for TRAIN package 2, it is not true that it is for medium and small-scale enterprises as 75% of corporate income tax revenue collection are from large entrepreneurs. If they want to help MSMEs, have two tax brackets but this is a political decision/choice. We can see who their bias is for. Using Department of Finance data, they know its regressive. They push it anyway because they want to raise revenue by lessening the burden from the richest, transferring tax burden to the poor.

The second round of questions were from the Center for Development Programs in the Cordillera (CDPC) on understanding and monitoring LNOB in the basis of ethnicity; from the DENR on how do we close in this inequality gap, locally and globally (north-south dichotomy), given our extractive economic activities of diminishing returns like agriculture, forestry, mining; and from PAKISAMA on the reach of IBON’s analysis of the Philippine socio-economic and political situation and corresponding policy solutions which PAKISAMA thinks can help unite analysis of civil society. Also, as part of peasant movement, what are the data to show decrease in farmers’ incomes.
Mr. Africa on the questions about statistics, you can’t control what you can’t count. There’s also not enough budget for the PSA to do their surveys. It’s a political choice to only count the number of poor every three years, and only use income and expenditures. Policy wise, what you count and don’t count shows your biases. Even the statistical system is a political choice. As regards the utilization of the natural resources, inequality will not resolve itself on its own. There must be government intervention. Under a market economy, where decisions are made by capital and the market, inequality is inevitable. We can help resolve inequality by develop our own industry in mining for example. We should process our minerals and generate the jobs locally. In agriculture, farmers on their own cannot become rich without intervention. Asset reform is needed including support from government. We need a state that intervenes for the majority, make it more democratic, accountable, transparent so state powers will not be abused. On the promotion of IBON’s analyses, for 40 years IBON has been trying to cover all venues including media where IBON is active media. But at the start of 2019, one military officer, a general, showed IBON slide on unemployment as shown earlier but it was dismissed as fake news. Last year, IBON worked with NAPC on putting forward reforms in poverty program and engaged with 40-41 agencies. There were criticisms and some welcomed the analyses and proposals but that venue for change was cut short. As IBON, we will launch the People Economics campaign and try to get more support, establish what needs to be done. Decades of implementing neoliberal policies destroyed the notion that we can have a democratic state. China and the US, protects their economy, why can’t we have the political will to do the same. We can learn from historical mistakes.

Mr. Baris on the question of monitoring ethnicity mentioned that the CBMS Act was signed by the President. Ethnicity can be captured through the CBMS Act we can lobby for the data that we want to be included.

d. The next half of the morning session is a panel discussion by the basic sectors and CSOs on “Stakeholder’s issues on governance and social services delivery”. The issues and policy reforms put forward are summarized in the matrix below:

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<th>SECTORAL ISSUES</th>
<th>POLICY REFORMS</th>
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<td><strong>1. National Federation of Peasant Women’s Organizations (Amihan) and Bantay Bigas</strong></td>
<td>1. Asset reform is needed. The genuine agrarian reform bill (GARB) pending in congress seeks for free land redistribution, support for farmers – capital and inputs subsidies, promotion of sustainable and ecological friendly system of farming to eventually free farmers from dependence on expensive chemical inputs.</td>
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<td>Farmers mirror the country’s state of poverty and inequality despite the fact that they are the primary food producers together with the fishermen. They lack access to resources: land, capital, support subsidies, machineries, including access to post harvest facilities and market. Despite 11 land reform programs 7 out 10 farmers are still landless. Large</td>
<td>2. There should be local food markets accessible to both the producers and the consumers, where farmers can directly sell their produce.</td>
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tracts of agricultural lands are still controlled by a few families including Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac and the 40,000 hectares Yulo King Ranch in Palawan. Land use conversion remains and is fast tracked under the Duterte government. Farmers also suffer from state impunity where 226 killings (and counting) are recorded under the Duterte administration. Liberalization of trade especially under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AOA) as well as in the ASEAN impact heavily on Filipino farmers. The recent rice liberalization law, after 5 months of its implementation, palay prices dropped to as low as Php 7.00 to Php7.50 per kilo. Commercial rice remains expensive. Farmers are also consumers. The enactment of 4Ps law and covering all farmers for CCT including the Php15K loan without interest are only palliatives.

### 2. Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (a National Federation of Small Fishfolk Organizations in the Philippines)

The Philippines has high biodiversity especially in its vast marine wealth/resources considering the expanse of its coastal areas and seas under its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The country’s marine wealth is enough to provide food for Filipinos including exporting to other countries. We are 8th in world’s fisheries production. Yet, Filipino farmers are the poorest of the poor sectors. Five out of 10 fishermen are poor. Around 80-90% small fishermen and workers are poor because we have a problem in economic management and governance. There is monopoly. One night of commercial fishing operation is equivalent to one month catch of municipal fishers. The promised modernization and progress under WTO-AOA never materialized. Aquaculture is also promoted and is majority owned by the same big commercial fishing corporations. About 80% of total production are under monopoly control. Aquaculture destroys our mangroves and pollutes our waters with genetically modified commercial feeds resulting to annual fish kills. Fish importation also did not result to cheaper fish products for consumers as there is also monopoly in the market. The exporters are also our importers.

### Legislation of the rice industry development act (RIDA)

4. Declare a moratorium on land use conversion especially of agricultural lands and instead cover all idle lands for food production especially for rice.

5. Repeal RA 11203 or rice tariffication act.

6. Review Philippines membership to the WTO-AOA and eventually get out of this unfair agreement.

The orientation of our fisheries should be as source of livelihood for Filipino fishermen and food for Filipinos.

1. Ban destructive commercial fishing practices;

2. Uphold Philippine sovereignty over the West Philippine Seas and government should protect Filipino fishermen’s rights.

3. Government should also respect and uphold UN monitoring system and international policies that promote ESCR.

4. Review the country’s fisheries modernization policy.

5. Ban reclamation activities in the country’s coastal areas.

6. Genuine fisheries aquatic reform bill
The reclamation of coastal areas under the BBB infrastructure program is also causing greater poverty and hunger because of economic dislocation as well as destruction of fishing grounds for municipal fishers. The Chinese incursion over the vast fishing grounds in the West Philippine Seas has also displaced Filipinos from freely accessing fisheries resources in Philippine territory.

3. BAI Indigenous Women’s Network

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) comprise 12-15 million or 11-14% of the Philippines population. We have 110 ethnolinguistic groups in 50 provinces. IPs are also the most marginalized with lacking or no access to basic social services despite the fact that big transnational corporations (TNCs) are mining and logging and operating large plantations in our ancestral lands. Our rivers and lands are being dammed and inundated. IPs struggle to survive on their rich traditional knowledge of sustainably utilizing and defending the natural resources found in their ancestral lands but IP communities are made vulnerable to climate changes because of absence of social services. The 4Ps as implemented are not sensitive to IPs culture. IP communities are also rich in their knowledge in terms of building resilience and sustainable development but are invisible because of lack of data disaggregation on ethnicity. There is no concrete development program targeting IP communities. Instead IPs are victims of military operations to make way for mining, logging operations and plantations as well as large infrastructure projects. The IPRA law’s FPIC provision (amid IPRA’s many loopholes) have not been implemented and IPs are forced to step aside in disregard of their rights to development and self-determination in the name of so-called development. An example is the Kaliwa Low Dam project being fast tracked even in the absence of an environmental compliance certificate ECC), genuine FPIC and onerous loan provisions that compromise Philippine sovereignty. In this light government has failed in implementing SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, as well as 16 in relation to IPs.

4. Plan International, Philippines

1. Juvenile justice- the age of criminal responsibility or MACR (minimum age of criminal responsibility)
Called the SDG generation, Children and the youth sector will be young adults by 2030. Children are among the most vulnerable population groups in our country. In 2015 PSA data show that 31.4% of children (13M Filipino children) belong to poor families. The draft 2019 Philippines Voluntary National Review (VNR) showed children and youth compose more than half of population living in poverty. Unfortunately, this information was not included in the official VNR. Poverty, and especially child poverty, is a cause and consequence of the denial of rights. Poverty is one of the main reasons that prevent children from realizing their rights to survival and development of their full potential.

1. Preschool education. The right to education is universal and should not be reduced to 12 years old. Detaining and putting children in institutions for non-serious offenses at their young age dismally affects their development and jeopardizes their future. Detention and institutional housing of children should be the option of last resort

2. Universal birth registration – according to PSA there are about 2.6M unregistered Filipinos. How can we be sure that no one is being left behind if many remain invisible to the eyes of the government? A child who does not have proper documents of identity is at risk of losing many opportunities such as access to basic social services including education, health, and social protection. Ensure comprehensive CRVS or civil registration vital statistics.

3. Statutory rape- sexual relations with a person below legal age of consent. The age of sexual consent and statutory rape should be raised to 16 years old.

4. Positive and non-violent discipline. Though the President vetoed this law, the lobbying continues for this legislation. Seeks to help LGUs to establish programs and services to help parents and caregivers, teachers and others involved in the daily care of children to learn how to practice positive and non-violent discipline.

5. Inclusive education- create a solid and inclusive education program for children and youth with disabilities. In the Philippines 1 in 5 PWDs are school age children and adolescents.

6. Prohibiting the facilitation of civilization of child early enforced marriage.

7. Human trafficking preventive education program. Despite current efforts to end child sexual exploitation, there is no comprehensive anti-trafficking program that targets the youth. The program seeks to institutionalize trafficking education in schools and barangays. The youth will receive formal training on concepts such as trafficking, fundamental human rights, and protective services for victims.

8. On governance and the SDGs
   a. Institutionalize mechanisms to ensure meaningful participation of children and civil society. There
must be intentionality especially on the part of the government to include children in every stage of development and processes.

b. Invest in improved data collection, analyses and disaggregation to have clear understanding of the circumstances of the most disadvantaged groups and ensure the specific progress for children are reflected in the data.

c. Allocate budget and increase government implementing capacity. This would help the PSA for example to improve data collection and analysis and hold strategic meetings with us stakeholders to ensure that our concerns are heard and included.

d. Increase government capacity to handle CSO request for participation especially of children and young people.

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<th>5. Federation of Free Workers</th>
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<td>Contractualization together with the discriminatory wage setting mechanism have compounded the sorry state of the labor sector who have fallen deeply under the dire category of “working poor”. Labor only contracting remains along with the end of contract system. There is continuing attacks of Filipino workers’ rights, including the right to security of tenure and the right to unionize. Some 7 million workers in precarious working conditions continue to be forced to live by the day—as that is as far as their wages and tenure at work goes, robbing them of a future and their hopes and dreams, that at best just lasts for five months. The TRAIN Law that should have started with raising corporate taxes, led to the rising costs of basic commodities, that workers could not cope with, despite reduced income taxes that only a section of the middle class benefited from. Meanwhile, locators continue getting tax holidays and other privileges, but aren’t being held to account for violation of workers’ rights. Trade union repression in the form of violent dispersal of strikes and peaceful concerted action, to death threats to actual killing of trade union leaders, organizers and defenders of the rights of all kinds of workers persist. The Nagkaisa Labor coalition since the beginning of the Duterte Administration has reported at least nine such killings, most notable of which is that of Partido Manggagawa leader Dennis Sequena who was gunned down during a trade union meeting inside an ecozone. The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights has reported 42 such killings at the end of 2018.</td>
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<td>2. End ENDO Bill prohibiting all forms of contractualization as the policy framework needs to be enacted.</td>
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<td>3. Do away with regional rates, instead have a national living wage.</td>
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<td>4. Repeal the TRAIN law and implement progressive taxes by taxing the rich more.</td>
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<td>5. Strengthen the Validations Teams that look into the complaints and fully implement Administrative Order 35.</td>
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<td>6. The Duterte government should accept the ILO Tripartite High Level Mission to the Philippines to look into the killings of workers and other violations of freedom of association Conventions ratified by the government.</td>
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<td>7. Government should continue engaging with workers through tripartite and social dialogues which are the backbone of meaningful and effective consultations.</td>
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DOLE and the authorities have collectively been remiss in their duties in getting to the bottom of these killings. The Regional Tripartite Monitoring Bodies headed by DOLE who have been tasked to look into the killings have not been convened or not convened in time. In the one or two instances it was convened, it failed to take into consideration the perspective of workers, with some reports adopting the police reports as is. Over the last three years, the number of strikes increased in direct proportion to violent dispersals of the same. Shrinking space for trade unions over issues around decent work (SDG 8) is more pronounced. The President has ceased from having a dialogue with organized labor. Tri-partism and social dialogue, the backbone of meaningful and effective consultations, have been set aside. Government impugning attacks on trade unions continue where trade union density has not improved beyond 6 per cent for the past years. Coverage of collective bargaining is even lesser involving only a little over 200,000.

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<th>6. Humanity and Inclusion</th>
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<td>Even with the LNOB principle and legal frameworks, PWDs remain invisible and vulnerable. Data, participation and jobs are important in addressing poverty and inequality. How can we improve something that we cannot measure and how can we measure something if we don’t have the numbers? According to the 2010 census, there 1.57% PWD. When globally it should be 15%. Why the discrepancy? how do we ask? Disability is not just physical disability. It should also include mental / intellectual disability, speech impairment, deafness. We have to change the way we ask these questions. Like do you have difficulty/ies? The PSA, in its 2016 survey, released in May 2019 show the prevalence of disability in the country is now 12%. If we don’t have the right data we would not know who we are going to include in our program, in our discussions on policies and legal frameworks? Participation: PWD continued to be excluded in the discussions of issues that involve them. Nothing about us, without us. Disability is still being looked at as a charity case. The decisions that will improve the development of your lives remains in the hand of CSOs, etc. Participation is still very low, especially with budgeting. UNDP, support for hearing aids under the</td>
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| 1. Incorporate the Washington group of questions in monitoring SDGs. |
| 2. Include PWDs in social dialogues and policy discussions |
| 3. Strengthen and implement laws on PWDs. |
BUB program of the government. 80% LGU has no PDAO. There are LGUs who try their best but only for compliance and not really about inclusion. We cannot close the gap. On jobs, PWDs cannot talk about contractualization. PWDs do not have access to decent jobs, TRAIN and joblessness because we are not there yet. According to the World Bank: 1 out of 5 living in poverty are PWDs. If we do not include PWDs in our discussion, if PWDs will continue to be marginalized in this discussion, we will not be able to address poverty and inequality.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THEMATIC ISSUES</th>
<th>POLICY REFORMS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7. Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance (MCPA) on repression and citizen engagement.</strong> People’s conditions in Mindanao under martial law: About 17,494 military checkpoints were put up and 129 cities were placed under curfew. Monitoring from the Amnesty International said military airstrikes may have been used excessively and killed non-combatants. Outside of Marawi, aerial bombardment of Lumad and Moro areas were undertaken along with arrests and filing of trumped up charges against activists. Under Memorandum Order No. 32, the Duterte administration uses draconian measures. National task force under EO 70, turned civilian bureaucracy into military zone. On the ground, forced people to give up their struggle. The line between terrorism and activism has been blurred. Legitimate struggles, military clashes with rebel groups pushing for political reforms and social justice are considered acts of terrorism. Critics of Pres. Duterte are charged with sedition. HR defenders are charged with various cases and tagged as terrorists. In Metro Manila, Oplan Kalasag is sowing terror among civilians, activists and CSOs. The situation will be made worse with the implementation of the National ID system and the Human Security Act amendments, where critics will be tagged as terrorists.</td>
<td>1. We call for an end to vilification and smear campaign, red tagging and terrorist labeling; 2. Lift martial law in Mindanao without condition; 3. recall of EO 70 and stop all activities emanating from this order; 4. stop Oplan Kapanatagan; 5. prioritization of enactment and full implementation of the HR defenders bill and follow UN declaration for HR defenders; 6. Adherence and respect to international agreement on HR; 7. Implement and recognize the Iceland resolution, to prevent EJK and enforced disappearances from further happening, and cooperate with the UNHRC. 8. Revive the peace talks.</td>
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| **8. Climate Change Network for Community based Initiatives (CCNCI) on climate resilience and the environment** Climate change cuts across issues and sectors but the most vulnerable are the poor. They are those dependent on climate-sensitive industries like farming and fishing. | 1. It is imperative to call for climate justice. We call on the Philippine government and its relevant agencies to stand for justice and call for accountability from the years of historical emissions of developed countries. Climate justice also includes the call for the defense of human rights of environmental defenders and |
They live in disaster-prone areas like coastal and urban poor communities. They are threatened with displacement to give way to so-called development projects like large dams and reclamation, and extractive industries like mining and logging. They have limited access to government services like education, health care and social welfare. Climate change exacerbates their already dire situation and poverty amplifies their vulnerability to climate change.

The Philippines enacted the Climate Change Act of 2009 or RA 9729 to establish the Climate Change Commission (CCC) which was amended in 2011 to create the People Survival Fund (PSF) or RA 10174. The CCC drafted the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) 2010-2022 which was translated into the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011-2028.

Despite its ambitious mandate to ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are embodied in government programs, the functions of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) are limited to policy recommendation and coordination, evaluation, and monitoring of government programs related to climate change. It has no control over laws, policies and programs of other government agencies that heighten people’s vulnerabilities which resulted in disjointed government policies like the Mining Act of 1995, Manila Bay reclamation, land and water use conversion, expansion of monocrop plantations, including its “Build, Build, Build Infrastructure Program. But even this limited function of the CCC is threatened by the impending passing of the Department of Disaster Resiliency (DDR) Bill wherein the CCC will be reduced to an office under this Department.

Another mechanism is the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) created to support community-based climate change adaptation strategies but the requirements are highly technical and hard to fulfill by LGUs and people’s organizations. Many of the approved projects were institutional support for schools and infrastructures that do not directly benefit marginalized sectors and communities.

The NFSCC and NCCAP tries to comprehensively address climate change but several laws, policies and programs of the government conflict with achieving climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience.
The NCCAP identified 7 priorities to attaining climate resiliency:

1. **Food security** – without laws on genuine agrarian reform and fisheries and aquatic reform, food security is almost impossible to achieve. On the other hand, the rice tarrification law is killing the Philippine rice industry.
2. **Water sufficiency** – this cannot be achieved when water is controlled by the private sector.
3. **Ecological and environmental stability** – this is impossible with the continuous plunder of resources (mining, logging, etc.) and the liberalized policies on environmental governance.
4. **Human Security** – the people have limited access to social services and disaster response but climate change is more than weather-related disasters
5. **Climate-friendly industries and services** – unfortunately, this is still corporate sector-led and profit-oriented, innovations are offered but not accessible to communities
6. **Sustainable energy** – the country is still reliant on coal-fired power plants with 17 existing and 24 new power plants on the way
7. **Knowledge and capacity development** – there is an attempt to mainstream climate change education but lacks resources and facilities to implement

**9. Center for Women’s Resources on Social Protection**

On access to social services and social protection, we want to reiterate the state obligation to ensure the access to social services and social protection as part of women’s right to development and of the people vis-à-vis the implementation of the SDGs. We want to reiterate the importance of the efficient and effective social services and delivery of social protection will liberate women from multiple burden as a wife because we are a country that is still very feudal and patriarchal where the women bear the burden of taking care of the household’s welfare.

**4Ps** has continuing irregularities and problems in implementation. According to the grievance and redress system of the 4Ps there are 200,000 complaints lodged in 2018 including reduction in cash grants, delayed remittance of cash, and the 4Ps

1. Review appropriateness of the 4Ps whether its grounded on the real needs of the people especially the marginalized sectors – PWDs, women and children, IP and other vulnerable sectors.
2. Because it is already in place, impose protective measures that will safeguard the program from political influence in the communities at the local and national level.
3. Prioritize funding for health care and education not through PPP and corporatization but through direct services like building hospitals, hiring of regular teachers and health care providers;
4. We need asset reform like redistribution of lands and resources needed for production, access to capital;
5. We need democratic participation in development planning and processes to ensure that the poor are included in development.
being used for patronage politics. The figures may still be under reported because beneficiaries fear they will be deleted from the list if they filed complaints.

While there may be increased number of enrollees the question on the quality of education remains especially as there is deficiency in schools and health facilities.

The cash grants received whether conditional or unconditional are also not enough with inflation weakening the purchasing power of the peso due to the increasing prices of commodity goods and services with the TRAIN package 1 implementation.

We question the institutionalization of 4Ps signed into law when it is only palliative. Annually 4Ps budget is increasing but the billions devoted to it should have been devoted to direct services for health and education.

| 10. KADAMAY on Housing and BBB. | 1. No demolition without relocation.  
| | 2. Resettlement areas should be accessible to public vehicles, houses should be affordable, livable with available water and electricity including a public market, health centers and school facilities.  
| | 3. On-site, near-site or in-city development based on the needs of the community.  
| | 4. Assistance from government for condonation of loans or loan restructuring.  
| **The 75 flagship projects for BBB worth Php1.3T among which are Php7.4Bn from China will be paid for by Filipinos. We question the need for these large infrastructure projects. The government has budgeted Php124 million for demolition of communities that will be affected but there are no funds for relocation. Among the biggest projects include Manila Bay Reclamation, MRT 7, PNR, NLEX or North Luzon Expressway. We cannot eat cement and gravel.**  
| **11. Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Konsyumers, Inc. on consumers’ issues.**  
| Consumer rights are human rights. Despite the laws implemented promising cheaper user fees for essential public utilities – electricity and water, consumers continue to pay the highest water and electricity rates in Asia. These laws on water privatization and the EPIRA or electric power industry reform act did not bring about competition but increased monopoly control by a handful of corporations. An example is MERALCO’s seven power plants which consumers challenged in a petition at the Supreme Court citing department |
| Consumer rights are human rights. Despite the laws implemented promising cheaper user fees for essential public utilities – electricity and water, consumers continue to pay the highest water and electricity rates in Asia. These laws on water privatization and the EPIRA or electric power industry reform act did not bring about competition but increased monopoly control by a handful of corporations. An example is MERALCO’s seven power plants which consumers challenged in a petition at the Supreme Court citing department |
| 1. Review consumer rights act  
| 2. Review the suggested retail price act  
| 3. Repeal TRAIN  
| 4. Remove value added tax on water  
| 5. Reverse the privatization of public utilities and bring back to the state the responsibility of providing these basic services to the consumers |
order (DO) circular 2015. Whilst the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the consumers, the basis for its decision is DO circular 2018 which eased out the Department of Energy in the bidding process. Using the Swiss Challenge bidding, the minimum capitalization required is Php6 million which only big corporations can afford to churn out.

Money paid for high electricity and water rates could have been spent for food and other essential needs of the people especially the poor.

There is also the issue of the TRAIN law that resulted in higher prices for basic goods including rice and marine products, as well as raised commuters’ fares.

The open forum that followed raised questions on research backed policy reforms, government response to the workers’ issues raised at the high-level political forum (HLPF) on the SDGs in July 2019, whether the calls for policy reforms will continue or wait for the next administration.

The policy reforms presented are all the result of consultations and interactions with the communities which the CSOs work with. The communities, CSOs and POs have been implementing sustainable practices in harnessing natural resources, including the establishment of their own schools to support themselves but unfortunately the government is vilifying these communities and the CSOs that support them. The peace talks initiated in the first months of the Duterte administration also generated a lot of research backed policy recommendations from nationalist business sectors who were encouraged by the seeming openness of the Duterte administration at the start of his term. CSOs also called on government agencies to engage with CSOs especially POs in consultations and dialogues to get first hand data from the ground including on how government projects impact on communities. CSOs likewise asserted they will continue to engage with government and to claim their space in effecting development and impacting positively on the communities they serve, asserting that in the age of fake news and social media, there’s a need for an organized and united voices to speak the truth. There’s a need for more nationalist and competent government officials. On government responses to workers’ issues raised at the July 2019 HLPF on the SDGs, FFW’s Jules Cainglet said there was no concrete response nor feedback from the government.

e. The second half of the forum is on “Addressing Citizens’ Needs: Outcomes and Challenges in Social Services Delivery”. The panelists are:

Dr. Chito Medina, associate professional lecturer in environmental science at the De La Salle University, and CPDG Board of Trustee, previously national coordinator of MASIPAG. He will be joined in by different panelist from different sector.
Assistant Secretary (Asec.) Glenda Relova of the Department of Social Work and Development. She used to work in the provincial government of Laguna as Public Health Officer, and part of Family and Family Services International, and the Consuelo Foundation in the Philippine Women’s University.

Ms. Sandra Tablan-Paredes the Executive Director of the League of Provinces of the Philippines. She has 25 years of services in government and private sector.

Dir. Myrna Asuncion from the NEDA, National Development and Planning Office – Social Development Staff.

Former DILG Undersecretary, Mr. Austere Panadero, now Executive Vice President at Zuellig Family Foundation. As undersecretary at the DILG, oversees capacities of LGUs to effectively deliver public service to become more transparent and results based.

**Dr. Chito Medina, gave his input on Citizen Engagement Towards a People-Centered Social Policy.** He emphasized that both government and CSOs should engage. It is important to include the poor who are being left out in the discussion must be organized and strengthened through information and education.

We need to look at prevailing mindsets and attitudes. Drop the mindset of “either you’re with us or against us.” A common platform must be instituted to process all inputs from government and the CSOs. We share the same objectives of attaining the SDGs. But we have different methods. From the government side, there is lack of information hence information drive. On the part of the CSO, lack of genuine public participation (democracy deficit view). There are three levels of engagement – participation, ownership and partnership. People-centered policy should give importance to participation and ownership of the people. The purpose of civil society is to increase involvement of stakeholders. Genuine participation from the formulation to implementation of effective development policies. This to diffuses responsibility.

We have legal bases for empowerment and governance, for participation, including the provisions of the Philippine Constitution, the LGU code. The question is who will start the partnership? Ownership- who owns the policy? CSOs are happy to be co-owners if it reflects their advocacy. In creating mechanisms for creating and managing partnerships includes decision making bodies with defined roles. There should be equity. There should be more space for CSO participation. Organization and empowerment is key. In the current situation we are in right now, business as usual is no longer an option, the people especially the poor and marginalized must be included in the development effectiveness process if we must eradicate poverty and achieve Agenda 2030.
Asec. Glenda Relova shared DSWD’s mandate, mission, goals, policy anchors, and programs and services. The pillars for social protection are 1. social insurance, 2. social safety nets, 3. labor market intervention including security of tenure, 4. social assistance, 5. fiscal sustainability. Also, the whole of nation approach. Its big ticket programs are the 4Ps, sustainable livelihood program and the Kalahi-CIDSS.

Asec. Relova emphasized that the 4Ps is not a poverty alleviation program but a social protection program. Effects cannot be seen immediately. Sustainable livelihood is a poverty alleviation and Kalahi-CIDSS is a community development program where community determines what projects it needs.

The DSWD’s Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster Performance and Projects Roadmap 2019-2022 set priority targets to (1) addressing poor learning outcomes, (2) addressing teenage pregnancy, (3) addressing malnutrition. To address these: education, advance and protect public health, enhance social protection, build capacities and create opportunities.

DSWD supported bills for tertiary education, universal health care and expanded maternity leave.

The major challenges faced by the DSWD are: (1) benefit level of cash grants have been eroded by inflation; (2) limited information on DSWD indicators; (3) frequent changes in operational guidelines delay the implementation of programs; (4) human and budgetary resource constraints are affecting the results; (5) the Department still suffers from weak targeting and M&E. To address these challenges, the DSWD drafted a strategic plan which included the development of the DSWD policy agenda and DSWD research and evaluation agenda. (See power point presentation)

Ms. Sandra Tablan-Paredes of the League of Provinces of the Philippines shared on the current challenges of LGUs. Lack of funding limits the LGUs from effectively delivering its services to its constituents. The budget allocation for LGUs should be increased to at least 40% of the IRA or internal revenue allotment. The LPP advocates the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the IRA. There are 81 provinces but under the DBM, its 82 because the MMDA is included. There is also an issue of lopsided allocation of IRA.

Compared to its counterparts in the Asia Pacific, the Philippines has a very low average percent revenue share in public spending of Sub-National Governments (SNGs) or LGUs vs their National Government’s annual budget at 16% with China’s 85%, Japan’s 30% and for Asia Pacific, 34%. (See power point presentation)

Director Myrna Asuncion shared NEDAs contribution to SDG implementation. She said that they are an oversight body for the Ambisyon 2040 which envisions matatag,
maginhawa at panatag para sa lahat ng Pilipino by 2040. By 2040 the target is to triple the amount of the current wages received by Filipino workers, there should be zero hunger and zero poverty. Ambisyon 2040 should stand even with change in administrations. Various plans crafted to achieve Ambisyon 2040, the first plan emphasizes malasakit, pagbabago at pag-unlad. The malasakit part has a culture chapter. Pagbabago is the inequality reducing pillar. It addresses vulnerabilities of the poor not only in terms of individual vulnerabilities but also community vulnerabilities. Supports a list of priority bills, some have already been passed including increase the days for maternity leave, and the magna carta for poor. Aside from income, looks at other dimensions of poverty to determine who are really the poor? The NEDA is in the process of assessing the PDP and targets to finished by October and post the results for comments by November. Inequality is not just lack of information. We all should agree on what needs to be done, who should be beneficiaries. Cooperative participation in poverty eradication is necessary.

**Former DILG Use. Austere Panadero** stressed the need for targeting the beneficiaries of social protection programs, know where they are and who they are to have definite and measurable outcomes. With the LGU’s there are programs but are they enough? We cannot see if the outcomes are realized. The PDP today has a results matrix cascaded to the LGUs. The issue on inequality will be resolved not just in the change of system but also in having local leaders who will ensure that outcomes are attained. The policy is there. On the question of participation, is it a policy, a program or execution question? We really need a whole of nation, whole of society approach to have partnerships with everyone. The UHC- one of the few laws that we have should be given to GIDA or geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The question how is it to be done? how do you translate it to action? If the additional funding for LGUs will go to the poor, we have bigger chances of addressing resolving poverty and inequality. Business as usual is no longer an option, radical change is needed. How? In what way, manner? Participation is important. Message of presentations, if national government has a clear plan, consultations are being done. DSWD is at the forefront of anti-poverty program implementation. There is an element of participation. The challenge is on the delivery of services. What has been planned out at the national level must be implemented at the local level. The 32 poorest provinces should be the priority. We need to get everyone to synergize. Getting more participation, we need strong mandatory laws leading to the outcomes.

The **open forum** raised issues on outdated nutrition guidelines, if there conditions of DSWD in providing support to urban poor communities like non-participation to rallies, closure of schools and delisting of parents of Lumad students, whole of nation approach where the military and DSWD representatives join together in visiting Lumad schools in Region 12 and eventually facilitating the closure of these schools and delayed release of food or cash for work for IPs and requiring them to submit birth certificates and other
legal documents before release of their payments. Labor sector is also seemingly being left out of the social protection program.

Asec. Relova said there are no conditions particularly on nonparticipation in rallies in exchange for assistance they provide, except for documents that would be the basis of their assistance like for health or medical assistance, for burial. Housing is beyond their mandate but can assist stakeholders to the right agencies. On delisting of parents of Lumad children enrolled in alternative Lumad schools established by the communities, DSWD would investigate the cause and intervene if unwarranted. DSWD likewise does not have mandate on closure of Lumad schools except when violations on children’s rights are committed. DSWD will look into these and take appropriate actions as needed. Asec. Relova also committed to look into the irregularities in the food/cash for work, and update BAI. There must be equal opportunity for labor, need security. On insurance, if a worker gets laid off somebody from the government should provide insurance until he can find another job. There is also a question on licensing and accreditation which is necessary of CSOs have projects in different provinces. The requirement is for monitoring and checking if funds really go to intended donor. This arose from the Napoles NGOs scam.

For the NEDA on its role in assisting IPs in the development of their ancestral domain areas. The panelists were also asked if they agree to changing the Philippine charter for anti-poverty programs to be effective. Likewise, the NEDA was called for its preference for trade liberalization at the expense of agriculture, and seemingly without regard for food sovereignty.

Director Asuncion said the NEDA also supports development and modernization of Philippine agriculture. Surplus workers from agriculture should be provided employment.

Former NAPC Secretary, now President of We Govern and Spokesperson of CPDG, Ms. Liza Maza closed the forum. Ms. Maza noted the need for CSOs and government agencies to join hands in advancing the Filipino’s rights and welfare especially the poor. She urged people to speak truth to power if poverty and inequality must be addressed. Continuing poverty and inequality may be considered a crime given the decades long of neoliberal policies that perpetuated inequality. If poverty is a crime, we should not let it happen. Continuing poverty and inequality are crimes against humanity, crimes against the poor.

In a way of giving the closing remarks Ms. Maza tackled the mobilization in protest of the planned release of convicted rapist and murderer former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez who got away with the murder of two of Ms. Maza’s kin in 1991, so that in 1994 he was able to commit a more heinous crime with rape and murder of two UP students Eileen and Allan. Even in prison, Sanchez was caught selling drugs and was living a lavish lifestyle compared to other prisoners. There is an obvious climate of impunity.
CSOs should continue to engage. The dialogue that was started at the forum must be continued. CSOs should not be cowed by the neoliberal authoritarianism of the Duterte administration. CSOs are serious in its openness to engage with government. CSOs want to talk with government and development institutions, to change the policies of this country so that poverty and inequality would be addressed.

**Annex 1. Participating Organizations and Institutions**

**I. CSOs**

A. POs

1. Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (o National Federation of Small Fisherfolk Organizations in the Philippines)
2. Pakisama
3. Kadamay
4. Amihan
5. Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA-Pilipinas)
6. BAI Indigenous Women’s Network

B. NGOs

1. Save Our Schools Network (SOS)
2. Moro-Christian People’s Alliance (MCPA)
3. CODE-NGO
4. Center for Women’s Resources
5. CPDG
6. IBON Foundation
7. CCNCl
8. Urban Poor Resource Center (UPRC)
9. Bantay Bigas/SUKI
10. MSK/SUKI
11. Center for Environmental Concerns, Inc. (CEC)
12. IBON International
13. CDSCP, Inc.
14. Maradeca, Inc.
15. Mincode
16. PhilDHRRA
17. RECITE
18. CBCS-Mindanao/G-HUBS
19. CCAGG/CAR-G-HUBS
20. Center for Local and Regional Governance -NCPAG
21. PNFSP
22. EILER
23. NILAD Metro Manila Environmental Network
24. Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)
25. UP-Center for Local and Regional Governance
26. Center for Development Programs in the Cordillera (CDPC)
27. Fair Trade Foundation, Panay Inc.
28. Nurturers of the Earth
29. CHIMES
30. UAAP Net
31. People’s Food Movement
32. Philippine Task Force for Indigenous Peoples Rights (TFIP-Rights)
33. Alerto Mamimili/SUKI
34. Alyansa para sa Bagong Pilipinas/SUKI
35. Plan International, Philippines
36. ASCENT
37. Humanity and Inclusion
38. Foundation of Filipino Workers
39. We Govern
40. Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
41. NATRIPAL, Inc.
42. People’s CARE
43. CSDO-SC
44. COURAGE
45. Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD)

C. Foundations
1. CFC-ANCOP Global Foundation, Inc.
2. Tany Foundation
3. Safer River, Life Saver Foundation, Liceo University
4. Propegenus, Inc.
5. BPI Foundation
6. Tan Yan Kee Foundation
7. ERDA Foundation, Inc.
8. PEAMF
9. Antipolo Seminary Foundation
10. Megaworld Foundation
11. Museo Pambata Foundation, Inc.

D. Faith-based organizations
1. Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-Northern Mindanao Region
2. International Care Ministries
3. CARITAS Manila

II. Schools
1. USTP-Cagayan de Oro
2. UP Visayas
3. UP NCPAG
4. UP Visayas-CM

III. Aid Agencies
1. UNDP
2. World Bank

**IV. Government agencies:**
1. Food and Nutrition Research Institute-Department of Science and Technology
2. Senate Economic and Planning Office
3. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
4. CCT Support Office
5. Department of Social Welfare and Development
6. National Anti-Poverty Commission
7. Commission on Human Rights
8. National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
9. CPBRD, House of Representatives

**V. LGUs**
1. Municipal Government of Pasig City
2. Office of the Provincial Government of Tarlac
3. League of Philippine Provinces

**VI. Legislators**
1. Office of Senator Pia Cayetano
2. Office of Bayan Muna Representative Carlos Zarate
3. Office of Senator Cynthia Villar
4. Office of Senator Tolentino

**Annex 2. Policy Proposals to promote People Economics**

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<th>Develop the countryside</th>
<th>Build Filipino industries</th>
<th>Protect the environment</th>
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<td>Modernize agriculture and make it sustainable, develop rural industries, and achieve food self-sufficiency</td>
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<td><strong>Raise incomes of farmers, farmworkers and fisherfolk</strong></td>
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<td>- Distribute land to the tillers for free</td>
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<td>- Provide complete irrigation, post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads, and marketing, price and production support</td>
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<td>- Give subsidized agricultural credit and crop insurance</td>
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<td>- Rapidly develop agricultural science and technology</td>
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<td>- Stop reckless land and crop conversion</td>
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<td>- Protect domestic agriculture from imports and smuggling</td>
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<td>- Promote cottage activities, village enterprises, and rural industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; <strong>Legislate</strong>: Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill; Genuine Small Coco Farmer’s Fund; Rice Industry Development Act; Amendments to the Organic Agriculture Act</td>
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<td>&gt; <strong>Repeal</strong> of the Rice Tariffication Law</td>
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<td>&gt; <strong>Push for investigation on impacts of agribusiness to agrarian reform beneficiaries</strong></td>
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<td>Develop Filipino consumer, intermediate and capital goods industries that are environmentally sustainable</td>
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<td><strong>Create jobs, raise incomes, increase productivity, and integrate the national economy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Plan for national industrialization</td>
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<td>- Rapidly develop Filipino industrial science and technology</td>
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<td>- Give preferential support to Filipino firms: fiscal, financial, raw materials, infrastructure &amp; marketing</td>
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<td>- Promote buying Filipino and government procurement of local goods and services</td>
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<td>- Protect Filipino industry from imports &amp; smuggling</td>
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<td>- Strictly regulate foreign investment for national development</td>
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<td>- Work towards efficient nationalized utilities and mining</td>
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Renationalization of Petron
Unbundling of Oil Prices
Moratorium on Coal-Fired Power Plants
People’s Mining Bill
No Mining Zones

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<tr>
<th>Ensure balanced use, environmental conservation, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, and rehabilitation of the country’s natural wealth</th>
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<td><strong>Keep our surroundings healthy and develop our natural resources</strong></td>
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<td>- Prioritize Filipinos in use of the country’s resources</td>
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<td>- Encourage sustainable patterns of demand and consumption</td>
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<td>- Aggressively promote technologies and investment in greener production and renewable energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Strictly regulate mining and exploitation of marine wealth</td>
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<td>- Preserve the integrity and sovereignty of the country’s genetic assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Arrest pollution, degradation, destruction and over-extraction</td>
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<td>- Build people’s capacity to respond to disasters</td>
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Investigation on Kaliwa Dam Project, Chico Pump Irrigation Project and all other large dam projects.
Investigation on Water Privatization

Resolution seeking to review the concession agreement of the MWSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uphold people’s rights and welfare</th>
<th>Finance development</th>
<th>Strive for independence and sovereignty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favor the rights and welfare of the working people and vulnerable groups over profits, reduce inequalities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guarantee a basic standard of living for all and support everyone to develop to their full potential</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decent living wage, with a nationwide minimum wage</td>
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<td>• Guarantee security of tenure and right to organize and strike</td>
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<td>• Expand public sector social services to provide free education, free health care, and affordable housing</td>
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<td>• Ensure affordable public sector water, electricity, and transport</td>
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<td>• Provide universal social protection</td>
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<td>• Establish universal non-contributory tax-financed pensions</td>
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<td>• Expand programs and welfare services for overseas Filipinos, women and other gender-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Generate financing for industrialization and development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure systematic public regulation and control of finance for productive investments</strong></td>
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<td>• Lower taxes on the poor, increase taxes on the rich</td>
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<td>• Build up development banking</td>
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<td>• Direct credit to productive investments in agriculture and industry for long-term growth</td>
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<td>• Use capital controls to promote financial stability</td>
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<td>• Preserve independence of monetary, exchange rate, fiscal and financial policies</td>
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<td>• Increase public spending to provide basic goods and services</td>
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<td>Repeal TRAIN Law</td>
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<td>Repeal of VAT on oil and other products</td>
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<td>No VAT in Water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expand the policy space for national socioeconomic development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adapt to changes in the world economy, shift to domestic demand-driven growth</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Draw up an independent foreign economic policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reshape foreign trade and investment relations with the United States, European Union, Japan and China to support national development</td>
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<td>• Build deeper productive relations with regional neighbors and underdeveloped countries asserting independence from big economic powers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Review and, if necessary, modify international economic treaties and agreements</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Democratize global financial and economic institutions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- discriminated groups, children and youth, PWDs, and elderly
- Develop schools to teach critical thinking and foster a patriotic, progressive and pro-people culture
- Uphold the right of indigenous people to self-determination

| ₱750 National Minimum Wage |
| ₱16,000 Minimum Wage for Government Employees |
| Security of Tenure and Substitute Civil Service Eligibility |
| Expanded paternity leave |
| Lowering the optional retirement age of government employees |
| The Public School Class Size Law |
| Mandatory units for Filipino at Panitikan in college |
| Mandatory Bonifacio Subject |
| Human Rights Education |
| *Inquiry in aid of legislation into the status of implementation of the K to 12 Program* |
| Students Rights |
| Campus Press Freedom |
| University Services |
| Anti-No Permit No Exam |
| Salary increase for public school teachers and other government employees |
| The Teacher Protection Act of 2019 |
The Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2019
Shorter probationary period of teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools
Guidance counselors in public schools

Anti-Privatization of Health Services
Act Mandating Free Health Services for the People
Free Hemodialysis

Increasing Social Pension
2nd Tranche of SSS pension increase
The Revised GSIS Act of 2019

Magna Carta for Daycare Workers

Amendments to the Solo Parents Welfare Act

Manila Bay as Reclamation-Free Zone

Annex 3. List of policies in Congress supported by CSOs

1. HB 239 Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill
2. HB 240 Human Rights Defenders Bill
3. HB 241 Social Pension Increase
4. HB 242 Party-list Amendment
5. HB 243 Repeal of TRAIN law
6. HB 244 Renationalizing the Petron Corporation
7. HB 245 Remove VAT on Systems Loss
8. HB 246 P750 National Minimum Wage Act
9. HB 247 P16k National Minimum Monthly Salary
10. HB 248 Security of Tenure
11. HB 249 Remove VAT on Electricity
12. HB 250 Anti-Privatization of Health Services
13. HB 251 Free Hemodialysis
14. HB 252 Anti-Political Dynasty
15. HB 253 No Mining Zone
16. HB 254 People's Mining Bill
17. HB 255 Coco Levy
18. HB 256 Remove VAT on Water
19. HB 257 Manila Bay as No Reclamation Zone
20. HB 258 SOGIE
21. HJR 1 2nd Tranche of SSS Pension Increase
22. HR 8 China Recto Bank
23. HR 9 Unbundling
24. HR 10 Water Privatization
25. HR 11 Electoral Related Harassment
26. HR 12 Killings in Bicol
27. HR 13 Agrarian Venture Agreements on Economic Status AVAS
28. HR 14 Moratorium on Coal Mining
29 HR 15 Kaliwa Dam
30. HR 16 Memo 32
31. HR 29 Investigation on PEPMACO
32. HB 475 - Magna Carta for Daycare Workers
33. HB 476 - Repeal Rice Tariffication Law
34. HB 477 - Rice Industry Development Act
35. HB 478 - Amendments to Solo Parents Welfare Act
36. HB 479 - Electronic Violence Against Women and Children
37. HB 480 - Amendments to Anti-Rape Law
38. HB 481 - Repeal VAT on oil
39. HB 482 - Repeal Human Security Act
40. HR 19 - Resolution on MWSS concession agreement
41. HB 838 - Divorce Bill
42. HB 219 - Salary Increase for Public School Teachers and Other Government Employees
43. HB 220 - The Teacher Protection Act of 2019
44. HB 221 - Lowering the Optional Retirement Age of Government Employees
45. HB 222 - The Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2019
46. HB 223 - Mandatori na mga Yunit ng Filipino at Panitikan sa Kolehiyo
47. HB 224 - Act Mandating Free Health Services for the People
48. HB 225 - exempting from taxation all amounts granted to persons rendering election service for national and local elections
49. HB 226 - The Freedom of Information Act
50. HB 227 - The Public School Class Size Law
51. HB 228 - The Revised GSIS Act of 2019
52. HB 508 - shorter probationary period of teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools
53. HB 509 - guidance counselors in public schools
54. HB 510 - repealing the anti-professional CPD Act of 2016
55. HB 511 - The COMELEC Reorganization Act
56. HB 512 - expanded paternity leave
57. HB 513 - National Education Support Personnel Day
58. HR 20 - Inquiry in Aid of Legislation into the Status of Implementation of the K to 12 Program
59. HB 318 Students' Rights Bill - An act declaring students' rights
60. HB 319 Campus Press Freedom Bill - An act upholding and promoting campus journalism and campus press freedom, repealing for the purpose republic act no. 7079, entitled “an act providing for the development and promotion of campus journalism”, penalizing violations against campus press freedom and for other purposes
61. HB 320 Human Rights Education Bill - An act providing for the mandatory study of human rights in the curricula in all levels of education
62. HB 321 Anti-"No Permit, No Exam" Act of 2019 - An act penalizing the imposition of a ‘no permit, no exam’ policy or any such policy that prohibits students from taking their periodic or final examinations due to unpaid tuition and other school fees
63. HB 322 First Quarter Storm Anniversary Bill - An act recognizing January 25 every year as observance of the anniversary of the first quarter storm, and for other purposes, and appropriating funds therefor
64. HB 323 National Youth Day - An act declaring August 12 of every year as the national youth day with meaningful activities
65. HB 324 Andres Bonifacio Act of 2019 - An act providing for the inclusion in the curricula of secondary and tertiary education the life, works, and ideals of Andres Bonifacio and appropriating funds therefor
66. HB 325 National Youth Museum Act of 2019 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FILIPINO YOUTH MUSEUM to
   a. Recognize the historic contributions of the youth to nation-building;
   b. Celebrate the youth whose various individual and collective efforts have caused to dramatically and significantly advance the Filipino youth’s struggle against inequality, injustice, and impunity;
   c. Honor the role and heroism of the youth in the liberation from foreign invasion and occupation against the Spanish, American, and Japanese;
   d. Honor individual youth whose specific achievements have enriched and impacted any and all aspects of Filipino life; and
   e. Commemorate modern-day youth heroes, heroines, and martyrs who struggled against injustice, oppression, and exploitation especially during Martial Law.
67. HB 326 Free University Services - An act promoting comprehensive free public tertiary education by providing for free university services—quality free adequate university housing, health services, and student meals—and quality and affordable food services in state universities and colleges, and appropriating funds therefor
68. HB 474 Philippine Cinema and Theater Appreciation Act for High School Students - An act providing for the mandatory instruction of Philippine cinema and theater appreciation in secondary educational institutions in the country and for other purposes