

**Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman
Climate Change Commission**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

NATIONAL BUSINESS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2018

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Distinguished leaders of the private business sector, members of the diplomatic corps, esteemed colleagues in government and civil society, honored guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning.

This year's observance of the **Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week** comes during trying yet exciting times.

The climate challenge

The science is unequivocal: Climate change is speeding up, moving faster than us. We need faster and bolder responses from all if we are to win this fight for human survival and security. We must rise up to the 1.5 degrees Celsius challenge to survive and thrive together.

The recent Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that a further half-degree warming can bring unprecedented dangers to the world. Food and water will be scarcer. Most of today's corals will die. Diseases will prevail. Poverty will worsen. Societal crises will ensue. This happens in one or two decades time if the business-as-usual trend of carbon emissions continue.

The Report affirms the Philippine leadership stand and policy advocacy on the pursuit of the 1.5 global warming threshold, the goal the Philippines, as the leader of the Climate Vulnerable Forum nations in 2015, advocated strongly and negotiated steadfastly to be enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

With the runaway global warming, the increasing trend of climate risks, and the inadequacy of current global commitments to action, climate change has become the most defining challenge of our time.

It is in this context that today's business summit becomes more crucial as a platform for all key stakeholders to define where and how we must move forward.

As we all take on the challenge to do more, to advance our climate actions, we take stock of what we have accomplished together through the years, and endeavor to sustain our gains for the nation.

The CCC delivers on its mandates

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Climate Change Commission led the framing and drawing of the National Climate Change Action Plan which we now update pursuant to law, and complement with the Nationally Determined Contributions. The body has worked hard to breathe life to the law that created it as well as the amendatory law that created and lodged the People's Survival Fund in the Commission.

We have also led in exploring new ways of thinking and doing in order to build the capacity and the climate resilience of our local communities. We have been piloting in the countryside a number of innovative and transformative ideas in our unrelenting search for sustainable solutions to the persistent problem of vulnerability and to the vicious cycle of poverty and risk.

We have operationalized the National Integrated Climate Change Data and Information Exchange System or NICCDIES as our climate data platform, which connects and inter-operates with the system for climate change-related data of various government agencies. With this, we have initiated the creation of a national integrated risk information platform, along with a national loss and damage registry, that serves the risk information requirements of national and local agencies.

With our National Panel of Technical Experts, we have adopted and promoted the multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning system to reduce disaster losses in the country.

As early as 2015, we conceived the idea of the Philippine Climate Change Resilience Center, and the South-South Center of Excellence for Climate Information Services, and we excitingly continue to pursue them.

As we advocated the multi-stakeholder convergence on adopting the post-2015 global development frameworks, way ahead of anyone else in the country and the international community, the Commission, pursuant to its mandate, initiated the rollout of the Communities for Resilience Initiative. It endeavored to set the standards and systems for the capacity building of local governments and key stakeholders on science-based development planning, risk financing, and building community resilience to climate change.

The Local Climate Change Action Plans, which our law asks from local governments, which numbered 137 in 2015, now number 1,379, a ten-fold exponential increase in three years. I was told that no other country in the world is like the Philippines in this regard.

We have been working closely with key government agencies and development partners in adopting standard modules for promulgating concepts and methodologies for risk assessment, greenhouse gases inventory, and enhancing local plans with ecosystems-based adaptation and mitigation framework, the quality of which the Climate Change Commission, together with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, will assure based on a set of standards that we will promulgate soon.

These are among the dozen standard CORE modules we continue to develop for training local government officials and planners in partnership with the higher educational institutions in the country.

As the country's climate policy landscape continues to change, the Commission is quick to rise to the challenge – such is the case with the National Policy Review on Energy, the development of standard and certification systems for green jobs, the development of a national climate risk management framework, the sectoral action planning for the Nationally Determined Contributions, the alignment of our national plans with the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate goal, and many other revolutionary works for transforming our industries and sectors in this era of climate change and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Transforming sectors towards carbon neutrality

Today's business summit promotes common understanding of the latest climate science, the rationale for faster and bolder climate action, and the opportunities in transforming our industries and sectors towards a low carbon and green economy.

Along with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement forms part of the universal and transformative vision for a sustainable world.

When all manage to hold the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, extreme climate impacts are avoided and economic growth is ensured. We can breathe cleaner and healthier air. We create green jobs and spike employment. Energy access and security are enhanced. Our long-term goal is achieved, and climate action becomes global.

Taking the low-carbon development pathway supports economic growth. Green growth is possible. California, for example, grew its GDP by 35% as it cut its carbon emissions by 13% since 2006.

With significant resources and capacity for investment, managerial capability and operational manpower, the private business sector could drive innovations, create more opportunities, and improve countless lives from its collective climate actions.

In these challenges for the private business sector, the increased investments needed to transform our industries, in accordance with our NCCAP and NDC, could be financed through the Green Climate Fund. This option the private business sector must explore as soon as possible. We have arranged for the GCF Secretariat in Incheon to join us shortly through telecon to give advice and answer your queries on this financing opportunity.

The ways forward

Ladies and gentlemen:

Although young compared to the several decades old agencies of government, the Climate Change Commission has worked hard and done much in pursuit of its

mandate quietly – and we ought to do so much more, to face the climate resilience challenge squarely.

For the sustainable development path ahead, we shall move forward together with you in lockstep.

We shall enhance awareness and understanding on climate change and associated risks, through all media platforms and formal educational system.

We shall promote science and risk-based policy development and planning at national and local levels.

We shall accelerate the capacity building for local governments on ecosystems-based adaptation and mitigation planning.

We shall invest in social preparations for low carbon transition and exponential transformation of all sectors towards a green economy.

And we shall facilitate efficient access to international climate finance, primarily the GCF, and the transfer to the country of leading-edge technology and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation.

To complement further discussions on our ways forward, the Climate Change Commission has endeavored to deliver a number of reports in time for today's summit. These include The Philippine Climate Change Assessments on Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Mitigation; the first National Climate Action Report; the first National Climate Change Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report, and the first National Business Climate Action Report for Sustainability. These reports could effectively inform decision making in all sectors and help make any national and local development and investment plans climate risk-sensitive.

Closing

Ladies and gentlemen,

We, Filipinos, are the worst affected by climate change. It is the present generation's moral responsibility to ensure that future generations will survive and thrive in a warmer world. We must, therefore, sustain the fight for the 1.5 warming threshold. We must sustain our call for climate justice.

Climate action as a collective task has been the mission and leadership resolve of the Climate Change Commission. We must be of one mind and purpose: To make our development sustainable, our society climate-resilient. The Commission shall continue to bring everyone here together to ensure a dynamic synergy as we pursue greener and more resilient pathways towards a sustainable future.

As the Climate Change Commission commemorates its 9th year, we laud and take pride of our collective actions and achievements, and gratefully acknowledge the generous support we have received from the visionary leader that authored the

country's landmark climate change law. The Commission thanks Senator Loren Legarda, and all the Presidents who have led the Commission as its chair.

Historically, our current chairperson, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, will be remembered as the President of the Philippines who ratified our country's accession to the Paris Agreement.

May our coming together today let us gain and sustain the momentum to increase the intensity and depth, and the breadth and impact of our climate actions, and stoke the flames of hope for our people and for humanity.

On this note, I gladly welcome all of you to the National Business Climate Action Summit, with the theme, **1.5 Degrees Celsius Climate Challenge: Transforming Industries and Sectors Towards Carbon Neutrality.**

Thank you and mabuhay!