

Draft Opening Remarks
Fighting Climate Change through International Solidarity
An HRC 41 side event co-organized with faith-based organizations
26 June, Wednesday, 16.30H to 18.00H, Room IX, Palais des Nations
Length: 3.5 minutes

Good afternoon. The Philippines is privileged to co-organize this event with esteemed members of the civil society. I know that the Philippines is doing something right when it is proudly able to stand side-by-side not just with governments, but with civil society, on an issue as complex as climate action.

As a country that is one of the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, the Philippines has long recognized the dangers of inaction.

Yet action without vision or a wide base of support is equally perilous: well-meaning response, if sporadic or isolated to a few sectors, creates a false sense of security and teases the rest into complacency.

For climate action to be truly sustainable and effective, it has to involve all segments of population and sectors of society. It has to be deliberate, relentless, strategic, and inclusive. It has to be built on a foundation of solidarity.

Realizing this, the Philippines has forged partnerships with key stakeholders and established a network of contacts across sectors.

To strengthen climate action in hospitals and the health care sector, for example, the Philippines tapped the expertise of the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Hospitals Association, and the Philippine College of Physicians.

To integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation in banking and finance, the Philippines strengthened cooperation between the Central Bank and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific.

To mainstream climate change issues in the education sector, the country's Climate Change Commission signed 39 memorandums of agreement with higher education institutions.

To increase awareness about how climate change acts as a driver of migration and how the adverse impacts of climate change impede the full enjoyment of human rights, the Philippines continues to actively engage bodies such as the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Migrants Forum in Asia, and the Human Rights Council, where we are now co-sponsoring a resolution that draws attention to the disproportionate effects of climate change on persons with disabilities.

And, this afternoon, to help unpack an issue that seizes the global community for the challenges it brings, the Philippines joins an international group of advocates and

stakeholders whose tenacity and guiding hand have amplified calls to heighten ambition in support of the Paris Agreement.

The task is certainly daunting. The 2018 Special IPCC Report warns that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. The Philippines is doing its part, but it is not enough. Our president has recently called on industrialized nations to significantly reduce their carbon emissions and provide assistance to developing nations in terms of finance, capacity-building and technology transfer.

“Only by helping one another,” he said, could we “win the fight against climate change.”

And, may I add, only by working in good faith and solidarity can we—governments, members of the academe and the media, religious organizations, interest groups—have a chance at securing the future of succeeding generations.

I wish everyone a meaningful and productive afternoon. Thank you.