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UNOPS and OPAPRU Deepen Partnership in Support of Bangsamoro Peace and Transition

High-level dialogue advances closer cooperation on institutional strengthening, access to justice, normalization, and the delivery of peace dividends in BARMM.

PASIG CITY, PHILIPPINES, 20 October 2026 — United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Jorge Moreira da Silva met today with Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, at the OPAPRU Headquarters in Pasig City.

The high-level dialogue reaffirmed the strategic partnership between UNOPS and OPAPRU and provided an opportunity to discuss shared priorities for sustaining the gains of the Bangsamoro peace process. Discussions focused on key developments affecting the political and normalization tracks and opportunities for international partners to provide coherent, conflict-responsive, and practical support.

Executive Director Moreira da Silva recognized OPAPRU's important role in guiding UNOPS engagements in the Bangsamoro, including as Co-Chair of the Support to Bangsamoro Transition (SUBATRA) Programme. Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNOPS, SUBATRA demonstrates how international cooperation can translate peace commitments into tangible institutional support through strategic infrastructure, digital systems, technical assistance, and capacity development for the Bangsamoro Government. Moreira da Silva underscores the outstanding connection of SUBRATA programme, and its projects to local communities where the element of infrastructure is key ingredient to the normalization of Bangsamoro.

"Peace agreements must be supported by institutions that can deliver visible and lasting results for communities," said Jorge Moreira da Silva, UNOPS Executive Director. "UNOPS is committed to being a long-term implementation partner, bringing our expertise in infrastructure, project management, and institutional strengthening to help translate peace-process priorities into sustainable development outcomes."

OPAPRU Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento underscored the importance of ensuring that development interventions remain aligned with nationally agreed peace-process priorities and complement existing political and normalization mechanisms.

"Sustaining the gains of the Bangsamoro peace process requires strong coordination, institutional continuity, and development interventions that respond to the needs of

communities," said Secretary Sarmiento. "Our partnership with UNOPS and international development partners can help ensure that peace commitments are translated into practical and sustainable results."

Moreover, Sarmiento commended UNOPS for the successful turnover of the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) Peace and Mediation Center at the MSU Main Campus, and the Marawi Compensation Board Claims Processing Information System.

The two leaders, who both served as local executives, lawmakers, and had Ministerial portfolios, also explored opportunities for collaboration beyond existing initiatives, including how UNOPS expertise could support OPAPRU-led peace and development programmes such as the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan, or PAMANA, Camps Transformation Plan in the Bangsamoro, and other priorities requiring integrated institutional, infrastructure, procurement, and project management support.

Both institutions reaffirmed the importance of continued coordination among OPAPRU, the Bangsamoro Government, the European Union, UNOPS, civil society, and other partners to ensure that assistance remains complementary, conflict-sensitive, and responsive to emerging priorities.

About OPAPRU
The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) is the primary agency of the Philippine government tasked with overseeing, coordinating, and integrating the implementation of the comprehensive peace process and peacebuilding initiatives across the nation. Read more: www.peace.gov.ph.

About UNOPS
UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: www.unops.org.

Media Contacts

- **OPAPRU Communications Division**
  Email: media@peace.gov.ph
  Website: peace.gov.ph
- **UNOPS Philippines**
  Email: philippines@unops.org
  Website: unops.org

PHOTOS



From left to right: Peter Browne, UNOPS Philippines Country Representative; Sara Netzer, UNOPS Asia Pacific Regional Director; Jorge Moreira da Silva, UN Under-Secretary General and UNOPS Executive Director; Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity; Nicholas George, UNOPS East Asia and Pacific Multi-Country Office Director; Paulo Magalhaes, UNOPS Senior Advisor On Public Relations And Outreach



From left to right: Jorge Moreira da Silva, UN Under-Secretary General and UNOPS Executive Director; Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity




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OPAPRU
AND UNITY
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION
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