

## **THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE COP 26 MEETING**

**Carlos G. Dominguez**  
**Secretary of Finance**  
**Chairman-Designate, Climate Change Commission**  
**November 9, 2021**

The Philippines is determined to be a world leader in this fight against climate change.

We account only for three-tenths of one percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, we bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change. Our country is sinking at a rate four times faster than the global average. Annually, we are confronted with increasingly severe typhoons, floods, and droughts. Millions of lives are at stake. Clearly, climate change is very real to the Philippines.

To challenge ourselves and the rest of the world, we set the boldest national goal put forward by any country. Under President Rodrigo Duterte's administration, the Philippines commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent in 2030.

We are moving ahead with urgency to fulfill our ambitious target. We shifted from theorizing about climate change to executing practical climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground. We have put together a group of Filipino experts who represent all corners of the Philippines to engage our fishermen and farmers and prepare them to execute localized action plans.

We just launched our Sustainable Finance Roadmap to deploy the engines of finance to get green projects moving across our archipelago. To urge the Filipino people to do their part on a daily basis in saving the world's environment, we are pushing for a law banning single-use plastics. We launched a partnership with the Asian Development Bank for a landmark project that will accelerate our transition from coal to clean energy. This comes after President Duterte declared a moratorium on new coal plants a year ago.

These are concrete actions to demonstrate to the world how a developing and climate-vulnerable country like the Philippines can lead in this fight to save our planet. This also shows that our commitments are not merely empty or half-baked promises, but are supported by actionable projects on the ground.

## FINAL

We have very high expectations for this COP 26 to become not just merely an annual platform for discussion but a catalyst for concrete action plans.

It's time that we do some actual work on the ground and build a framework for climate justice. Those who have polluted and continue to pollute the Earth's environment through unthinking industrialization starting 200 years ago must pay for the grants, investments, and subsidies needed for the most vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change.

The time for debate is over. This is the time to finally begin acting on the fulfillment of our commitments and obligations to humanity.

@@@