

**NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
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28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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All protocols observed.

Today, I address you with a sense of urgency and determination.

The Philippines is a living testament to the harsh realities of climate change. We have faced and continue to face the wrath of devastating typhoons, rising sea levels, and the perilous threats posed to our biodiversity and ecosystems, agriculture and livelihoods. These realities compel us to take bold and decisive actions, rooted in equity and our firm commitment to global rules-based order and multilateralism.

The rule of law guarantees equity in the global commons. The Philippines is an archipelagic nation, with more sea than land in our territory, and the fourth longest coastline in the world. We are one of the 17 mega-biodiverse countries in the world, containing two-thirds of this earth's biodiversity and between 70 and 80 percent of the world's animal and plant species.

Our national footprint in the history of negotiations of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, as well the High Seas or BBNJ Agreement bears witness to our abiding interest in promoting equitable and just rules in the governance of the global commons.

Our commitment to multilateralism, strengthened international cooperation and global solidarity remains steadfast, recognizing that no single country can tackle the complexities of climate change alone.

Here in Dubai, we continue to champion the cause of climate justice; upholding the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities; and ensuring urgent and responsive means of implementation, in terms of capacity building, tech transfer and financing to developing countries. We also seek to advance the values of our biodiversity and our oceans as the source of nature-based solutions to our climate crisis and to serve as the foundation for inclusive and resilient development.

In our own country, we have taken concrete actions by implementing policies and initiatives to reduce emissions by catalyzing investments in our rich sources of renewable energy, enhancing resilience, advancing right-skilling and social protection, especially for the most vulnerable, to achieve a just transition, and mainstreaming climate considerations into our development plans and budgets. We are right now in the final stages of completing our NAP and NDC Implementation Plan as our guides to a investing in secure and sustainable future.

We have also actively engaged in advancing climate action, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts across the Asia-Pacific region and within ASEAN;.

At this juncture, I have the pleasure and honor to announce the offer of the Philippines to host the Board of the historic Loss and Damage Fund. We will also seek a seat in the inaugural Board of the Fund.

Hosting the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund in the Philippines - a country that has experienced first-hand the ruthless force of nature's wrath - would showcase global commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that the voices and experiences of the most affected countries are heard and considered in shaping the most urgent of global climate policies.

We are already host to UN entities, international and regional organizations, providing us the institutional capacity, expertise and partnerships to ensure the successful hosting of the Board. And we stand ready to offer our knowledge grounded in our long history and culture of human resilience.

Excellencies , we must all seize this moment and move forward with courage, unity, and determination, towards a more resilient, equitable, sustainable, and prosperous global community.

Let us set aside differences for the sake of our planet and all peoples. It is truly only through collective action that we can secure a sustainable and resilient future for the generations to come.

Maraming salamat. Thank you.