



SECRETARY EMMANUEL DE GUZMAN
Climate Change Commission

OPENING REMARKS

**Roundtable Discussion on the Development of a National Climate Risk
Management Framework**
12 November 2018

Esteemed colleagues in the Climate Change Commission, Commissioners Noel Antonio Gaerlan and Rachel Herrera, Members of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission, Mr. Francis Dela Cruz, lead convener of the Action Klima, fellow workers in the government, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Time is as fleeting as ever – and the change and the challenges it brings continuously flow with it.

Many of you in this room have been our partners and companions in the countless undertakings of the Commission, in responding to our fast changing environment. Some are good friends and colleagues since years back when I worked for the UN system, and whom I have asked to remain engaged in the critical work of the Commission to promote resilient and sustainable development in the country.

I would like to believe that we are here, together once again, because we share a common purpose, a common vision for our society and the future of our country.

The Climate Change Commission has been a visionary and bold leader in climate risk governance. Undoubtedly, it can even be bolder if it asserts its authority and mandate under the law. It can even be stronger as a science-based agency if its panel of experts will be fully engaged in the delivery of its work.

The Commission has led in the framing and drawing of the national plan for climate action, which we are now updating and complementing with our Nationality 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 risk.

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We have envisioned and conceptualized early on and discussed with the cabinet cluster and our advisory board the creation of a national integrated risk information platform along with the national loss and damage database that serves the risk information requirements of national and local agencies. With the NPTE, we have also articulated on the added value of adopting 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, the South South Center of Excellence for Climate Information Services. We continue to pursue this exciting idea.

And with the adoption of the various global frameworks of action in the same year, the Commission, pursuant to its mandate, initiated the convergence of key agencies and stakeholders to rollout the Communities for Resilience Initiative that has endeavored to set standards and systems for capacity building, risk financing, and education on climate change.

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, enhancing local plans with ecosystems-based adaptation and mitigation framework, to be quality assured against a set of standards soon to be adopted jointly with the DILG. These are among the dozen standard CORE modules we continue to develop.

And for the delivery of trainings to the LGUs, we have been engaging with the academe, with higher education institutions, as implementing partners.

We have been in constant interaction with finance and banking institutions and professionals on risk insurance, risk transfer and mobilizing climate finance.

We have been advocating and articulating convergence, linking, and integrating the post-2015 global frameworks way ahead of anyone else in the country as well as in the international community. In fact many in this room were witness to the multi-stakeholder process that the Commission conducted in late 2015 and early 2016 and when we launched the series of CORE Convergence Forum for Major River Basins in Davao in March 2016.

As the country's climate policy landscape continues to change, the Commission is always quick to rise to the challenge – such is the case with the implementation of Green Jobs Law, the social preparation and sectoral action planning for the NDC, the alignment of our national plans with the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate goal, and many other revolutionary work for transforming our industries and sectors in this era of climate change and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

From my view point, and perhaps you share this view also, the mission and collective work of the commission is not widely known, much less appreciated. Your Climate Change Commission, although so young compared to the several decades old agencies of government, has worked hard and done much in pursuit of its mandate, quietly and without media mileage.

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And, as we privately commemorated our ninth birthday a few weeks ago, we laud and take pride of our collective actions and achievements, and acknowledge with gratitude the generous support we have all received from the visionary leader that authored the country's landmark climate law.

Climate action as a collective task has been our mission, our task and responsibility. Everyone here, representing key agencies and stakeholders, must pull together and should be of one mind. The Commission hopes to continue to bring everyone together to ensure a dynamic synergy as we pursue greener and more resilient pathways towards a sustainable future.

Our discussions here today and in any follow through roundtables will define country's framework for climate risk management. All voices will be heard, and consensus will be built towards a clear way forward.

With this, we thank you and extend to you our cordial invitation to join us in the annual observance next week of the Climate Change Consciousness (CCC) Week.

Thank you and good morning.