



Office of the President of the Philippines
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

**Speech of H.E. Secretary Mary Ann Lucille L. Sering
during the High Level Segment for the COP 20 / CMP 10
December 10, 2014
Lima, Peru**

His and Her Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon.

I would like to congratulate the country of Peru and her people for their gracious hospitality. I'd like to reiterate our sincerest gratitude for the show of solidarity by the global community during the past week when the strongest typhoon so far to his landfall this year in any part of the world hit us.

In behalf of our country, we continue to express our gratitude for the overwhelming support that the global community continue to provide a year after Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons to hit landfall in history caused so much devastation to our country.

We have heard the most eloquent speeches on why we need to act already. And yet we continue to count the number of Conference of Parties. By Paris, it will be the 21st. Not to mention, the years that were spent to agree on the Convention Framework.

I echo the call of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon that this is not the time for tinkering. It is the time for transformation. That we must deliver here in lima a balanced, well-structured and coherent draft text as we go to Paris next year.

Let us therefore provide a clear, simple but substantive text that will elaborate momentum towards Paris. A balanced, well-structured and coherent draft text brings hope that finally the world did not just listen to the pains of Nature but is finally acting to cure it.

Allow me to leave you with three major points:

1. Avoid the real man-made catastrophe. I am not talking about the cause of global warming since the 1950s but I am talking of the future of the Lima talks and most especially of the Paris agreement. If man caused the problem, then man must provide the solution. We cannot afford it. The implications of the failure of these talks can't even be valued. Losing the credibility of the UN multilateral process is not only an insult to diplomacy but a complete disregard to human rights. Let us not allow to render ourselves useless because man was not made to be so
2. I welcome the pledges made since COP 19 and up to today even by developing countries. It is truly encouraging. For us, the GCF is now open for business. We will give these financial mechanisms a chance to prove their purpose. Let's utilize them first and criticize constructively if necessary. Let's utilize them properly. Properly means not only to allow us to adapt but also to pursue a clean and sustainable development that is inclusive and transparent.
3. And lastly, our typhoons have already validated what science has long warned. Our typhoons have already spoken on our behalf. Let us also give attention to other vulnerable countries most especially the members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. They also have stories to tell.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat. Muchas gracias!

