

## PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

### For the High-level Ministerial Segment of COP4 of the UNFCCC

Madame President, Excellencies.

We have come to the Conference of Parties with expectations that significant breakthroughs will be made on issues that affect meaningful participation of Non-Annex I Parties, particularly the transfer of technologies and financial mechanisms.

We are quite disappointed at the efforts to deviate discussions from the implementation and building upon of previous COP decisions on these issues. You might recall that there are already three (3) decisions on transfer of technologies, namely Decisions 13/CP.1, 7/CP.2 and 9/CP.3. The substantial implementation of these decisions is, however, hindered by a stalemate in the process of defining further modalities for the transfer of technologies. It has been stressed time and again that the meaningful participation and capacity of developing country parties to adapt to the impacts of climate change depend on access to technologies from the West.

On financing of Convention-related activities of Non-Annex I Parties, we strongly urge our developed country partners to facilitate the funding of critical climate change related activities of developing countries, particularly adaptation measures. The IPCC Second Assessment Report reveals that developing countries, particularly small islands and low-lying coastal states, stand to suffer most from the adverse impacts of climate change. The recent catastrophe that befell our brothers and sisters in Central America and Slovenia, and before that, China, among others, are testimonies to the fact that the consequences of climate change are upon us. We can empathize with this suffering, Madame President, because the Philippines has always been a victim of these adverse consequences of extreme climatic events, the most recent of which we just experienced last month. Unlike our developed country partners, we are in no position to meet the adaptation costs of these events which, we might point out, are aggravated by circumstances not of our own making.

As a member of the Group of 77 and China, we reiterate our position that it is time that our developed country partners show the political will to honor their commitments under the Convention. In good faith and despite severe resource constraints, we have steadily progressed with ours — preparing our initial communications and even coming-up with a national action plan which would put in place a no regrets options so that we can truly avoid contributing to the generation of more greenhouse gases in the future.

While we recognize the need to submit our initial national communication, we regret the insidious attempts to subject these to the level of scrutiny appropriate for the national communications of Annex I Parties. More lamentable is the fact that the attempts are being made in the guise of helping to improve these reports. We would like to point out, Madame President, that such minutely detailed examinations would be better directed at our developed country partners' national communications which could benefit from these reviews. We note in this regard the Secretariat's report that comparability is still a problem due to non-uniform reporting by Annex I Country Parties of critical information such as those pertaining to policies and measures.

By the same token, we are deeply concerned about attempts to unduly hasten implementation of some provisions and mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. We must be reminded, Madame President, that Kyoto Protocol still has to enter into force. We are not averse to discussing details of mechanisms which would directly affect us, such as the Clean Development Mechanisms, but are wary about apparent attempts to transfer responsibility to reduce greenhouse gases to developing countries like us, especially when developed countries have yet to prove their commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

We must not be rushed into making decisions in this Conference, Madame President, on issues for which critical preparatory work are still being done – such as the IPCC Special Report on Land Use Change and Forestry and the review of AIJ implementation, the findings of which will have implications for the CDM.

We commend the systematic efforts to draw up a work plan to define issues involved in the implementation of critical provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, mainly the flexibility mechanisms.

The CDM and other market-based flexibility mechanisms are clearly provided for in the Kyoto Protocol. The conceptual framework for these were generally accepted by the global community after due consideration of economic and political factors. However, the detailed design and implementation of these mechanisms must be guided fundamentally by considerations of equity and must send the unequivocal message that those historically responsible for the current state of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere clearly recognize this fact and take significant and substantial domestic actions to respond. It is essential to life on this planet as we know and desire it to be, that the global community, particularly the industrialized countries, moves from rhetoric to affirmative action. In this endeavor, we exhort our partners to recapture the spirit and intent of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Finally, we reiterate the concern raised at various points in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies on the need to initiate work on an effective and equitable compliance regime under the Kyoto Protocol. We hope that the COP will establish an open-ended group of experts to begin fashioning the outlines of a comprehensive compliance regime that will apply to all the provisions of the Protocol.

In closing, Madame President, we affirm the commitment of the Republic of the Philippines to the implementation of the Climate Change Convention and its various provisions, the early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and our active and meaningful participation in the realization of the Convention's objectives.

Thank you, Madame President.