

Philippines

EDD

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Country Statement

The Philippines' Perspectives on "Achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious transformative post-2015 development agenda"

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

First of all, in behalf of the Philippine government I extend great appreciation to the Thailand Government and ESCAP for organizing this meeting to initiate the deliberation of the eventual SD goals of the region.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

After almost 2 years since the Rio+20 Conference and as the committed period to achieve the MDGs is about to be reached, the Philippines would like to take a more proactive role in charting the way for a transformative Post-2015 development agenda, based on the lessons learned in the implementation of the MDG framework and building on its strengths, to ensure the successful and efficient achievement of the SD pillars and its eventual goals. It is to everyone's knowledge Honourable Chair and Your Excellencies that the world now faces new global challenges as expressed by her Honourable Executive Director of ESCAP which include greater population dynamics, changes in political economy relations, instabilities in the global financial and food markets, greater demand for social justice, rights and freedoms, among others. Known to all as well, especially in this part of the world, is the enhanced exposure to disasters like floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, frequent occurrence of strong typhoons and storm surges because of climate change and the continued exploitation of natural resources that add to the vulnerability of countries to the negative impact of natural disasters. It is important that the outcome document of this Inaugural Session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development strongly considers these new challenges and concretize the priorities that are founded from national precedence and development plans.

In this connection, the Philippines expresses once again its strong concurrence to the global commitment and the proposed eventual Asia-Pacific goals that development efforts should not 'leave no one behind', such that all members of society should contribute to and benefit from such development efforts. The newly updated Medium term Philippine Development Plan, thus, continues to hum the mantra of 'inclusive growth' giving priority to:

(i) poverty reduction, generation of productive employment and social inclusion; (ii) the achievement of peace and security; (iii) the promotion of environmental sustainability as well as climate change and disaster reduction and management; (iv) the fostering of more accountable, responsible and participatory governance; and (v) the upholding of fair and stable order based on international law.

The Philippine Development plan and those of all other countries should indeed be coherent with the SD pillars and the eventual SD goals. It is in this regard, Honourable Chair and Your Excellencies, that we support the consideration and inclusion of the following critical elements in the formulation of the transformative Post-2015 development framework:

(i) *Strong coordination/collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnership with clear roles and accountability:*

Responses to current global challenges are manifested in different ways and degrees in various countries and hence the customization of country responses and strategies to reflect their particular needs and capacities. It is in this regard that the Philippines deems critical and concurs to the need to strengthen coordination, collaboration and partnership between national and international institutions, between government and the business sector, private philanthropic foundations, civil societies, research institutions and others to ensure that responses and strategies are harmonious. Strong partnership and collaboration will also facilitate technology transfer and information sharing that are most helpful in closing technology gaps between the developed and the developing countries, on one hand, and among developing countries themselves, on the other hand.

(ii) *Better and more effective governance:* To facilitate and sustain the needed coordination and multi-stakeholder partnership and ensure coherent and balanced integration of SD commitments and goals across countries, the Philippine recognizes and concurs with the UN Secretary General in recognizing the newly-formed High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to coordinate and ensure that various partners understand and are clear of their roles, responsibilities and accountabilities in the implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda. Further, with the inevitable ASEAN integration approaching, this forum may see the opportunity to explore this regional milestone in reinforcing ties and expanding channels that will allow Asia-Pacific countries to realize the Post-2015 development agenda and achieve sustained inclusive and equitable growth.

- (iii) Sustainable development finance: The financing requirement of Post-2015 development agenda will continue to be crucial such that both public and private resources need to be tapped. Hence, the appeal to Development Partners, the Private Sector included, for their continued support and commitment to make this Vision happen. The Philippines continues to utilize the two-prong financing approach it has embarked to facilitate the country's economic growth and implementation of MDG-related activities: (a) one, is its strongly forging public-private partnership in the provision of certain infrastructure facilities; and (b) second is its conscious effort to integrate the MDGs in the sectoral plans and priority programs and projects.

The financial framework should, likewise, include the identification of innovative domestic finance generation schemes like the broadening of tax bases and improving tax administration. Further, the Philippines strongly advocates the need for transparency and accountability and the continued adoption of measures to improve the environment for partners to have further ease in the undertaking of business. These enhance leverage in generating and mobilizing funds for development activities including the implementation of eventual SD goals.

The Philippines expresses strongly the need for financial support for research and development to remain high in the hierarchy of priorities. In many countries public R&D investments as a portion of their respective Gross Domestic Product have remained meagre. In this regard, the Philippines expresses the need for commitment by public and private research institutions to continue to fund the development of transformative technologies that will help countries overcome production constraints and reduce input costs, that will enhance efficiency in transportation and communication, that will develop life-saving interventions and such other technologies.

- (iv) Comprehensive monitoring framework and data/information enhancement: Good governance and good practice of accountability will need strong monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda. The Philippine supports the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, especially on the call for data revolution to improve data collection, dissemination and analysis. In the Philippine Country report that consolidated and analysed results of surveys in relation to the Post-2015 development agenda, the need for shorter interval of

data gathering and facilitating the processing of data collected was stressed if these are to be used for more effective policy and program formulation. Also expressed in the same report is the need for data to be appropriately disaggregated, for example by sex and geographical area. The disaggregated data will help in design of more appropriate interventions.

Still on the data revolution, is the need to identify clear and measurable indicators. The Philippines strongly encourages the development of multi-dimensional indicators to capture the inter-linkages of the goals and objectives. Let us make one of the greatest legacies of these efforts the generation of improved quality, collection and dissemination of social data.

- v) My final intervention, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman is to stress again the vulnerability of Asia-Pacific to disasters and risks, hence, the need to build its resilience against disasters and climate change to achieve sustainable development. Disaster risk assessment should be a pre-condition for any development initiative, and thus be central to the post-2015 development agenda that embeds a set of risk-sensitive targets and indicators including in its monitoring system. Governments should be encouraged and supported to integrate disaster risk reduction into development, with adequate legal, institutional and accountability frameworks. Regional and international cooperation is crucial in strengthening governments' efforts in reducing risk and building resilience.

Data and statistics on disaster and risks as well as those related to climate and weather events remain stingy despite their urgent need. If these data are available, they are not standardized to enable comparability across countries. The Philippines stresses the need for greater attention in improving and strengthening disaster and climate related statistics and information. For the information of Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman, the draft resolution proposed by the Philippines on Disaster -related Statistics in the Asia-Pacific has undergone procedural review by UN ESCAP Secretariat. A revised version of the draft incorporating the revisions will be circulated for discussion in the meeting of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolution some time around this period, if it has not happened.

Thank you.