



## Background

Homenet Philippines is a broad coalition of groups with homemaker constituencies, which include the following 20 organizations: Aksyon ng Kilusang Kababaihan sa Informal Sector, Inc. (AKSYON KABABAIHAN), Alyansa ng Mamamayang Naghihirap (ALMANA), BATIS-AWARE, Damayan San Francisco, Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP), GADAP-ROSARIO, Ilaw ng Tahanan, Kababaihang Kaagapay sa Hanapbuhay (KAKASAHA), Kaisahan ng mga Kababaihang Gumagawa sa Bahay (KASAMBAHAY), Katipunan ng Bagong Pilipina (KaBaPa), PATAMABA (National Network of Informal Workers), Marketing Association of Groups and Individuals in the Small-Scale Industries (MAGISSI), Manila Area Sectoral Alliance (MASA), MAKALAYA, Samahang Pangkabuhayan sa Kamaynilaan (SANGKAMAY), SKPK-UP, Sikap-Unlad Livelihood Association (SULA), Rizal Informal Sector Coalition (RISC), Nagkakaisang Kababaihan ng SAMAKABA Inc. (NAKASA), and WISEACT.

The first meeting of prospective members of the coalition was called by Homenet Southeast Asia on November 26, 2005 at the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. This initiative follows the trend all over Asia where homeworkers' networks are being convened and consolidated. There is a Homenet Southeast Asia, with member networks in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines which have been in existence since the early '90s when they received support from the ILO-DANIDA Subregional Project on Rural Homeworkers. There is also a Homenet South Asia, composed of national Homenets in India (which includes the 700,000 strong Self-Employed Association of Women), Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. There are plans to later converge and form Homenet Asia in 2007 in order to push more effectively for a better policy environment for homeworkers. The principal target is the ratification of ILO Convention 177 on Homework in various Asian countries.

In the initial meeting of 13 homeworkers' groups in the Philippines, it was agreed that more groups would be invited and that there will be a series of study circles on such topics as the ILO Convention 177, the Magna Carta for Informal Workers (two proposed bills), and the BMBE Law (on micro-enterprises). Through these meetings the groups' positions and campaign/advocacy plans were firmed up, building up towards a general assembly to validate these positions, launch Homenet Philippines, and present the initial results of the campaigns to various stakeholders, including members of Congress. The results of initial consultations on R.A. 7882 (An Act Providing Assistance to Women Engaging in Micro and Cottage Business Enterprises), R.A. 8289 (on the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises), R.A. 8425 (on social reform and poverty alleviation), and RA 9178 (promoting barangay micro-business enterprises or the BMBE Law) found their way into the book *Gender Review of Selected Economic Laws in the Philippines* published by the U.P. Center for Women's Studies with UNIFEM support.

In the November 26 meeting, it was also agreed that all the homeworkers' groups represented will form a National Organizing Committee (NOC), with several subcommittees (for lobbying, resource generation, and secretariat work).



## **Vision, Mission and Goals of Homenet Philippines**

The vision of Homenet Philippines is “A society that recognizes the human rights of all workers, both formal and informal, women and men, without any discrimination based on gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and other differentiating factors, towards the social, political, and economic empowerment of homebased workers through their own organized groups and networks “

For its mission, Homenet Philippines will facilitate the consolidation of all homebased workers, particularly women, in the country, and develop their capability to effect changes in policies, legislation, programs and services in their interest

Homenet Philippines has the following goals:

1. Empower homebased workers, particularly women, as one of the main components of the informal economy which absorbs the majority of all working people;
2. Facilitate the organization and consolidation of homebased workers throughout the Philippines towards a common transformative agenda, and an integrated and comprehensive system of programs and services to benefit them that will involve all stakeholders ;
3. Develop the capabilities of homebased workers to gain visibility, recognition, participation, and representation in relevant decision-making bodies of government (national government agencies, local government units, government owned and controlled corporations, government financing institutions, etc) , trade unions, cooperatives, development organizations, and other relevant groups; and
4. Improve access to productive resources, social protection, and justice

## **Principles of Unity**

Organizations gathered under Homenet Philippines have agreed on the following principles of unity:

1. Respect for autonomy of each member organization;
2. Participatory and collective decision making – preferably by consensus but if not, majority rules, but the minority has the right to be informed about decisions made without their presence;
3. Convergence on advocacy and action for homebased workers’ rights and interests, particularly those of women;
4. Transparency and accountability, especially on financial matters;

5. Non-partisanship;
6. Adherence to agreed upon policies and guidelines;
7. Mutual trust, support, and partnership of member organizations;
8. Localization of national agenda;
9. Critical engagement with government (national and local), in the spirit of social dialogue; and
10. Solidarity of all workers, formal and informal, women and men, across countries and regions

## **Three Year Indicative Plan**

### **June 2006- May 07**

- Mapping of homebased workers' organizations within and outside Homenet Philippines
- Campaign on Decent Work in the Informal Economy
- Lobbying/advocacy for Magna Carta for the Informal Sector
- Education campaign on relevant laws – BMBE Law, SRA law, Magna Carta on SMEs, RA 7882
- National Conference (multi-stakeholder) on ILO Convention 177 on Homework
- Website and yahoo group
- Brochure
- Minimum: quarterly meeting of the National Organizing Committee
- May 3 event for homebased workers' day
- May 6 event for informal sector workers' day

### **June 2007- May 08**

- Legislation on occupational safety and health for informal sector
  - Lobbying/advocacy for ratification of ILO Convention 177
  - Minimum: quarterly meeting of the National Organizing Committee (NOC)
-

- May 3 event/ general assembly for homebased workers' day
- May 6 event for informal sector workers' day

## **June 2008- May 09**

- Continuing lobbying and advocacy campaigns
- Minimum: quarterly meeting of National Organizing Committee
- Strategic planning for 2009-12
- May 3 event /general assembly for homebased workers' day
- May 6 event for informal sector workers' day

## **Advocacy Agenda**

- Ratification of ILO Convention 177 on Homework
- Revision and implementation of Department Order No. 5 on Homeworkers, and its integration. together with other homebased workers' concerns, into the Labor Code
- Enactment of the Magna Carta for the Informal Sector
- Amendment and implementation of the BMBE Law, RA 7882, Magna Carta on SMEs
- Greater coverage of homebased workers by SSS and PhilHealth, and support for indigenous social protection schemes initiated by homebased workers in their communities
- Greater protection in the workplace through promotion of occupational safety and health, reproductive health and rights, prevention and punishment of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and children
- Promotion of leaderpreneurship programs which emphasize labor rights
- Representation in trade unions and in tripartite bodies