

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 56, November 26, 2001]

ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT AND DIRECTING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME

WHEREAS , the 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Section 3, Article XV, provides that children have a right to assistance, including proper care and nutrition and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

WHEREAS , Republic Act No. 7610, also known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act," declares children as Zones of Peace, and as such, they shall not be recruited to become members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or its civilian units or other armed groups, nor be allowed to take part in the fighting, or used as guides, couriers or spies;

WHEREAS , the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) to which the Philippines is a State Party likewise prohibits the recruitment of children in armed conflict and calls for the adoption of feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict;

WHEREAS , the use of children in armed conflict in several capacities either as combatants, spies, couriers or guides requires immediate attention and action from all sectors of society;

WHEREAS , Executive Order 310 series of 2000 adopted CHILD 21 which provides the overall framework for plan development of children from 2000-2025 which includes, among others, children in armed conflict as one of the groups of children needing special protection;

WHEREAS , the Framework for a Comprehensive Program for Children in Armed Conflict to effectively address the problems affecting children in armed conflict has been formulated through consultations with concerned sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order and direct the following:

SECTION 1. Program Framework. The Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict, as approved by the CWC Board, is hereby adopted.

SEC 2. Lead Agency . The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) is hereby directed to serve as lead agency in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this Program. The formulation of the implementing guidelines shall be done in coordination with involved government agencies.