



Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

Bangsamoro Government Center, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Rosary Heights VII, Cotabato City 9600

MEMORANDUM

Circular No. 0147
Series of 2025

TO : **ALL MINISTRIES, OFFICES, AND AGENCIES**
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

SUBJECT : **PARTICIPATION TO THE PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

DATE : **29 Rabi Ath-Thani 1447 AH | 21 October 2025**

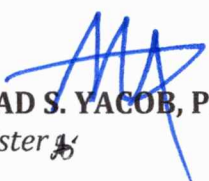
1. The Philippine Government will host the **Philippine Conference on Women, Peace, and Security** on **October 28–30, 2025**, at the **Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City**, with the theme *“Empowering Local Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Champions as Agents in Socioeconomic Transformation.”*
2. The Conference will serve as a national learning platform and a venue for critical reflection on the milestones of the WPS agenda. It aims to highlight community-rooted peacebuilding innovations, intergenerational leadership, and inclusive governance, consistent with the principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).
3. As such, all ministries, offices, and agencies (MOAs) are hereby **enjoined to participate in the Philippine Conference on WPS**. Each MOA is allocated **three (3) participant slots**. Each designated participant is requested to confirm his or her participation on or before **23 October 2025** through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/PhilConParticipants>.
4. Attached are the relevant documents for your reference.
5. The accommodations and travel costs will not be covered by the Organizers.
6. For any concerns or inquiries about the event, your designated focal person may contact the following:

Designation	OPAPRU	DBM
Registration and Confirmation	Ekaterina Alessandra Ocampo Email: Ekaterina.ocampo@peace.gov.ph Viber: 0905 574 2944	Allaiyah Durante Email: adurante@dbm.gov.ph Viber: 0945 493 4018

Transportation and Logistics	Jasmine Tolentino Email: jasmine.tolentino@peace.gov.ph Viber: 0961 351 6659	Maroel San Pedro Email: msanpedro@dbm.gov.ph Viber: 0969 638 6717
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For guidance and compliance.

By Authority of the Chief Minister
ABDULRAOF A. MACACUA


MOHAMMAD S. YACOB, Ph.D.
Senior Minister

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PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

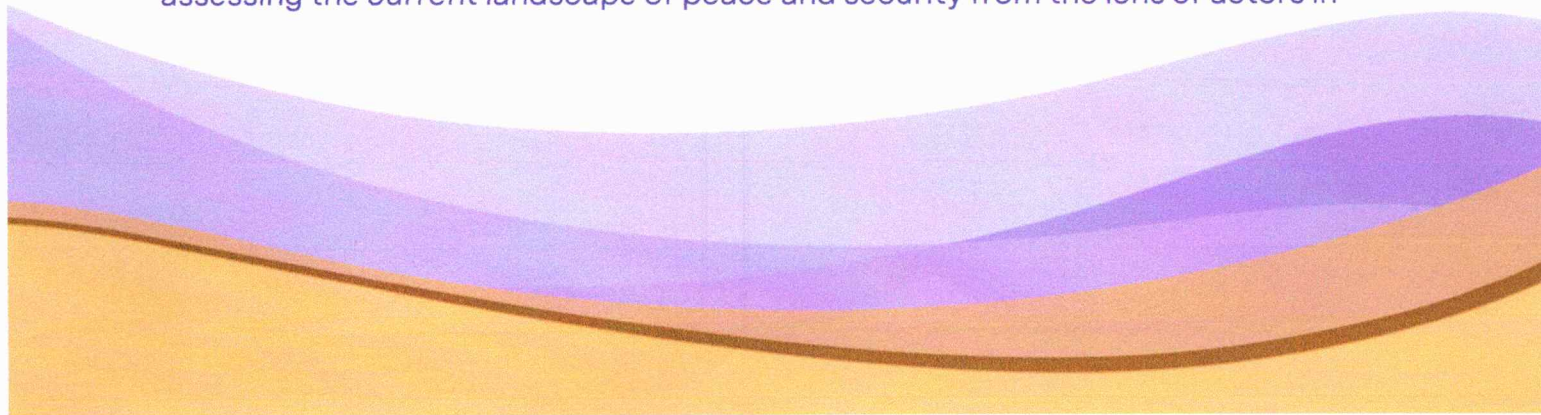
Background and Rationale

In 2024, the Philippines hosted the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security (ICWPS), inspiring renewed global and regional commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Building on that momentum and showcasing the Philippines' implementation of the Pasay Declaration, the country is set to convene a follow-through conference in 2025 that recenters the WPS discourse on local voices, grounded leadership, and community-rooted knowledge.

2025 is a milestone year for gender-responsive policies:

- 45th year of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- 30th year of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR)
- 15th year of the Philippines' inaugural National Action Plan on WPS (NAPWPS) and National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS)
- 10th year of UNSCR 2250

Thus, the upcoming conference must serve as a critical reflection point. From honoring the legacy of the women who first laid the groundwork for WPS, to assessing the current landscape of peace and security from the lens of actors in





PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

Philippine International Convention Center
28 to 30 October 2025



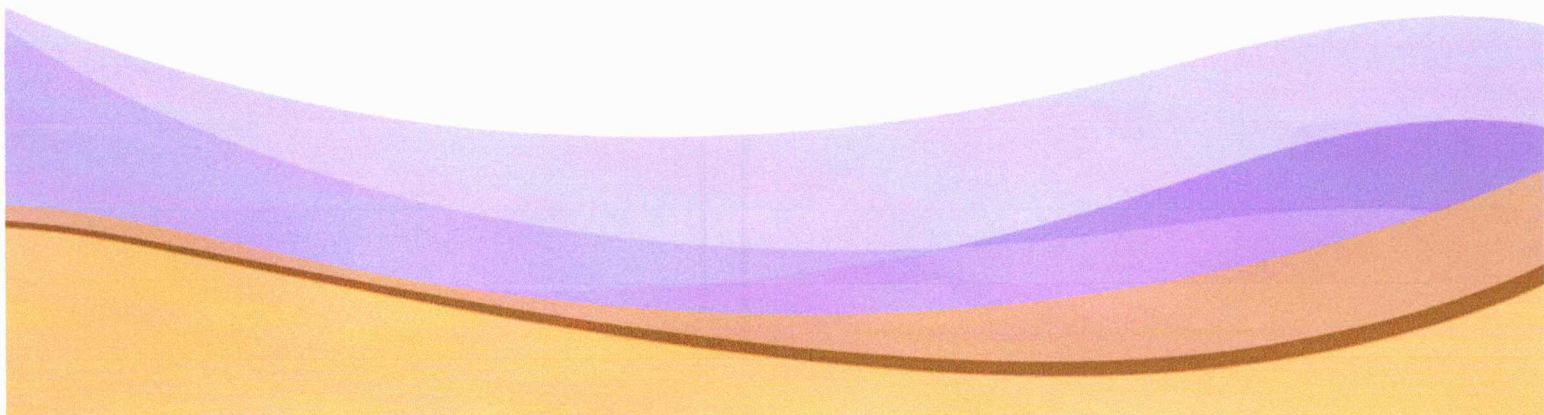
local communities, and eventually collectively looking forward to an intergenerational and inclusive future of feminist peace. A key step toward this inclusivity would be to learn from community-driven innovations and practical strategies that are led and developed by women, in all their diverse and intersecting identities, rooted in the everyday peacebuilding needs of their respective communities.

A Regional Learning Platform

While grounded in the Philippine context, the Conference is envisioned as a regional learning platform, drawing insights and participation from countries across Asia and the Pacific, as well as other dialogue partners.

With rich experience drawing from the successes and limitations of four generations of NAPWPS implementation, the Philippines offers a valuable case study for localized and systemic WPS operationalization. This perspective will be further strengthened through alignment with the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS and by fostering South-South solidarity for feminist peacebuilding.

The Conference also presents an opportunity to align the localization of WPS with the principles and mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)—particularly transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Led by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), a key player in OGP and fiscal openness, the WPS Conference reinforces the vision of participatory, inclusive governance through multisectoral engagement. WPS localization is a democratic imperative—and this space will serve as a laboratory of innovations and institutional commitment to make peace work for, by, and with women.

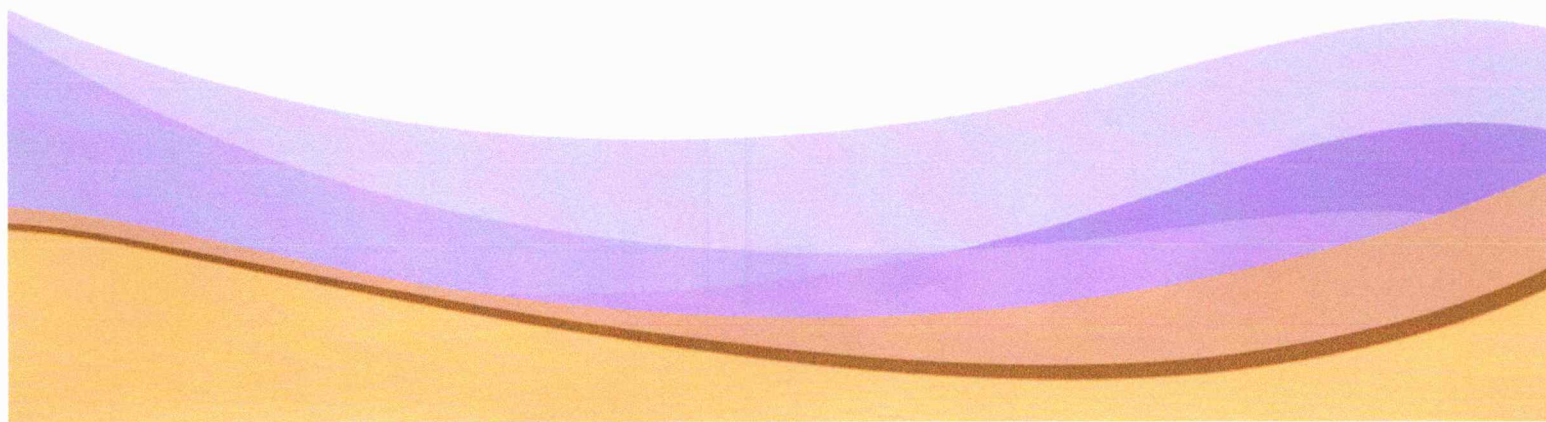




Objectives

The conference aims to:

- To reflect on key milestone years in the WPS agenda locally, nationally, and internationally by celebrating institutional progress, movement-led breakthroughs, and women's lived experiences in conflict-affected areas, serving as both a historical reckoning and a compass for future direction. The Conference shall honor pioneering women peacebuilders, celebrate current champions, and co-create pathways that pass on feminist peacebuilding values and strategies to emerging generations of leaders.
- To center local leadership, community-defined peace practices, and bottom-up strategies for sustaining peace and security, with a strong emphasis on recognizing the power and potential of women in all their diverse and intersecting identities to end conflict and transform institutions.
- To anchor WPS localization within the framework of open, accountable, and participatory governance by integrating values and mechanisms from the Open Government Partnership (OGP), thereby promoting multi-stakeholder convergence through fiscal openness, inclusive policy making, and collaborative peacebuilding—to scale up the implementation and localization of the Philippine NAPWPS and contribute to regional and global WPS commitments.



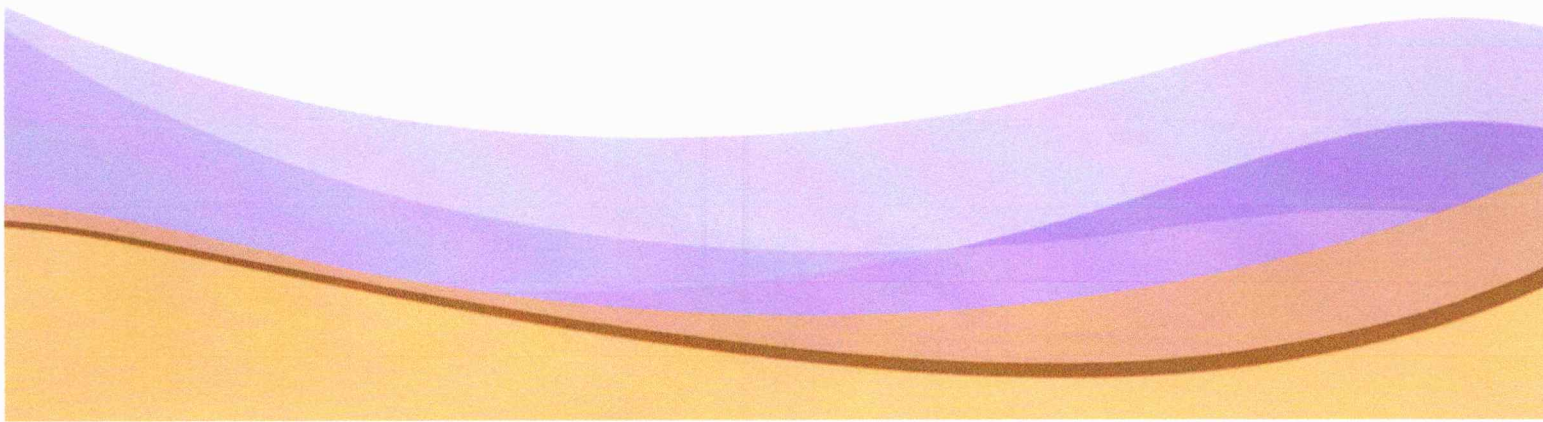


Organizers

The Philippine Conference on Women, Peace, and Security will be led by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)** which reflects the strong linkage between the WPS agenda and the values of Open Government Partnership (OGP): *transparency, accountability, citizen engagement, and fiscal openness*. DBM's stewardship underscores the belief that feminist peace is also participatory, democratic, and driven by inclusive public institutions.

Co-organizers include the **Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU)**, as Chair of the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS) and lead agency in peacebuilding and normalization programs; the **Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)**, as Vice Chair of the NSCWPS and national gender machinery. **Member agencies of the NSCWPS** co-developed the side events for the Conference. Together, these institutions ensure that the WPS agenda remains embedded in national peace and security architecture and gender mainstreaming mechanisms.

The Conference will also be supported by peace and development partners including **UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Philippines** and the **UN Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines**. The diplomatic community—through embassies and donor governments—will serve as allies in advancing shared commitments on gender-responsive peacebuilding. Civil society organizations and grassroots peacebuilders, many of whom have been at the forefront of localizing WPS, will play leading roles as knowledge holders, facilitators, and movement builders. This multi-stakeholder model exemplifies the co-creation and convergence at the heart of the Philippine WPS ecosystem.





Global theme for 2025

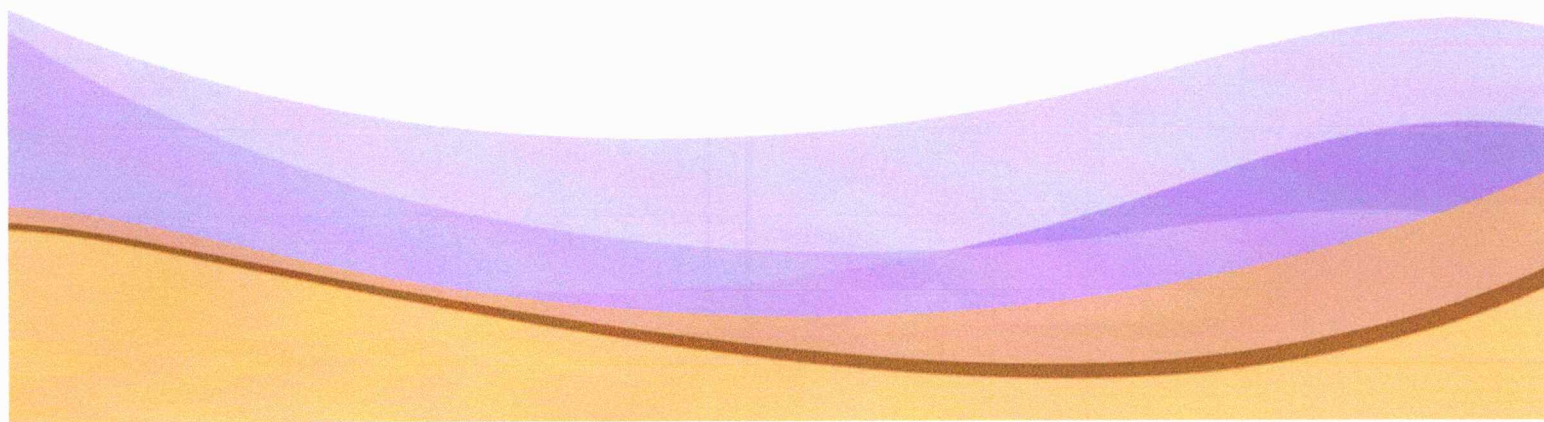
The overarching theme coined by the WPS Focal Point Network for 2025 is “Deepening WPS Commitments for Action: Innovating and Adapting to Deliver on Peace and Security”. This theme emphasizes the need for inclusive, responsive, and transparent approaches to peacebuilding, ensuring that efforts remain adaptive to the evolving challenges faced by women in security sectors and conflict-affected areas.

A critical focus of this commitment involves engaging men in the WPS agenda, recognizing masculinities as an integral component in dismantling systemic barriers. By fostering gender-equitable dialogue and addressing the culture of normalization surrounding gendered violence and exclusion, we move toward a more inclusive and responsive framework that upholds the security needs of women, children, and other marginalized communities.

Theme for the 2025 Conference on WPS

Following this overarching theme, the proposed theme for the Conference on Women, Peace and Security in October 2025 is “Empowering Local Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Champions as Agents in Socioeconomic Transformation”.

In advancing women’s representation, participation, and leadership in peace and security, livelihood reintegration programs play a vital role in equipping women with sustainable opportunities, especially within indigenous and grassroots communities. These initiatives strengthen not only economic independence but also foster health security during conflict, reinforcing resilience and stability in fragile settings.

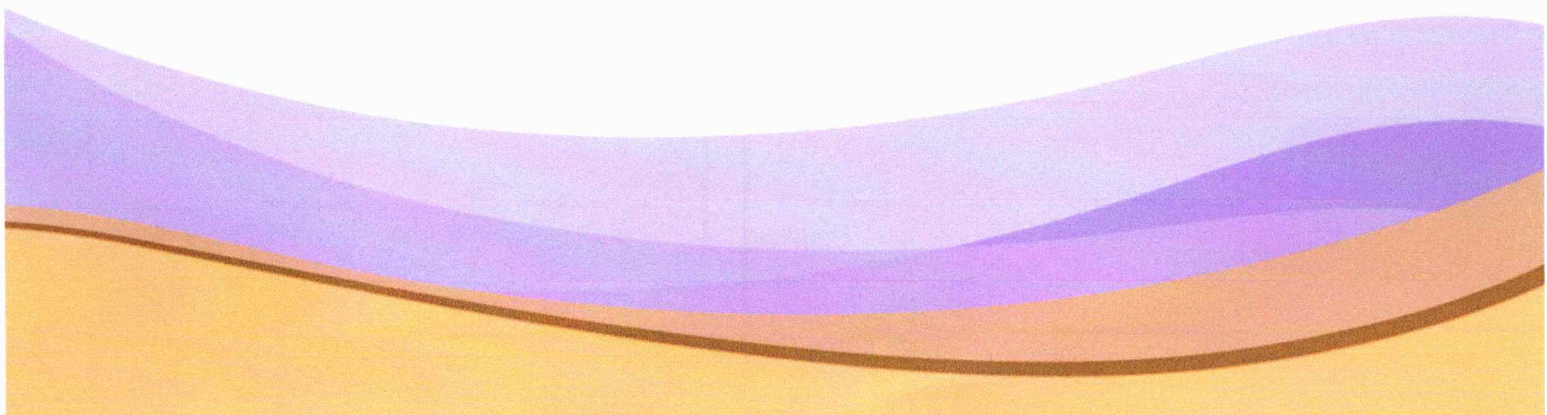




Structure and Highlights

The Philippine Conference on Women, Peace, and Security will span three days, from 28 to 30 October 2025, and will be structured to balance substantive dialogue, regional and local exchange, intergenerational learning, and institutional commitment-building. The design reflects a commitment to participatory and bottom-up processes, with side events, breakout sessions, and exhibits co-developed by civil society.

The structure incorporates interwoven tracks: a high-level policy panel, grassroots and sectoral breakout sessions and side events, intergenerational reflections, and showcases of local innovations. Notably, the Conference will be an opportunity to launch the results of the nationwide Mapping Study of Civil Society Organizations engaged in WPS, and highlight ten (10) WPS Accelerators. These are grassroots actors and community-based initiatives that exemplify the core themes of the NAPWPS across its four pillars, as well as intersectional agendas including Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), Indigenous Peoples' rights, as well as recurring and emerging themes of the WPS landscape in the next decade, including climate security, transitional justice, health security, etc.





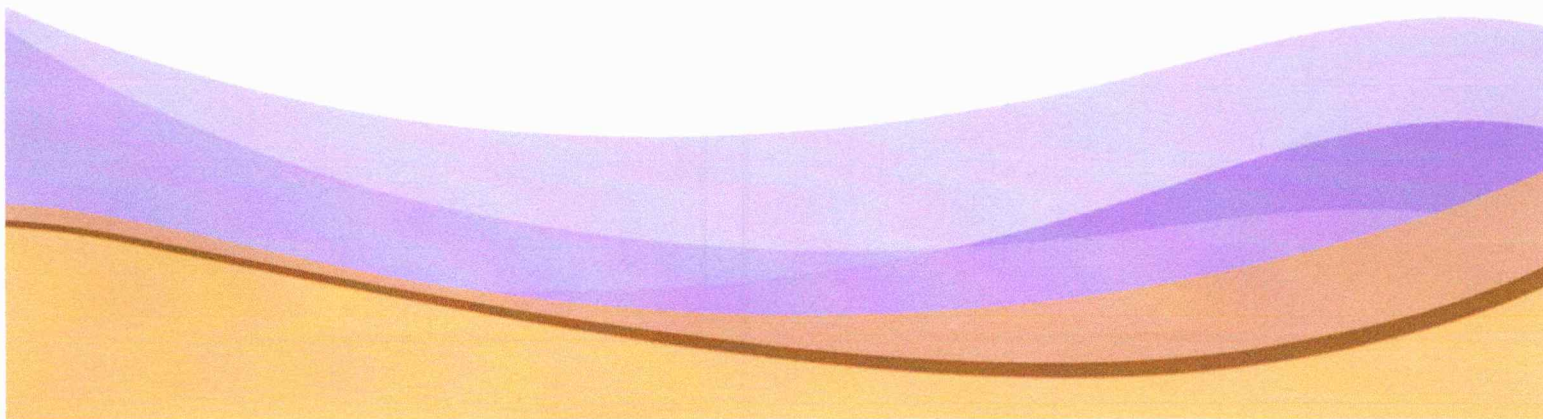
Each day of the conference will also be framed with a thematic focus:

Day 1: Context-setting and National policy review

Day 2: Local efforts and synergies

Day 3: Collective commitment and regional approaches

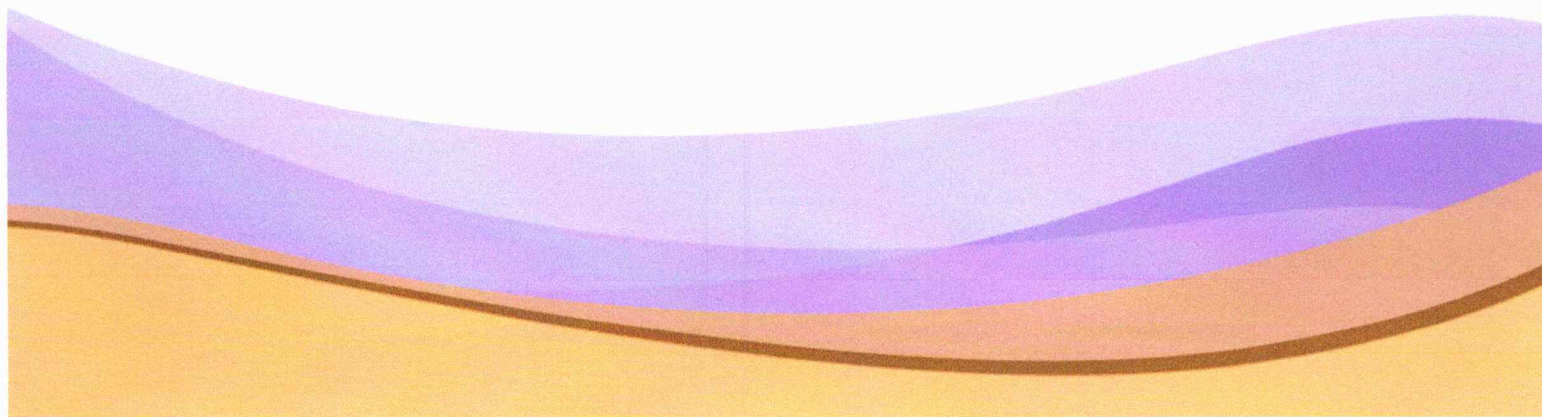
Interactive exhibits, hosted by the the ten (10) CSO Accelerators and peace partners, will showcase best practices in WPS localization and implementation. The side events will be hosted by member agencies of the NSCWPS, with subthemes developed in accordance to their agency's mandate vis-a-vis the NAPWPS 2023-2033. The design of the side events are urged to feature multi-sectoral perspectives from government, civil society, international partners, and other local actors.





Conference Program Overview

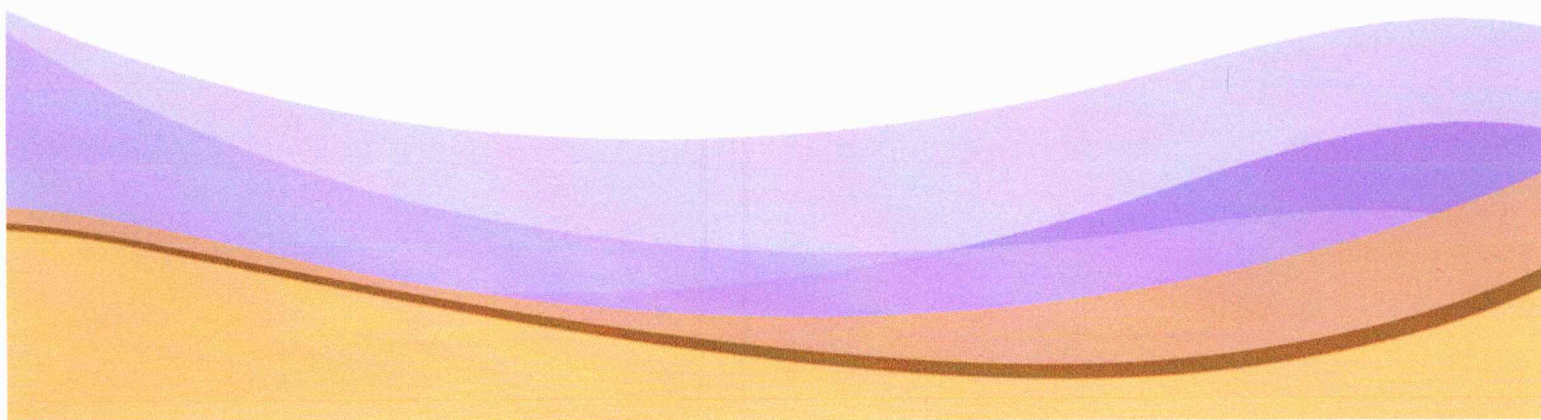
Oct 28, 2025	
Day 1: Opening & Scene-Setting	
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Cultural Opening
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Keynote Panel – <i>WPS at 25: From National Policy to Local Power</i>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Gallery Opening – <i>Tracing Peace: A Walk Through Women's Impact in Peace and Security</i>
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Plenary Session 1 – hosted by the DBM <i>Advancing Women's Leadership in Open Governance</i>
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Plenary Session 2 – hosted by OPAPRU <i>Peace Across Generations: Women, Youth, And Indigenous Peoples, Rewriting Their Transformative Future</i>
3:00 – 4:30 PM	Special Session on the Legislative – <i>Legislating Peace: Strategic Roundtable and Multisectoral Fireside Dialogue</i>
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Legislative Roundtable Discussion
5:30 – 8:00 PM	Pagsaulog for Peace: Welcome Reception and Socials night





Conference Program Overview

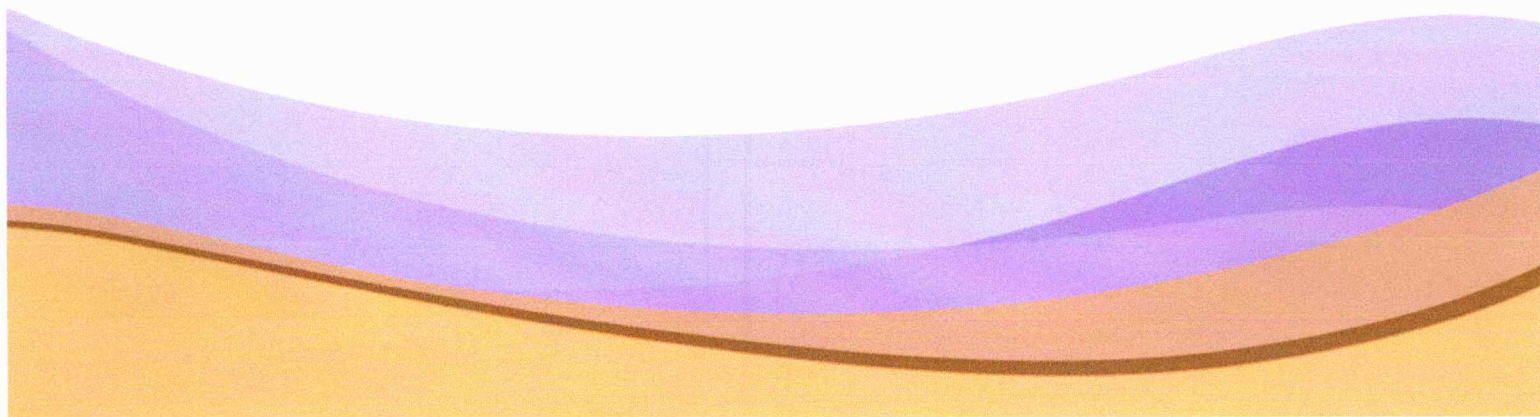
Oct 29, 2025	
Day 2: Accelerators and Synergies	
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Arrival and Registration
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Plenary Session 3 - hosted by the PCW <i>Investing in the Care Economy as a Pathway to Peace, Security, and Gender Equality</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Health Break
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Plenary Session 4 - hosted by the DND <i>WeforShe: Championing Women and Peace in the Security Sector</i>
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Side Events Block 1 (4 concurrent sessions)
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Breakout Sessions - NAPWPS Pillars (4 concurrent sessions)
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Health Break
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Side Events Block 2 (4 concurrent sessions)





Conference Program Overview

Oct 30, 2025	
Day 3: Synthesis and Commitment	
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Arrival and Registration
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Side Events Block 3 (4 concurrent sessions)
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Health break
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Side Events Block 4 (4 concurrent sessions)
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 – 2:45 PM	Plenary Session 5 – <i>From Borders to Bridges: Advancing WPS Through Regional Cooperation</i>
2:45 – 4:30 PM	Collective Commitment Workshop – <i>Drafting the 'Voices from the Ground' Intergenerational Reflection Document</i>
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Closing Ceremony – <i>Affirming Local Leadership, Regional Solidarity, and Next Steps</i>





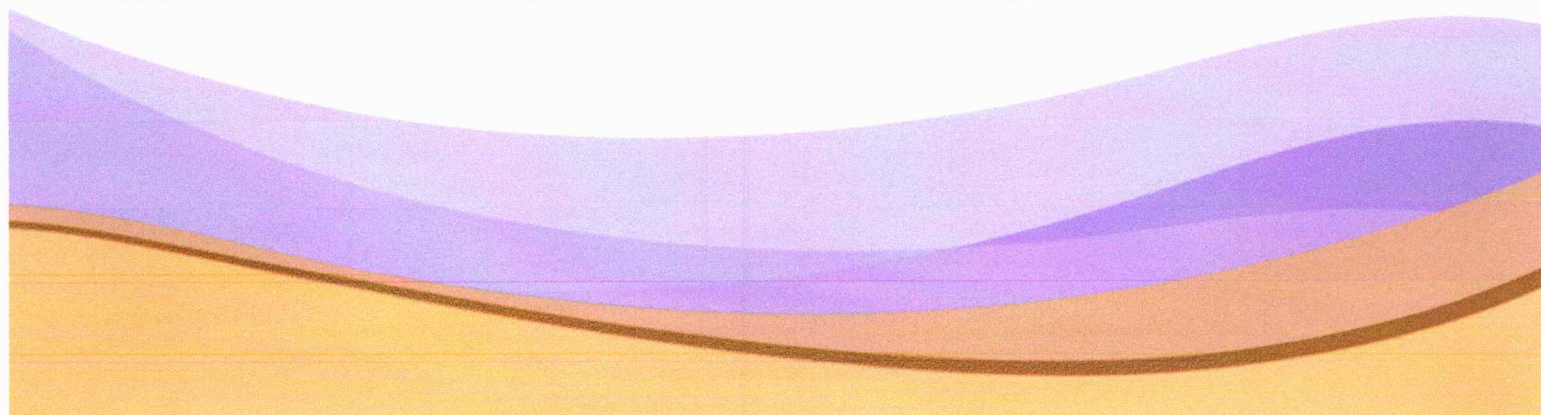
Side Events and Breakout Sessions

Oct 29, 2025 | Side Event Block 1 (1:15 – 2:45 PM)

Title	Organizers	Venue
Early Warning & Early Response Systems (EWERS): DOH, DSWD, and PHIC Responses to Gender-Based Violence in the ASEAN Context	DOH, PHIC, and DSWD	Conference Room 4
Safe Communities, Safe Women: Localizing Security Mechanisms for WPS	DILG with UN Women, UNDP, and RI	Conference Room 5
From Classrooms to Communities: Localizing Women, Peace and Security through Education	MSU-Maguindanao	Summit Hall 2
Women at the Core of Shaping Peaceful Engagement: Women's Leadership in Preventing and Transforming Violent Extremism	OPAPRU, UNDP, and DFAT	Summit Hall 3-4

Oct 29, 2025 | Side Event Block 2 (4:30 PM - 6:00 PM)

Title	Organizers	Venue
Women, Energy Access, and Community Resilience: Electrification as a Conduit to National Peace and Security	NEA	Conference Room 4
Localization of Peace Education	DEPED, and TESDA	Conference Room 5
Women in Conflict Areas: Breaking Barriers in Agriculture	DA	Summit Hall 2
Pagtatagpo: Collective Memory, Collective Momentum	OPAPRU and UNDP	Summit Hall 3-4





Side Events and Breakout Sessions

Oct 29, 2025 | Breakout Sessions (2:45 PM - 4:15 PM)

Title	Organizers	Venue
Women's Crucial Role in Peace and Security	AFP and PCG	Conference Room 5
Protection and Prevention of Gender-based Violence in Conflict and Crisis Situations	DSWD and CHR	Conference Room 4
Efficient and Strategic Communications on WPS	OPAPRU and UNDP	Summit Hall 2
Community-Based and Human Rights-Based Approaches to the Women, Peace and Security Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning	OPAPRU and UN Women	Summit Hall 3-4



Side Events and Breakout Sessions

Oct 30, 2025 | Side Event Block 3 (9:00 AM - 10:30 AM)

Title	Organizers	Venue
Bangsamoro Women Shaping Peace and Security, RAPWPS Localization Journey	BWC and NCMF	Conference Room 4
Gender-responsive and Inclusive Cybersecurity	DICT and AFI	Conference Room 5
Women in Transformation	OPAPRU	Summit Hall 2
Filipino Women Navigating Maritime Security	The Asia Foundation	Summit Hall 3-4

Oct 30, 2025 | Side Event Block 4 (10:45 AM - 12:15 PM)

Title	Organizers	Venue
Women, Peace and Security and Transitional Justice	WEACT 1325	Conference Room 4
Women, Peace, and the Environment: Strengthening Climate-Responsive and Gender-Inclusive Environmental Action	DENR	Conference Room 5
Voices of Strength: Indigenous Women Leading Peace and Security	OPAPRU, UNDP, and the New Zealand Embassy	Summit Hall 2

