INTERVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

High-Level Segment
United Nations Climate Change Conference

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“There is no problem like climate change that is so global in nature that it requires immediate and unified effort. We need to act now. We need to act together. We need to get it right.”

Mr. President, Excellencies,

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. spoke these words in 2022. Four years later, the question is whether our actions have caught up with them.

For the Philippines, climate change is a recurring disruption to our people's lives, our economy and our development.

Between 2011 and 2021, tropical cyclones alone caused ₱673 billion in damages. Meanwhile, climate impacts are projected to reduce our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 7.6% by 2030, 13.6% by 2040, and 18% to 25% by 2050. Climate inaction across eight key sectors under the Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is projected to cost PHP 645 billion annually in the 2030s. By 2030, direct GDP losses alone could reach PHP 1.4 trillion.

Behind these figures are communities that rebuild, only to face the prospect of rebuilding again.

The international community cannot keep asking vulnerable countries to recover from disasters without giving them the means to withstand the next one.

The Philippines comes to COP31 with a clear conviction: climate ambition and development must advance together. Our 2026 NDC and National Adaptation Plan reflect our commitment. But national determination has its limits when international support falls short.

The transition to a low-carbon future must expand our choices, not constrain our development. This is ultimately a question of justice, fairness and credibility.

A just energy transition must be nationally determined and people-centered, ensuring access to affordable, reliable and clean energy while protecting workers, communities and livelihoods. This requires accessible finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to strengthen energy security, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable development.

Climate finance cannot remain an accounting of pledges and promises. The commitments we have made must translate into adequate, predictable and accessible resources for developing countries, particularly for adaptation and responding to loss and damage.

And the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism must be adequately replenished in order to deliver for communities all over the world. This must include women and girls, youth, PWDs, elderly, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Mr. President,

We are approaching three decades of climate negotiations. We should be able to say more than that we have reached another agreement. We should be able to point to what has changed: fewer lives exposed, fewer livelihoods lost, lower emissions and greater resources reaching those who need them.

The Philippines will work towards a COP31 that recognizes a simple truth: the measure of our ambition is not how much we promise, but whether our people can feel the impacts of what we do here.

Thank you.