

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

UN Summit for the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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Mr. President,

1. The Philippines congratulates you on your election as President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. We assure you of our support, as you steer us through this historic and critical year of transition.

Strengths of the 2030 Agenda

2. The 2030 Agenda that we have adopted embodies our peoples' aspirations for the next 15 years. Its 17 goals and 169 targets build upon the unfinished business of the MDGs, and on the recognition of the inter-linkages of the environmental, social and economic challenges facing us today. The inclusive consultation process was both an opportunity to build a shared global vision for "the future we want" and a venue to amplify the voices of the poor and the marginalized sectors.

Philippine Priorities in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

3. We are especially encouraged by the inclusion of the issues of migration, reducing vulnerabilities, collective action for conservation and addressing inequality of opportunities in the 2030 Agenda.

On Migration

4. The Philippines advocated that the Agenda recognize the positive contributions of migrants to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination. We call on member nations to mainstream migration in the development process, reduce remittance costs and fully respect the human rights of migrants.

On Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

5. Mr. President, if we are to achieve our development goals, we need to take urgent action to combat climate change. We have seen extreme weather disturbances occurring with greater frequency and intensity. These calamities can negate our gains in reducing poverty and even push back development. We thus need to put in place climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly at the local levels, and increasing investments towards a climate-resilient economy.
6. In line with these, we aim to ensure financial inclusion for all, particularly through access to insurance and capital, and through mobile financing.
7. As President of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, we will also work in the upcoming Paris conference (COP21) to ensure that we adopt a new legally-binding climate agreement that is universal and equitable and that will limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees or 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Collective action for conservation

8. In this regard, the Philippines appreciates the emphasis placed in Goal 14 on the need to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. Enshrining this as a global agenda obliges the community of nations to seriously acknowledge challenges to conservation, such as destruction due to massive reclamation, as a common concern. These challenges need to be collectively addressed using a rules-based approach in international law as reflected in UNCLOS. The call for solidarity puts into words the pervasive consciousness on how local incidents impact worldwide events.

Addressing Inequalities

9. There is no true development if inequalities arising from lack of access to opportunities by the most vulnerable groups, remain. We aspire to achieve education for all, universal health coverage, food security, and social and economic inclusion, supported by quality infrastructure. We are mindful of the pressing need to address maternal and reproductive health, including access to sexual and reproductive health services, and to further accelerate the fulfillment of women's rights.

Financing for Development

10. Undoubtedly, realizing the Global Goals will require financial and technical resources. We therefore seek partnerships for capacity building, developing technology and expertise, and expanding our access to resources for domestic resource mobilization, leveraging private sector participation, and achieving resiliency.

On Strengthening Capacities of Statistical Agencies

11. Mr. President, as the 2030 Agenda pledges that no one will be left behind, there is also a demand for official statistics to be more disaggregated, frequent, timely, and accessible.

12. Thus, we emphasize the need for capacity building to strengthen statistical agencies. We call on the international community for increased technical and financial support in this regard.

Conclusion

13. Mr. President, this Summit is merely the beginning. To move forward and achieve the Agenda's overarching goal of eradicating poverty, we must now develop our national plans and budgets for its implementation and monitoring. In doing so, we will collaborate with civil society and all stakeholders in line with the principle of inclusiveness and accountability.

14. Mr. President, the Philippines pledges to make the 2030 Agenda a reality and to leave no one behind. It is our sacred responsibility to our children and to future generations, and our solemn duty as members of the United Nations.

Thank you.