

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

**Whereas**, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional cooperation of 14 countries dedicated to promote integrated rural development and reduce poverty;

**Whereas**, CIRDAP member countries (CMCs) believe that agrarian reform, rural employment-generation and rural governance are significant in achieving sustained rural development and in eradicating poverty;

**Whereas**, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines is one of the CMCs implementing a comprehensive agrarian reform policy and program designed to improve land access, agricultural productivity and delivery of basic support services to its landless farmers and other marginalized rural population;

**Whereas**, the agrarian reform program of the Philippines has achieved significant achievement and gains while continuing to be faithful in its endeavor to respond to the challenges of rural development encompassing human capacity development;

**Whereas**, the agrarian reform program is consistent with the framework for sustainable rural development of most of the CMCs and continues to evolve to make it more responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries and stakeholders;

**Whereas**, after hearing to the presentations of experts during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Policy Dialogue on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: The Case of the Philippines held on 30 May 2007 at Traders Hotel, Pasay City, the CMCs have been convinced that in spite of the many challenges and obstacles of implementing its agrarian reform program, the Philippines has made significant inroads in improving and securing tenure conditions of farmers and their households members;



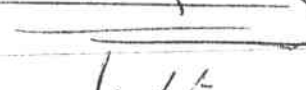
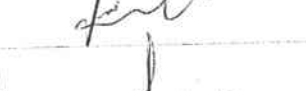


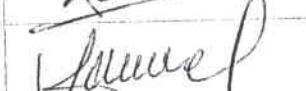






**Whereas**, We, from CMCs see that CARP is a good example or model for CMCs to improve or to enhance the welfare of poor peasants and farmers in the rural area with adjustment to local culture and local prevailing law and regulations;

**Now therefore**, We, the members of the CMCs bounded by a common aspiration of promoting sustainable rural development join hands to formalize and resolve to support the efforts for the continued implementation of agrarian reform program in the Philippines with facilitation and technical support from CIRDAP;

- Advocate for extending the term of the Program to complete land distribution and delivery of support services;

- Put into operations strategic interventions and measures to enhance the competency and capability of all stakeholders involved in agrarian reform and rural development efforts;
- Campaign for formulation and institutionalization of programs and policies on investments and interventions supportive of agrarian reform and rural development; and
- Expand agrarian reform towards achievement of rural development goals

We, the CIRDAP member country delegates hereby affix our signature below to signify our full commitment and support in the continuous implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in the Philippines as a strategy for poverty alleviation and rural development:

COUNTRY	NAME	SIGNATURE
SRI-LANKA	Hemakumara N. Nanayakkara (Minister of Agri.)	
INDIA	Dr. Sivan Peri	
Afghanistan	M. Asif Rahimi	
I.R. IRAN	J.A. Behzadnasab	
Malaysia	MD. NOR HESHAM	
SOCSEA	M. ISCHAK	
Malaysia	HAMIDI ZAKARIA	
Indonesia	A. Lumban Gool	
SOCSEA	AGUNG MULYANA	
INDIA	V. S. SAMPATH	
Bangladesh	Mr. Anwarul Zafar	
Thailand	Komok Khafian	
COMISEC, VIC	Mohammed Jasimuddin	
INDONESIA	AYIP MUFlich	
Pakistan	Justice (R) Abdul Razak A. Thahim	