

Fostering Collective Action Towards Inclusive and Sustained Peace in the BARMM

A Transitional Justice & Reconciliation Summit

Outcome Document



November 28, 2025
Davao City



The **Transitional Justice and Reconciliation (TJR) Summit: *Fostering Collective Action Towards Inclusive and Sustained Peace in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)*** was organized by the **Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)**, and supported by the Global Community Enhancement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and with contributions from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

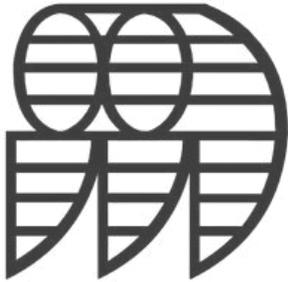
The summit event program was actively participated in by IID's TRANSFORM Program consortium CSO members namely: **Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc. (TLWOI)**, **United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD)**, **Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw (BALAOD Mindanaw)**, and **Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc. (KFI)**, and with partner donors - the **Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)**, the **European Union (EU)-German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** through the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, and the **Bread for the World (BfdW)**.

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About IID

Bridging Peoples. Building Peace.



Established in 1988, the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) is a regional advocacy institution based in the Philippines, promoting human security, self-determination, democratization, and people-to-people solidarity across Southeast Asia—including the Bangsamoro/Mindanao, Burma/Myanmar, Patani/Southern Thailand, West Papua, Timor-Leste and Aceh, among others. IID is an incubator and hub for people-to-people

regional solidarity, focusing on democratization campaigns, resisting authoritarianism and militarism, peacebuilding, and civil society and grassroots-led peace processes dialogues and initiatives.

Guided by its mission of 'Bridging Peoples. Building Peace', IID supports a broad foundation of civil society engagement in the peace processes and transitional justice in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia Region. Furthermore, it collaborates with partners and solidarity movements for self-determination, peace, and democracy in Timor Leste, Myanmar, and other contexts in the Southeast Asia region.

IID is a founding and key member of global, regional and national networks such as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Asia Democracy Network (ADN), ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples' Forum (ACSC/APF), Mindanao Peaceweavers (MPW), Principles for Peace Bangsamoro Peace Initiative, Titayan, Waging Peace Philippines, Voices of Peace, Burma Solidarity Philippines (BSP), International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN) and Civil Society Pillar of the International Steering Committee of the Community of Democracies (ISC CD). At the global multilateral engagements, IID is a core group member of the CSO - UN Peace Building Dialogue.

IID also convened and anchored the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) and the Free Burma Coalition Philippines.

Executive Summary

The **Transitional Justice and Reconciliation (TJR) Summit: *Fostering Collective Action Towards Inclusive and Sustained Peace in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)*** brought together over 144 participants from government peace panels, BARMM ministries, Indigenous Peoples (IP), Moro and settler communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), civil society, academe, development partners, and diplomatic mission's representatives to reflect on progress, challenges, and future directions in advancing transitional justice, conflict transformation, and peace building in the region, and to showcase the impacts of IID and its partners' work in the BARMM.

The summit marked the culmination of the five-year program of the **Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)**, through its **TRANSFORM Program**, and in collaboration with its consortium members: **Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc. (TLWOI)**, **United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD)**, **Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw (BALAOD Mindanaw)**, and **Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc. (KFI)**.

Since 2020, these organizations have collectively worked to address the historical, identity- and resource-based conflicts, human rights issues, and conflict-affected communities, while supporting the right to self-determination (RSD), especially of the Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIPs), all aimed towards contributing to the strengthening of an inclusive and democratic governance in the region. **The summit reaffirmed that transitional justice remains the missing piece of the peace process, essential not only for acknowledging the past but also for dismantling structures of injustice and ensuring that all communities benefit from peace.**

Through keynote messages, panel discussions, solidarity commitments, and exhibit, participants underscored the urgency of institutionalizing transitional justice at both national and regional levels; empowering the IDPs, the NMIPs, women and youth as active stakeholders; and strengthening mechanisms for truth-telling, reparations, and non-recurrence. Deliberations also emphasized the importance of recognizing oral histories, customary law, protecting IP land rights, operationalizing the BARMM IDP Law, and reframing monitoring and evaluation as a tool for social accountability and empowerment.

The summit featured two plenary sessions on “**Empowering IDPs to Engage in Transitional Justice, Conflict Transformation, and Preventing Violent Extremism in BARMM**” and “**Fostering Engagement and Innovations Towards Conflict Transformation,**” complemented by presentations on **Monitoring and Evaluation** and the **Guidelines in Advocating for the Rights and Welfare of Displaced IPs in BARMM**. The summit concluded with a collective call to action anchored on six priorities:

1. Full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) commitments, including its transitional justice component;
2. Just and timely processing of reparations for IDPs;
3. Protection of IP land rights;
4. Institutionalization of transitional justice mechanisms at regional and national levels;
5. Genuine participation of civil society and communities in governance; and
6. Guarantees of non-recurrence through truth-telling, accountability, and inclusive development.

Culminating in the “*Pagpalain Bangsamoro*” signing ceremony, the event symbolized a shared resolution among government, civil society, and community leaders to actively build an inclusive and just future. It closed with one clear message: **transitional justice is not an afterthought but the very foundation of lasting peace in the Bangsamoro.**



Participants of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Summit held on November 28, 2025 in Davao City, bringing together government, civil society, community leaders, and development partners to advance inclusive and sustained peace in the BARMM.

Context & Rationale

Marginalized communities in BARMM remain in a perpetuating crisis situation, with displaced IPs, women, and youth living in precarious conditions post-emergency. State and non-state armed groups continue to pose constant threats to their lives, families, livelihoods, and properties due to weak or absent measures and constrained implementation of strategies that should guarantee their right to be safe and to live harmoniously and prosperously in their communities.

Unresolved land issues fuel armed conflicts and displacement in Maguindanao's so-called "tri-people" communities and Marawi's internally displaced persons (IDP). In Maguindanao, the lack of effective policies and culture-sensitive strategies to address overlapping land claims perpetuates the problem faced by tri-people communities. In Marawi, IDPs continue to suffer in transitory shelters, with their basic rights and needs unaddressed for nearly a decade, including water, housing, healthcare, livelihoods, and most importantly, their right to justice and reparation for the 2017 siege of the city that displaced them.

IID and its consortium partners, TLWOI, UNYPAD, BALAOD Mindanaw, and KFI, sought to address social, political, economic, and resource-based conflicts by incubating community-led solutions to conflict and dis-inclusion and by empowering marginalized tri-people communities and civil society actors in BARMM to engage in the conflict transformation and transitional justice and reconciliation processes, in order to foster greater community resilience against violent extremism.

From 2020 to 2025, the consortium worked to **strengthen the agency and capacities of partner communities, cultivate and equip civil society organization (CSO) platforms that champion community agendas, and engage government authorities through research, dialogues and policy advocacy.** Anchored on a human-centered design and purposed by rights-seeking behaviors, the consortium's two major interventions focus on transforming land-related conflicts on overlapping claims among the Moro and NMIP communities, by empowering them to engage in solutions-finding exercises anchored on and harmonizing their traditional belief systems and the legal system, grounded on the findings and recommendations from a land research report in 2022. The other involves empowering and enabling internally displaced persons from the 2017 Marawi siege to meaningfully engage in the transitional justice and reconciliation process by performing reiterative rights-seeking behavior through the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Act. Core to these incubated models of conflict transformation are strategies that include legal education, legal clinic and mentoring sessions, and robust accompaniment.

The knowledge and insights generated from these investments will enlarge the discourse on conflict transformation and preventing violent extremism. The consortium offers its results and the evidence to start the conversation and foster more robust communities of practice in these spaces.

More than anything, the consortium believes that if it shares what it has learned and witnessed while accompanying, bridging, and empowering people and communities to define and design their own individual and communal solutions to conflict, then:

- the entire peacebuilding community will obtain information on community and people-driven strategies that they can build upon and help sustain, replicate, and upscale;
- policies and programs on peacebuilding can be better informed by evidence and stories from those whom these policies and programs impact the most—the people and communities;
- a body of knowledge is generated by evidence-based and human-centered discourse;
- a community of practice interested in empowering and sustaining communities as they lead the path to conflict transformation and preventing violent extremism is fostered; and
- the communities that led these incubated models are provided a space and platform to build sustainable support for their interventions.

The **Transitional Justice and Reconciliation (TJR) Summit: *Fostering Collective Action Towards Inclusive and Sustained Peace in the BARMM*** provides a timely platform to bring together stakeholders to deepen conversations on implementing transitional justice mechanisms grounded in the lived experiences of BARMM communities.

Objectives

The TJR Summit aimed to build sustainable support for innovative, community-driven peacebuilding initiatives and to consolidate broader stakeholder commitments toward policies that promote justice and lasting peace in the region.

Specific Objectives:

1. Increased awareness of stakeholders on the state of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement;
2. Sustained the support of the government, donors, partners, and the general public on the work of IID on Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in the BARMM;
3. Launched the research and knowledge products of IID through exhibits and plenary presentations;
4. Recognized the contributions of all partners in the consortium, platforms, donors, and institutions; and
5. Provided an avenue for networking and community-building.

Session Highlights

Opening Ceremonies

The formal program opened with a cultural performance by the **Kaliwat Performing Arts Collective**, followed by an invocation and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

In her introduction, **Ms. Myla Leguro, Master of Ceremonies**, emphasized peace as an active and dynamic force, framing the summit as part of Mindanao's long journey from conflict toward sustainable peace, intertwined with the pursuit of transitional justice and reconciliation.



Welcome Remarks

Mr. Gus Miclat, Executive Director of IID, welcomed the participants and identified the summit as a significant milestone in the collective struggle for genuine peace. He presented the summit as the culmination of the INCLUDE BARMM Project, implemented by IID together with its consortium partners and with funding support from the Global Community Enhancement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), EU-BMZ-GIZ/SPADe, and Bread for the World (BfdW).

He traced the roots of Transitional Justice (TJ) in the Philippines from the post-Marcos period, highlighting the creation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, and later its integration into the Bangsamoro peace process through the Normalization Annex of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the establishment of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC).



Mr. Gus Miclat
IID, Executive Director

Watch the full speech of Gus Miclat [here](#).

Mr. Miclat emphasized the four pillars of Dealing with the Past: the Right to Know, Right to Justice, Right to Reparation, and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence. He underscored that Transitional Justice is the “heart and soul of the peace process” and the missing piece in addressing the Bangsamoro question.

He outlined key advocacy priorities, including support for the passage of Transitional Justice legislation, continued advocacy for safe, voluntary, and dignified return of IDPs and just reparations, and recognition of existing community-led justice practices. He concluded by paying tribute to the unsung heroes and martyrs of the Bangsamoro struggle.

Keynote Messages

Chair Cesar Yano, Chairperson of the Government Peace Implementing Panel, underscored the central message that peace becomes real only when people feel that justice is possible, healing is supported, and reconciliation is encouraged. He described BARMM as the embodiment of decades of struggle and noted that assessing the region's progress means assessing the implementation of the CAB.

He highlighted gains achieved, including stronger autonomous governance, functioning ministries, progress on priority legislation and institutional reforms, peace dividends in service delivery, and advances in normalization such as decommissioning and policing.

At the same time, he acknowledged continuing challenges, including delays in implementation, pressures on transitional governance, threats from rido, private armed groups and violent extremism, as well as persistent poverty, land issues, and weak local institutions.

Chair Yano emphasized that civil society organizations play a vital role in humanizing the peace process, monitoring implementation, and ensuring citizen voices are heard.

Watch the full speech of Chair Cesar Yano [here](#).



Chair Cesar Yano

Chairperson

Government Peace Implementing Panel

Atty. Ana Tarhata Basman, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace Implementing Panel, framed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro as a foundational document of Transitional Justice. She highlighted BARMM's achievements in building institutions and enacting priority codes within six years, including pioneering legislation such as the anti-dynasty law and mandatory women's quota.

She described public criticism and complaints as signs of a more vigilant and invested citizenry and stated that the region is ready for a regular Bangsamoro Government, calling for the enactment of the districting law ahead of the first parliamentary elections.

Atty. Basman noted that implementation of the Normalization Annex has been uneven and emphasized that security and socio-economic commitments must be matched. She stressed that healing the wounds of conflict is essential, cautioning that material gains will crumble without communities coming to terms with the past.

While acknowledging efforts to advance a regional TJ mechanism, she noted that it falls short of the TJRC's comprehensive recommendations and called for national-level TJ legislation and sustained civil society engagement.



Atty. Ana Tarhata Basman
Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
Peace Implementing Panel

Watch the full speech of Atty. Ana Tarhata Basman [here](#).

Panel Discussion: Empowering Internally Displaced Persons to Engage in TJR, CT, and PVE in BARMM

How do we empower IDPs to meaningfully participate in TJR, CT, and PVE in BARMM?



IDP women leaders and advocates share experiences and strategies during the panel on Empowering Internally Displaced Persons to Engage in TJR, CT, and PVE in BARMM.

Moderator:

Prof. Tirmizy Abdullah

Co-convener, Marawi Advocacy Accompaniment (MAA)

Panelists

- **Ms. Janidah Pangadapun**
Member, Marawi Advocacy Accompaniment (MAA)
Focal Person, Reclaiming Marawi Movement (RMM)
- **Ms. Samerah Mangorinsung**
IDP Shelter Leader
Co-convener, Strengthened Initiatives re-Defining Actions of Women (SINDAW)
- **Ms. Najma Daromimbang**
Co-convener, Strengthened Initiatives re-Defining Actions of Women (SINDAW)

The panel discussion was structured around three key areas:

- Asserting and claiming rights among IDPs
- Community organising and leadership practices among IDPs
- The role of internally displaced women in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda

Janidah Pangadapun: Asserting Rights, Claiming Dignity

Ms. Janidah Pangadapun, an IDP youth leader, shared her personal journey through trauma and displacement, an experience that continues eight years after the 2017 Marawi Siege. She described the daily struggles that many IDPs still endure, including looming evictions from temporary shelters as rent collection resumes, limited access to food and clean water, and the absence of mental health support. She also emphasized the persistent safety risks in the shelters, including the threat of landslides.

For Ms. Pangadapun, the prolonged delay in Marawi compensation is more than a bureaucratic issue; it is a violation of human rights. She called for the immediate and just release of compensation, especially for families who have waited far too long. She highlighted the collective advocacy of MAA and RMM, whose efforts continue to raise awareness of IDP struggles and assert their rights. Her message was clear: IDPs demand and deserve a safe and dignified return (kambalingan) and the fast-tracking of just compensation.

Samerah Mangorinsung: Community Organizing and Everyday Courage

Ms. Samerah Mangorinsung, an IDP leader from a temporary shelter, spoke about life in the shelters as a constant “battle.”

The lack of basic necessities, including adequate food, water, and electricity, shapes the rhythm of daily existence. Yet her story was also one of resilience. Through active community organizing and platforms such as SINDAW and MAA, she was able to work with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to bring solar lighting to the shelters and to open livelihood opportunities, including small retail and wholesaling ventures. She also pursued paralegal training, equipping herself to better advocate for her community.

Despite these gains, she described the distress of facing a possible eviction next year. Requests for information and support often lead to confusing referrals across different local offices, leaving communities in prolonged uncertainty. She appealed for clear and meaningful support, raising concerns over the unclear guidelines of the Marawi Compensation Board (MCB) and urging authorities to provide assistance that is genuine, humanitarian, and free from political influence.

Najma Daromimbang: Internally Displaced Women and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda

Ms. Najma Daromimbang, co-convener of SINDAW, discussed the role of internally displaced women within the WPS agenda. She highlighted how women in displacement settings have taken on leadership and advocacy roles through community organizing and engagement in platforms such as SINDAW.

She emphasized that displaced women continue to face marginalization and exclusion, yet remain actively involved in asserting their rights and participating in peacebuilding processes. She also underscored the importance of creating spaces where women can speak, organize, and contribute to decision-making affecting their communities.

She raised concerns about the continuing displacement of IDPs and stressed the need for durable solutions that uphold their rights and dignity, including access to safe and secure living conditions and legal protection.

Open Forum

During the open forum, representatives from government agencies responded to the panelists' concerns.

Atty. Johary Lumna of the Marawi Compensation Board (MCB) acknowledged the urgency of speeding up the compensation process. He pointed to a communication gap as a major obstacle, particularly in disseminating updated guidelines such as the amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and the transfer of responsibilities to the National Housing Authority (NHA). He asked for suggestions on how to reach claimants who remain uncontacted.

The panelists responded with unified clarity: the MCB must sustain mobile information drives in IDP shelters, publicly post the names of uncontacted claimants, and establish a genuine two-way communication system that provides clear and timely feedback.

A representative from the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD), noting that the agency's national functions have largely been devolved to the BARMM, explained that their work in the region remains sensitive. He encouraged IDPs to advocate for the passage of the National IDP Bill in the Senate and inquired about the implementation of the BARMM IDP Law.

Ms. Daromimbang replied that the law exists only “on paper”, its presence is “invisible” and “not yet felt” on the ground, as its coordinating council has yet to be operationalized.

Mr. Gus Miclat reflected on the structural shift needed moving forward. He emphasized replacing the old “agency-client” dynamic with a genuine partnership, where IDP organizations are not passive recipients but active institutional actors within bodies such as the MCB and DSWD. Such integration, he said, would transform the flow of information, strengthen accountability, and anchor decision-making in lived realities.

Prof. Tirmizy Abdullah closed the session by recognizing both the weight of the journey and the resilience that drives it. He urged everyone to keep hope alive and also acknowledged KFI for its critical role in sustaining IDP advocacy and community organizing in Marawi.

Synthesis and Conclusion

The panel discussion concluded with a powerful truth: **the journey of IDPs is not only about confronting the injustices of the past; it is also about enduring and navigating the injustices of the present.**

When asked how empowerment can reach the (more than 80,000) thousands of IDPs who remain displaced, the women IDP leaders offered grounded, community-rooted insights.

Ms. Daromimbang explained that one of the biggest challenges is the daily struggle for livelihood. Survival often takes precedence over participation. For empowerment to take root, she said, communities need deeper engagement and a clearer understanding of TJR, so they can recognize that long-term collective gains are as vital as immediate needs.

Ms. Mangorinsung shared her practical approach by conducting internal learning sessions at their community center, where she relays the knowledge and skills gained from external trainings. This ensures that the entire community benefits, not just a few representatives.

For Ms. Pangadapun, empowerment begins with access, access to opportunities, education, and most importantly, spaces where IDP voices are heard. Inclusion in decision-making and solution-building processes, she emphasized, must become the norm rather than the exception.

Panel Discussion: Fostering Engagement and Innovations Toward Conflict Transformation

What strategies and innovations can effectively manage overlapping land claims between Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Moro communities in ways that promote social cohesion and long-term resilience?



IP and Moro representatives discuss land justice and share community-led solutions to land issues during the panel on Fostering Engagement and Innovations Toward Conflict Transformation.

Moderator:

Dr. Mark Anthony Torres, PhD

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Director of Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) - Mindanao State University Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU IIT)

Panelists

- **Mr. Elmer Saglayan**
Member, Indigenous Peoples Community Sectoral Working Group (CSWG)
Minted sa Ingëd (MSI) Member, Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG)
- **Mr. Esmael Husain**
Member, Moro Community Sectoral Working Group (CSWG)
- **Ms. Carmelita Mabologon**
Member, Indigenous Peoples Community Sectoral Working Group (CSWG)
- **Timuay Leticio Datuwata**
Timuay Labi (Supreme Chieftain), Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG)
- **Atty. Mario Maderazo**
Member, IID Technical Working Group

The panel discussion covered the following themes:

- The importance of memory as evidence for transitional justice.
- The need for an inclusive transitional justice mechanism that recognizes women and all identities.
- The importance of platforms for confidence-building and dialogue.

Elmer Saglayan: The IP Experience in Bridging Land Justice through Local Innovation

Mr. Elmer Saglayan traced the roots of land conflict to overlapping claims and the long-standing tension between customary law and the State's Regalian Doctrine. For the NMIPs, boundaries are known not through formal documents but through memory, stories, and the living landscape, including rivers, creeks, mountains, burial mounds (*puntud*), and named markers that only true descendants can recount. These oral geographies affirm ancestral stewardship and collective responsibility over land.

The introduction of the Torrens System, coupled with limited support for Indigenous communities to navigate it, created a pathway for dispossession. Many NMIP families trusted that early survey work had settled their claims, not realizing that the failure to formally register their lands left them vulnerable to competing claims and encroachment.

The CSWG platform emerged as a breakthrough mechanism for resolving land disputes. Rather than relying on barangay or municipal mediation, which often failed, the platform required representatives to present only verified narratives from the claimants, free from emotion or embellishment. Through facilitated learning sessions and structured dialogue, a boundary dispute that had persisted for decades was resolved, something that formal legal processes had struggled to achieve.

To prevent future disputes, the platform adopted clear rules, including the principle that only the direct claimant may point out land boundaries. This approach ensures clarity, accountability, and continuity of knowledge for the next generation.

Esmael Husain: The Moro Experience from Ceasefire to Cohesion

Mr. Esmael Husain shared that Moro land claims rest on a hybrid foundation that combines inherited memory and formal documentation. These include lineage narratives tracing back to Mamalo and Tabunaway, as well as land surveys and titles issued as early as the 1990s.

A core vulnerability, however, is displacement. Many Moros became *bakwit (IDP)*, forced to flee due to violence, and in the process lost their physical land documents permanently. In such cases, memory becomes the only remaining anchor of legitimacy and claim to land.

The structured CSWG process addressed a persistent challenge in land negotiations, namely confusion over who legitimately speaks for the community. By providing a formal yet locally grounded space for dialogue, the platform rebuilt confidence, reduced fear, and replaced fragmented, individual negotiations with stable and institutionalized processes.

Carmelita Mabologon: Challenging Gender Norms in Land Conflict

Ms. Carmelita Mabologon spoke about the crucial yet often overlooked role of women in land conflict resolution, focusing on two key aspects: Gendered Burden of Displacement and Dialogue Advantage.

When land disputes escalate into violence, women often carry the primary responsibility of protecting children and ensuring family survival. Their lived experiences and perspectives, therefore, offer insights that are essential to designing responses that are both humane and sustainable.

Women's participation in dialogue processes often helps reduce tension and fosters more empathetic and patient communication. Carmelita noted that women remain largely absent in the Moro CSWG, due in part to trauma from past violence. She emphasized the importance of balanced representation, observing that heart-to-heart conversations among women can sometimes resolve issues that formal structures struggle to address.

Timuay Leticio Datuwata: The Significance of an NMIP-Led Platform

Timuay Leticio Datuwata underscored the **political importance of the Non-Moro and Minority Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Council (NMMIPCC) as a platform that unifies the collective voice of IPs who have long felt unseen or misrecognized within formal governance structures.** He clarified that IPs are not voiceless. Their voices, he stressed, are loud and clear but often unheard.

He emphasized that genuine autonomy requires Indigenous Political Structures, through mechanisms such as the Ancestral Domain Management Office, to guide all development decisions within ancestral lands. Development initiatives must align with the community's Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP), and the process of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be respected as a sacred expression of self-determination, rather than treated as a negotiating tool for external interests.

Timuay Datuwata also pointed to continuing challenges, including unresolved issues over ancestral domains such as the Firis area, where former MILF camps remain despite being legally classified as temporary stays. These realities, he noted, highlight the continuing need for IP-led platforms that can assert rights, protect ancestral lands, and ensure accountability.

Atty. Mario Maderazo: Beyond Titling and Policy Pathways to Affirming Indigenous and Customary Land Rights

The discussion was brought into the realm of legal and policy innovation as Atty. Mario Maderazo argued that the **central challenge lies in securing land tenure as a human right. He emphasized that tenure is inseparable from identity, culture, and protection from displacement, rather than being reduced to the mere processing of formal land titles.**

He introduced the concept of “mapping the memory,” stressing that evidence of land ownership must go beyond cadastral surveys to include the systematic documentation and archiving of oral histories. According to Atty. Maderazo, a proposed Registry of Oral Tradition, could formally inform external actors, including government agencies, local officials, and private corporations, about customary rules and historical land claims. Such a registry would help address due process gaps while strengthening the ability of Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights within formal legal and policy arenas.

He further emphasized that transitional justice mechanisms must be responsive to different forms of dispossession, ranging from corporate intrusion to climate-related impacts. He cautioned against relying on generic or uniform remedies, noting that justice processes must be tailored to the specific realities faced by affected communities.

Open Forum

The open forum provided space for participants to raise critical questions and reflections, surfacing several key issues related to land justice, governance, and transitional justice mechanisms.

Limits of Customary Justice

Participants noted that customary justice systems, such as *kapadyuan* are effective in resolving disputes involving untitled land. However, once formal land titles are introduced, disputes fall within the legal jurisdiction of the courts, limiting the applicability of customary mechanisms.

FPIC as an Ethical Process, Not an Administrative Requirement

Atty. Jesus "Bong" Villardo III emphasized that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) should function as a process for correcting historical injustices rather than being reduced to a bureaucratic requirement. He observed that customary justice systems often resolve conflicts more quickly and meaningfully than formal court processes.

Conceptual Clashes in Ancestral Domain Governance

Mr. Romeo Saliga raised a complex issue concerning land transfers within ancestral domains. He explained that when an Indigenous Person transfers land to a Moro, the land remains part of the collective ancestral domain even if the Moro holds a formal title. This underscores the need for governance frameworks that recognize both collective ancestral rights and individual ownership, including co-management arrangements.

Organised Platforms and Influence on Duty Bearers

Timuay Leticio Datuwata underscored the importance of structured platforms, which have enabled Indigenous Peoples groups to engage more effectively with institutions such as the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MIPA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These engagements contributed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at fast-tracking ancestral domain titling.

Capacity Building as a Reciprocal Responsibility

Atty. Maderazo stressed that capacity building must extend beyond rights holders. Duty bearers, including local government units and regional ministries, must also strengthen their understanding of human rights obligations, particularly in addressing pressures arising from corporate intrusion and other external forces.

Synthesis and Conclusion

In closing, Dr. Torres emphasized that memory and platform building emerged as the session's foundational contributions to conflict transformation. Memory, he stressed, must be elevated as legitimate evidence in transitional justice. However, its documentation must be owned and shaped by Indigenous Peoples themselves to avoid reproducing colonial biases. **Platforms, both at the community level and at the level of unified political advocacy, were highlighted as indispensable mediating structures that can transform conflict into dialogue and policy impact.**

Dr. Torres also urged an expansion of the transitional justice timeline. He noted that genuine historical reckoning requires reaching beyond recent decades into pre-Islamic, pre-colonial, and pre-Regalian periods, so that the full breadth of ancestral narratives can meaningfully inform reparations, justice, and guarantees of non-recurrence. He concluded by calling for the **genuine implementation of existing laws, a paradigm shift that centers on customary law, and a long-term commitment to truth-seeking as essential steps toward achieving true and lasting peace in Mindanao.**

Plenary Presentation: ***Moving the Movable Middle***

Ms. Rana Elmeligy, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Capacity Building Specialist of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), delivered a compelling plenary on the transformative role of M&E in programs that aim to generate real and measurable social change. She introduced the idea of focusing on the “movable middle,” referring to groups and outcomes that are often the hardest to shift but hold the greatest potential for long-term impact.

She opened by challenging the common perception of M&E as purely a bureaucratic requirement. Instead, she emphasized that M&E should be understood as a strategic tool that enables implementers to make informed decisions, refine program approaches, and justify investments in interventions that truly matter.

Drawing insights from the corporate sector, she noted that no business would launch a product without conducting feasibility studies and projections. In development work, she argued, the stakes are even higher because the currency is not profit but human well-being. In this context, M&E helps determine the social return on investment and builds the evidence needed to influence policy decisions and resource allocation.



Ms. Rana Elmeligy
Monitoring & Evaluation and
Capacity Building Specialist
Global Community Engagement
and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

Understanding Opportunity Cost in Development Work

Ms. Elmeligy introduced the concept of opportunity cost and reframed it for development practice. Opportunity cost, she explained, refers to what is given up when choosing one intervention over another. With finite resources such as funding, time, and human effort, organizations have a responsibility to affected communities to ensure that decisions are grounded in evidence rather than assumptions.

She posed a critical question to participants: *“Are our decisions evidence-based, or are we operating on assumptions simply because they feel right?”*

To demonstrate how unchecked assumptions can misdirect programs, she presented a series of “true or false” provocations.

Stories versus Systematic Data

She acknowledged the value of stories in providing human insight but cautioned against relying on them alone. Individual narratives are shaped by subjective experiences, while systematic data captures broader realities and enables more accurate and responsible decision-making.

Less Data Does Not Mean Better Support

While direct assistance is essential, Ms. Elmeligy warned that delivering aid without examining its impact can lead to inefficiencies or unintended harm. Without M&E, resources may be invested in activities that fail to achieve their intended outcomes.

Case Studies: When Evidence Rewrites the Story

Ms. Elmeligy also illustrated the power of M&E through three case studies where evidence challenged assumptions and led to more responsive program design.

India: Child Malnutrition

The initial assumption was that training mothers and providing fortified grains would improve child nutrition. Evidence revealed that mothers-in-law held significant decision-making power in households and were undermining program uptake. The program was redesigned to include and train mothers-in-law, resulting in improved outcomes.

Niger: Countering Violent Extremism

Programs initially assumed that those most vulnerable to recruitment were young, unemployed, single men. Evidence showed that many returnees were married men in their mid to late twenties with assets, particularly pastoralists who joined armed groups during crises to support their families. The program responded by redefining its target group and reshaping interventions.

Mali: Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The assumption was that livelihood skills training would help trauma survivors rebuild their lives. Data revealed that many participants were experiencing deep emotional distress and were unable to engage meaningfully. The program shifted to prioritize Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, transitioning to livelihood interventions only once participants reached emotional readiness.

M&E as a Learning Process

In closing, Ms. Elmeligy emphasized that M&E is not a technical checklist or a compliance exercise. Rather, it is a disciplined learning process that involves gathering information, questioning assumptions, and feeding insights back into program design. When practiced effectively, M&E becomes a compass that guides practitioners toward more humane, responsive, and impactful development work.

Watch the full presentation of Ms. Rana Elmeligy [here](#).

Plenary Presentation:

Guidelines for Displaced Indigenous Peoples

Atty. Wrendolf Juntilla of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Migration, delivered an in-depth presentation on the newly developed guidelines aimed at strengthening civil society advocacy for displaced IPs in the BARMM.

The guidelines were developed under the SEEDS for Peace Project, or Sustainable and Empowering Displacement Solutions for Peace in the Bangsamoro. They draw inspiration from two complementary Bangsamoro Autonomy Acts: Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 62, or the BARMM IDP Act, enacted in September 2024, and Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 64, or the BARMM Indigenous Peoples Code, enacted in December 2024, with its IRRs issued in 2025.

Together, these laws provide strong legal protections for IPs, particularly those experiencing displacement due to conflict or development-related pressures. Atty. Juntilla noted that many provisions offer overlapping protections that can benefit IP communities facing compounded vulnerabilities.



Atty. Wrendolf Juntilla
International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Migration

The guidelines respond to a critical gap identified during community interviews. Despite the passage of landmark regional laws, many affected communities remain unaware of their rights, available protections, and the mechanisms intended to support them. This disconnect led to a central question that framed the presentation: **“Now that the laws exist, what should we do?”**

To address this, the guidelines were developed through two key engagements with Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIP) organizations, namely an advocacy workshop held in September 2025 and a validation workshop conducted in November 2025. The process resulted in a set of twenty concrete advocacy action points grounded in both legal frameworks and lived community realities.

Core Advocacy Directions from the Guidelines

1. Protection from Displacement

The laws prohibit development projects that lack compelling public interest and require FPIC from affected IP communities. The guidelines emphasize the need to train and inform communities about their rights so that FPIC can be used proactively as an advocacy tool to prevent forced displacement.

2. Strengthening IP Governance

The framework affirms the primacy of Indigenous Political Structures (IPS).

Key actions include:

- Supporting IPS leaders in securing representation in the Bangsamoro Internal Displacement Coordinating Council and local displacement councils
- Assisting communities in drafting or updating their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP)

3. Rights During Displacement

Communities experiencing displacement must continue to enjoy dignity, protection, and cultural continuity. Recommended actions include:

- Ensuring that aid and services are culturally appropriate
- Guaranteeing IPS participation in camp management
- Documenting rights violations and providing psychosocial and legal support to affected families

4. Rights to Durable Solutions

The guidelines encourage informed and collective community decision-making on whether to return, relocate, or locally integrate. Tools such as FPIC can support communities in determining and asserting their preferred pathways toward durable solutions.

Watch the full presentation of Atty. Wrendolf Juntilla [here](#).

Recognition of Partners and Donors



IID recognizes its partners, BALAOD Mindanaw, Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation Inc. (KFI), United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD), and Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization Inc. (TLWOI), for their vital role in advancing community-led peacebuilding and transitional justice in the BARMM.

As part of the summit program, IID formally recognized the contributions of its consortium partners, community platforms, and donor institutions whose sustained collaboration and support led to the successful achievement of its program outcomes on TJR, Conflict Transformation, and Peacebuilding in the BARMM. The recognition highlighted the collective nature of peacebuilding and transitional justice work, emphasizing that progress in the Bangsamoro is the result of long-term partnerships across communities, civil society organizations, government bodies, and partner institutions.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to the INCLUDE BARMM Project consortium partners, to wit: **Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc. (TLWOI)**, **Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc. (KFI)**, **Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw (BALAOD Mindanaw)**, and **United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD)**. The **Teduray Justice and Governance (TJG)** was also recognized as a long-time member of IID's Local Advisory Group (LAG) in the region. Two (2) individual TJR advocates (**Ms. Mags Maglana** and **Dr. Mark Torres, PhD**) were also specially mentioned for their valuable contributions and assistance in the development of IID's BARMM-TJR work.

Additionally, strategic community and CSO platforms that emerged and were sustained during the program implementation were likewise recognized, specifically the **Strengthened Initiatives re-Defining Actions of Women (SINDAW)** for the women IDPs to engage in WPS advocacy; the **Marawi Advocacy Accompaniment (MAA)** as a platform for the continuing call for the safe and dignified return (*Kambalingan*) of the 2017 Marawi siege victims; and the **Non-Moro**

and Minority Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Council (NMMIPCC) as a platform to collectively engage with MIPA and other BARMM and national agencies towards meaningful implementation of the Bangsamoro Indigenous Peoples Act (BIPA).

Key donor partners, the **Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)**, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit through the Support to Peacebuilding and Development in BARMM (GIZ-SPADe)**, and **Bread for the World (BfdW)**, were recognized for their continued funding and technical support to IID's TRANSFORM Program. Representatives from GIZ, BfdW, and GCERF delivered messages of support, reaffirming the importance of collaboration, shared learning, and sustained commitment to transitional justice and inclusive peace in BARMM.



Ms. Rana Elmeligy of GCERF shares a message of support highlighting the importance of evidence-based learning, community empowerment, and sustained collaboration for inclusive peace in the BARMM.



Mr. Lyndon Arbes, Senior Advisor of GIZ-SPADe, delivers a message of support highlighting the importance of collaboration, local capacity-building, and collective action for peace and resilience in the BARMM.



Ms. Jula Munz, Project Officer for South East Asia and Pacific Unit of BfdW, conveys a message of support highlighting the importance of partnership with local organizations, community-led initiatives, and sustained commitment to transitional justice and peacebuilding in the BARMM.

Pagpalain Bangsamoro Commitment Board

The summit featured the signing of the “*Pagpalain Bangsamoro*” Commitment Board, a symbolic activity that invited participants to publicly affirm their shared responsibility in advancing justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace in the Bangsamoro.

The commitment board drew inspiration from the final line of the Bangsamoro Hymn, transforming a prayer into a collective pledge. Through this activity, participants expressed their commitment not only through words, but through a visible act of solidarity that underscored the summit’s call for continued action beyond dialogue.

Lead signatories included representatives from the Government Peace Implementing Panel, the MILF Peace Implementing Panel, government institutions, civil society organizations, and IID. The activity served as a unifying moment in the program, reinforcing the summit’s message that peacebuilding and transitional justice require shared ownership and sustained engagement from all sectors.



Solidarity Messages

Messages of solidarity further reinforced the importance of partnership and institutional support in advancing transitional justice.

Ms. Joan Hope Tolibas, Project Manager for the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Program Management Office (PCVE-PMO), emphasized that peace must be pursued through holistic and community-driven approaches. She highlighted the importance of grounding peace efforts in the lived experiences of affected communities and ensuring that institutional mechanisms respond meaningfully to their needs.



Watch the full speech of Ms. Joan Hope Tolibas [here](#).



Member of Parliament Abdulbasit Benito of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament delivered a strong call for urgency in addressing transitional justice concerns. He emphasized the need to confront past injustices and prevent their recurrence, declaring, "No more massacres. No more displacement. No more forgetting." His message underscored the moral and political responsibility to translate commitments into concrete action.

Watch the full speech of MP Abdulbasit Benito [here](#).

Closing Remarks

The summit concluded with closing remarks from **Dr. Rahib Kudto, President of UNYPAD**, who framed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) as a living covenant rooted in integrity and trust. He reminded participants that the agreement represents an ongoing responsibility that must be upheld through consistent action and accountability.

Dr. Kudto emphasized the importance of clarity in the scope and direction of transitional justice, noting that sustained vigilance is necessary to ensure that commitments made under the peace process are realized in practice. He called on all stakeholders to remain engaged, to hold one another accountable, and to continue working collectively toward a just and peaceful Bangsamoro.

Watch the full speech of Dr. Rahib Kudto [here](#).



The Exhibit

Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in BARMM: Community-Led Approaches to Human Rights-Based Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, and Preventing Violent Extremism



Ribbon-cutting of the TJR Summit exhibit led by (from left to right) Chair Cesar Yano of the Government Peace Implementing Panel, Atty. Ana Tarhata Basman of the MILF Peace Implementing Panel, and Mr. Gus Miclat of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID).

The summit featured an exhibit showcasing key initiatives, research outputs, and community-led advocacy efforts developed under the TRANSFORM Program of IID with project partners and stakeholders. The exhibit served as a visual and interactive platform for participants to engage with the work of IID and its partners on Transitional Justice, Conflict Transformation, and Preventing Violent Extremism in the Bangsamoro.

Prior to the formal opening of the program, participants were invited to view a short video presentation that provided the context and background on the TRANSFORM Program and its interventions. The video highlighted the program's focus on surfacing community narratives, supporting dialogue platforms, and strengthening advocacy on transitional justice, conflict transformation and preventing violent extremism through community-owned and managed strategies and actions.

Following the video presentation, participants gathered outside the plenary hall for the official opening of the exhibit. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Gus Miclat, Executive Director of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), Chair Cesar Yano of the Government Peace Implementing Panel, and Atty. Ana Tarhata Basman of the MILF Peace Implementing Panel. The ceremony formally marked the opening of the exhibit and signaled the collective ownership of the works on display.

The exhibit featured knowledge products and materials showcasing the outcomes and impacts of IID's work in the BARMM. Publications, photos and videos featuring outputs from its robust research studies on land and sea governance in mainland and island provinces in the region; on TJR; stories of change from individual and group's transformative experiences, policy agenda; documentation of community dialogues and land conflict resolution processes in South Upi, Maguindanao and in Marawi ground zero, among others. These materials highlighted the lived experiences of IDPs, NMIPs, women, and youth, as well as community-driven approaches to addressing displacement, land conflicts, historical injustices, and formal peace education in the Madaris and in the universities under the Mindanao State University System (MSUS).

Participants were given dedicated time to explore the exhibit, engage with the displayed materials, and interact with representatives from partner organizations. The exhibit provided an opportunity for learning, reflection, and exchange, complementing the discussions in the plenary and panel sessions by grounding policy and advocacy conversations in concrete community experiences.

The knowledge products featured in the exhibit are available for viewing and download [here](#).

All materials and videos used during the TJR Summit event are also accessible on the IID website at www.iidnet.org



Photo Gallery



Click this [link](#) to view and download the TJR Summit photos.



Cultural performance by the Kaliwat Performing Arts Collective during the TJR Summit.



Ms. Myla Leguro serves as the overall facilitator of the TJR Summit.



Opening of the TJR Summit exhibit of knowledge products and stories of change.



Participants explore research, photos, and advocacy materials showcased at the exhibit.



Prof. Tirmizy Abdullah moderates the panel on empowering internally displaced persons in the BARMM.



Gus Miclat of IID shares insights following the panel discussion.



Ms. Samerah Mangorinsung shares about her experiences during the panel discussion on empowering internally displaced persons in the BARMM.



Dr. Mark Anthony Torres introduces the panelists for the discussion on land conflict resolution in the BARMM.



Timuay Leticio Datuwata of TJG serves as a panelist during the discussion on fostering engagement and innovations toward conflict transformation in the BARMM.



Louise Lampon of IID (far left) recognizes the partners for their contributions to advancing transitional justice, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding in the BARMM.



Participants sign the Pagpalain Bangsamoro Commitment Board.

Meaningful conversations and exchanges among participants during the TJR Summit.







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