



2015-16 Philippine Presidency

## Opening Statement at the United Nations Bonn Climate Change Conference

16 May 2016 – Bonn, Germany

I am pleased to deliver this statement as Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

Our view is that the spirit of Paris has been maintained; evidenced by nearly all parties having signed the Paris Agreement last month. Now efforts towards entry into force are already following this pattern.

We saluted the outcome at Paris because it enshrined a significant mark up in the level of ambition of our collective enterprise to fight dangerous climate change and protect those most vulnerable.

Let us be clear though, from the outset, that the Paris Agreement's Article 2.1.a on "well below" 2 degrees cannot mean 1.9 degrees Celsius or 1.8 or 1.7 degrees. Our goal is **1.5 degrees Celsius**, and we are all bound to pursue actions to limit the temperature rise to that level.

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5 degree Celsius will complement the scientific knowledge to achieve the long-term goal. The 2018 facilitative dialogue will enable us to take stock of initiatives towards article 2.

But we are all well aware that our current contributions translate to an estimated 3 degrees of warming, or double the long-term goal.

Waiting until the mid-2020s to adjust our emission pathways would almost certainly rule out meeting that goal. Let us instead, all work together to fulfil the purpose of the Agreement.

While working hard on realizing our current contributions, all parties have to begin updating and setting more ambitious **INDCs**.

We are calling on every party to submit updated—with higher targets—I/NDCs by 2020 at the latest, as provided for by the Paris outcomes. The **long-term low GHG emission development strategies** for 2020 must also demonstrate consistency with the long-term goal.

To ensure that INDCs effectively serve the agreement, **NDCs** should be aligned with the long-term goal.

Members of our Forum have shown strong leadership to take on mitigation. Philippines, for instance, has communicated a first INDC with a 70-percent emission reduction from our 2030 trajectory which we believe can be met by developing international partnerships.



Only, **our share of global emissions is marginal**.

To achieve our newly-enshrined goal, ALL parties must do more.

According to the Paris outcomes, **developed countries will take the lead**. We are counting on you to lead. Developing countries have also committed to enhance mitigation efforts.

Even as we work to implement our present contributions, and to increase our ambitions, there are also limits to what vulnerable countries can achieve with **our inherently constrained capabilities**.

Early and substantial provision of **finance, capacity building and technology** has tremendous potential as a stimulus for global action and greater ambition.

Support in these areas is also a humanitarian priority given the level of impact already faced today—realizing the **balance between adaptation and mitigation by 2020 at the latest** will, quite simply, save lives.

Delivering a concrete roadmap on reaching the joint commitment of **\$100 billion** in **additional** finance, independent of pre-existing ODA commitments, will inspire confidence among our stakeholders at home, promoting a policy environment conducive to doing more.

We also expect the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) administered funds to swiftly implement **simplified application and approval procedures** for efficient finance delivery.

Looking forward, we think it will be of utmost importance to **review** the level of **financial flows** consistent with achieving all aspects of Article 2. That way, every party has clarity on the scale of resources required.

Our sister initiative, the **V20** is already active in promoting a financial system response consistent with 1.5 degrees Celsius.

We will also continue to promote and uplift meaningful interaction between human rights and climate change communities towards greater respect and promotion of these rights.

With respect to **Loss and Damage**, we look forward to the initiation of the work of the task force under the WIM Executive Committee. Even achieving 1.5 degrees will result in a considerable increase in loss and damage.

We set the bar high in Paris. As a conclusion, we need radical follow up on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, capacity and technology to live up to the ambitions we have set for ourselves in international law. By doing so, we will **survive and thrive**.

Thank you very much.

