

**THE CAPACITY FOR CHANGE: AN INQUIRY INTO  
THE EXTENT OF POLICY INTEGRATION OF THE  
U.N. DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF  
ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**



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\*The views and interpretations of this paper are those of the author.

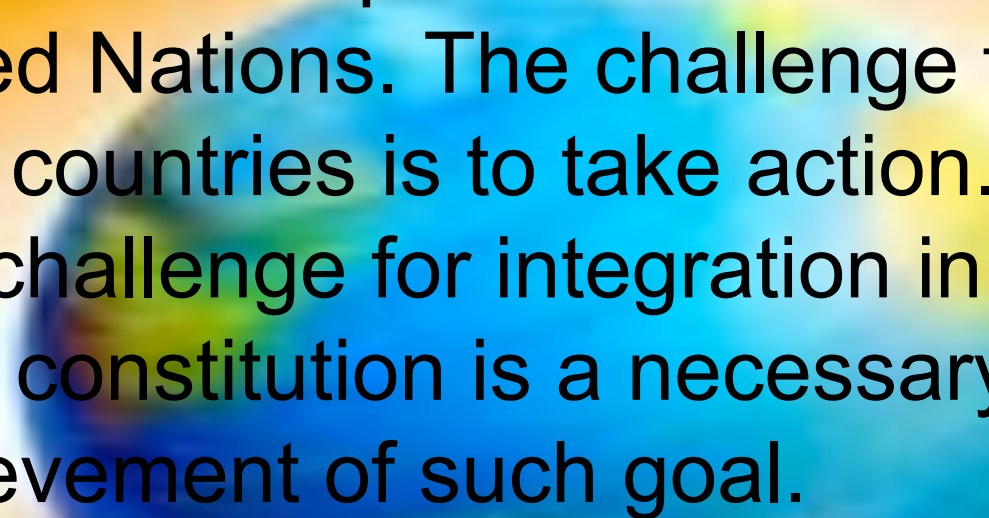
This paper was prepared as the author's contribution to the National Conference on Racism in a Global Context at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. The purpose of this paper is to provide an eye opener for further studies to determine effective strategies and programs of eliminating all forms of racial discrimination.

The paper was prepared by **Teresita C. Mirafuentes**, a college professor, a development worker and a researcher in various fields of health, gender and community initiatives.

## OVERVIEW:

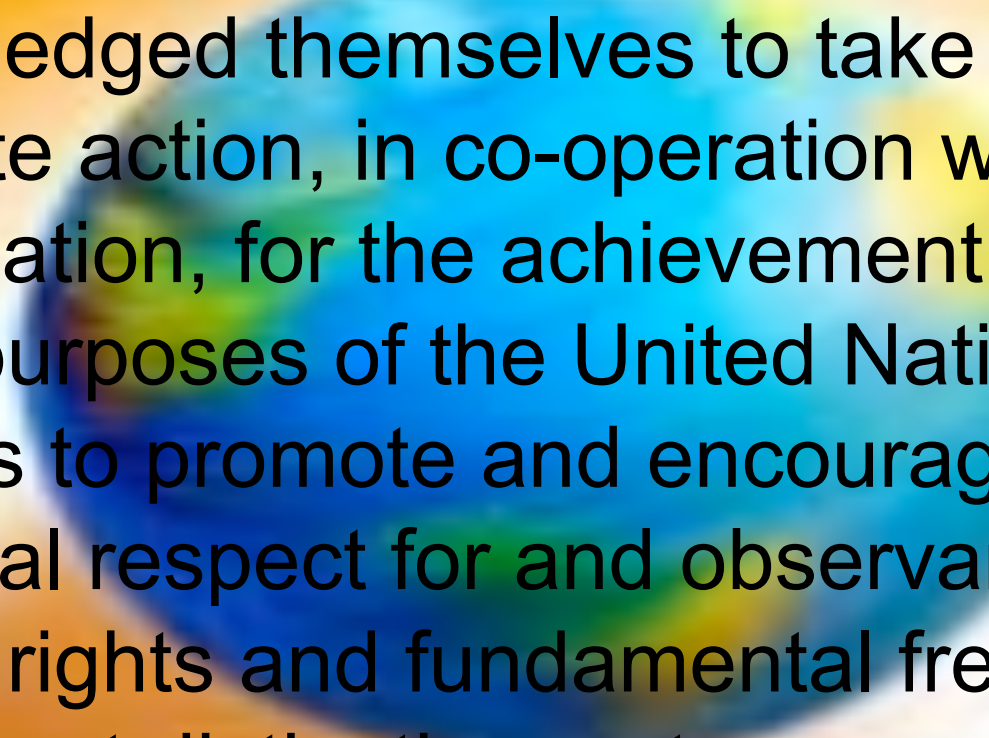
- Racism comes into existence through history, evolution, social processes and as an ideology. Different theories and perspectives try to explain its positive and negative consequences. However, very basic to this term is that it motivates social discrimination and racial segregation which remained widespread all over the world. This is illegal in many countries since it violates universal respect and human rights.

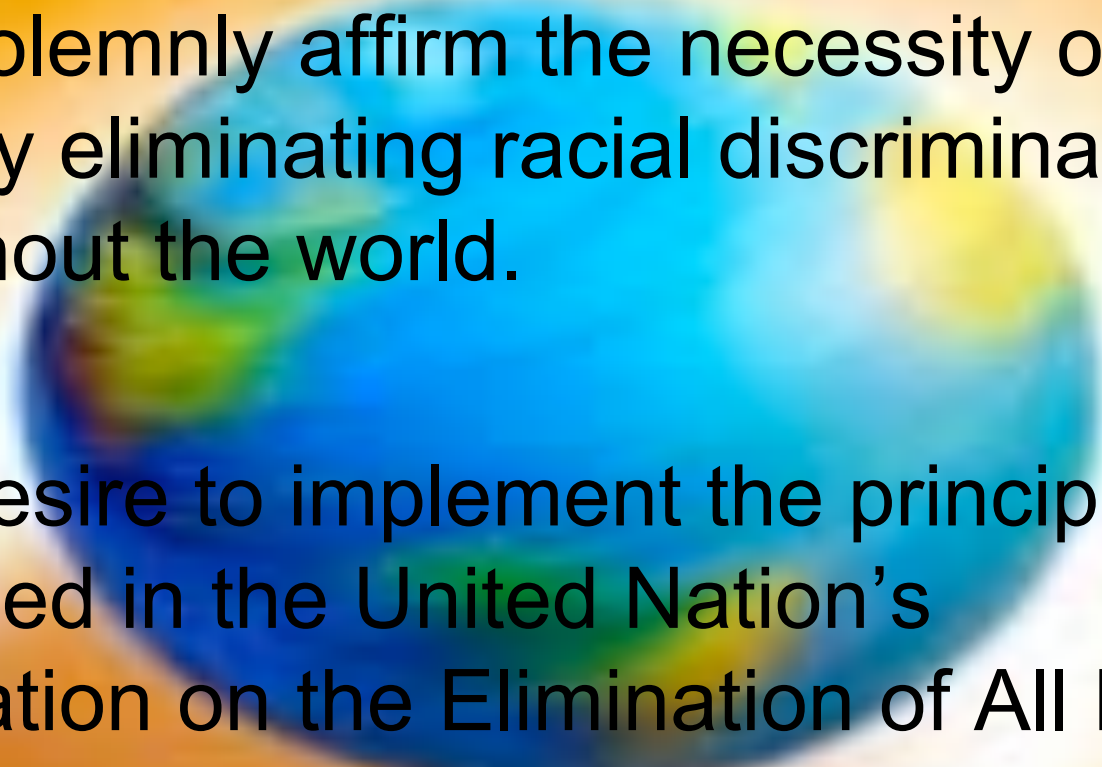
According to U.N. International Conventions, the term "racial discrimination" shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, or any other field of public life ([wikipedia.org/racism](http://wikipedia.org/racism)).



Peace and development is the ultimate goal of the United Nations. The challenge for all member countries is to take action. It follows that the challenge for integration in the state policy or constitution is a necessary step for the achievement of such goal.

Many countries are signatories of different conventions in the United Nations as member states that uphold the promotion of the principles of the dignity and equality inherent of all human beings.

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- They pledged themselves to take joint and separate action, in co-operation with the organization, for the achievement of one of the purposes of the United Nations which is to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedom for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

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- They solemnly affirm the necessity of speedily eliminating racial discrimination throughout the world.
  - They desire to implement the principles embodied in the United Nation's Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

# Objectives

This paper "The Capacity for Change: An Inquiry into the Extent of Policy Integration on the U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" aims to present an analysis of the topics:

- policy integration for elimination of all forms of racial discrimination,
- development and peace and order indices,
- theoretical bases that could strengthen initiatives.

# Limitations

The preparation of the paper had been constrained by time and available data. The author just made use of the available resources in the locality. There is not enough time to focus on the paper and there is also a financial constraint for the use of some facilities like internet and data sourcing. However, this paper assumed that this could be a case in point for a better strategy and programs, at least.

# Countries Included in the Study:

- **Indonesia**
- **Japan**
- **Malaysia**
- **Philippines**
- **Thailand**



# Policy Review of the Five Countries Included in the Study:

## Indonesia

- In chapter 10 of the Indonesian Constitution, it defines citizens and residents and states that all citizens are equal before the law. Details of the human rights guaranteed all, including the other rights of children to grow free from violence and discrimination, the right to religious freedom, the right to choose education and other related provisions.

# Policy Review of the Five Countries Included in the Study:

## Japan

- Japanese people pledge to uphold high ideals of peace and democratic order. The preamble states that they desire peace for all time and to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace. One of the key provisions is that fundamental rights are guaranteed as eternal and inviolable.

# Policy Review of the Five Countries Included in the Study:

## Malaysia

- In part 11 of Malaysia's constitution state to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different races or other classes of the population likely to come violence. In part 10, all persons of whatever race in the same grade in the service of the Federation shall, subject to the terms and conditions of their employment, be treated impartially.

# Policy Review of the Five Countries Included in the Study:

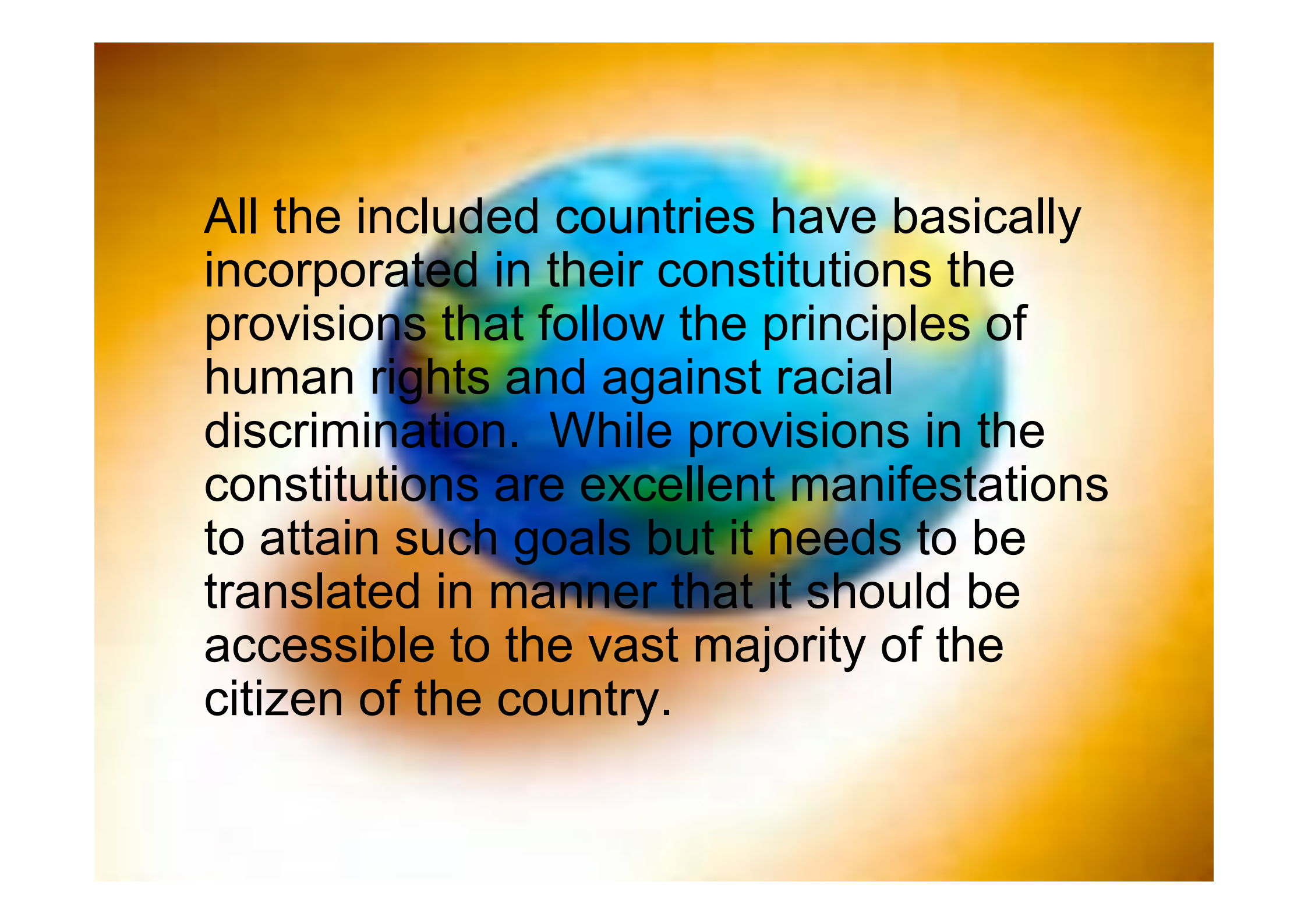
## Philippines

- It is indicated in the preamble to build a just and humane society, promote common good. Other provisions state that it adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations. Section 5 states that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

# Policy Review of the Five Countries Included in the Study:

## Thailand

- Compared to previous Thai constitution, the 1997 constitution had contained several innovations in key areas which include human rights. A plethora of human rights were explicitly recognized for the first time, including the rights of children, the elderly, the right to freedom of information, the right to public health and free education, consumers' rights, the rights of traditional communities, the right to human dignity and the right to peacefully protest coups and other constitutional means of acquiring power.



All the included countries have basically incorporated in their constitutions the provisions that follow the principles of human rights and against racial discrimination. While provisions in the constitutions are excellent manifestations to attain such goals but it needs to be translated in manner that it should be accessible to the vast majority of the citizen of the country.

# Table 1. Human Development Index of the Five Countries

| Rank | Country     | HDI        | Category | Trend    |
|------|-------------|------------|----------|----------|
| 7    | Japan       | 0.949 (+4) | High     | Increase |
| 61   | Malaysia    | 0.805 (0)  | High     | Increase |
| 74   | Thailand    | 0.784      | Medium   | Increase |
| 84   | Philippines | 0.763      | Medium   | Increase |
| 108  | Indonesia   | 0.711      | Medium   | Increase |

Source: 2006 Human Development Report

**Table 2. Peace and order Index of the Five Countries.**

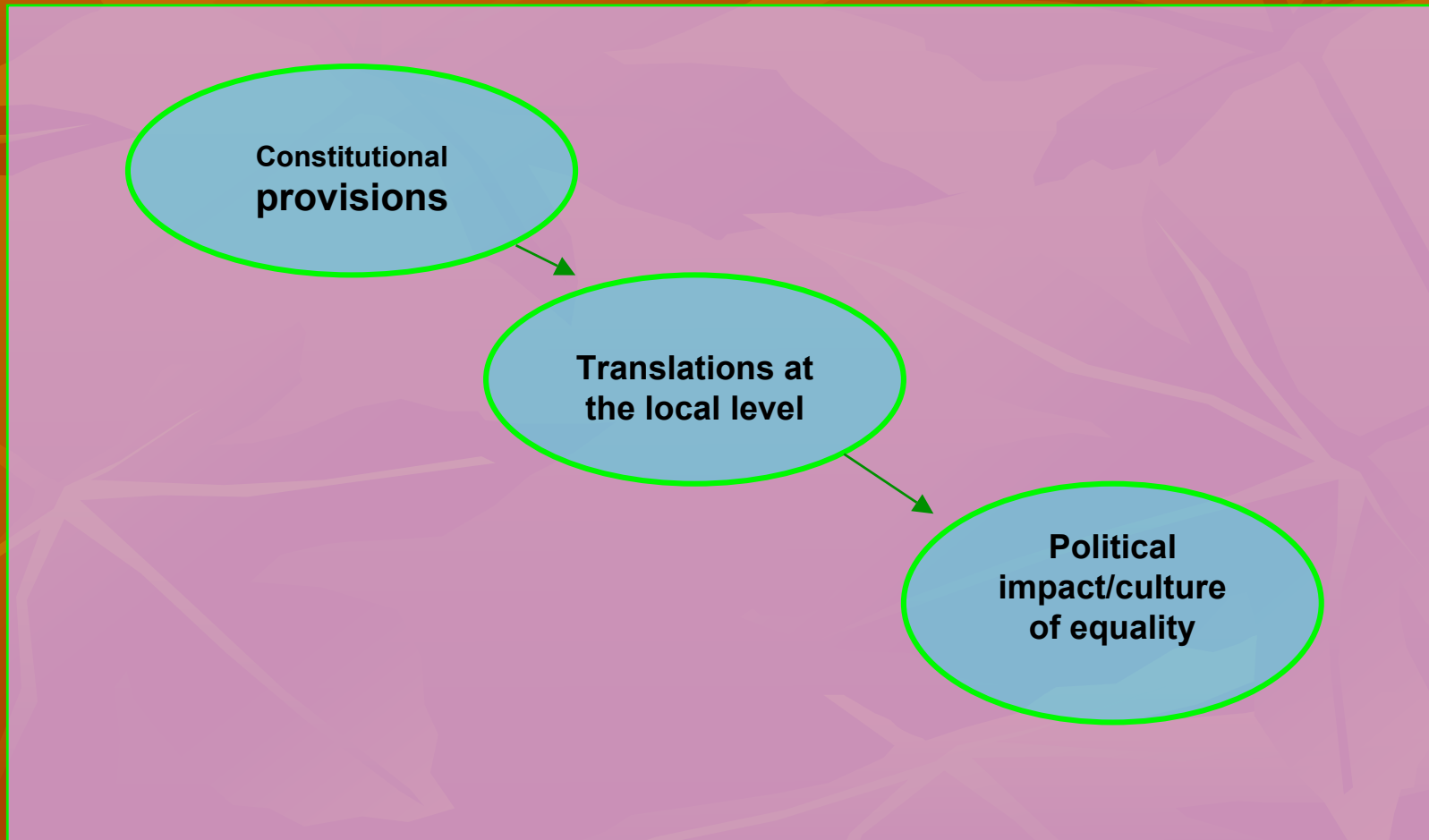
| <b>Country</b> | <b>Peace and order index (mid-late 1990's, average score of peace and crime indicator)</b> | <b>Rank at First Global Peace Index (2007)</b> |
|----------------|--|--|
| Indonesia      | No data  | 78   |
| Japan          | 92   | 5  |
| Malaysia       | 75   | 37   |
| Philippines    | 46   | 100  |
| Thailand       | 79   | 105  |

Source: Global Peace Index ([www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)) and UNDP.

# Conceptual and theoretical bases in capsule:

- ❖ The struggles against racism and sexism existed not only before the new hegemonic formation but also before capitalism.
- ❖ When disadvantages outweigh advantages, there is a necessity for change and it is possible because culture is dynamic. We learned certain things through socialization. A model that can counter to form a new better culture is a necessity to achieve peace and development.

## Figure 2. Principles guiding policy integration.



Of particular interest on translating the provisions of the constitutions in eliminating all forms of racial discriminations recommendations for research and activities are as follows:

- The level of implementation of the constitutional provisions regarding eliminating all forms of racial discrimination which will involve primary data generation to update the data in some cases, collation of existing materials and publicizing the materials.
- Documentation and assessment of a model country for its strategies and activities in the promotion of eliminating all forms of racial discrimination to serve as learning cases and basis for ascertaining whether or not policy integration makes a difference to the peace and development or whether or not the goal has been met.



THANK YOU