

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT
PLENARY SESSION
SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
DOHA, QATAR | 05 NOVEMBER 2025 | PM | Plenary**

TO BE DELIVERED BY DSWD SECRETARY REX GATCHALIAN, HEAD OF DELEGATION

MADAME PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

THE PHILIPPINES IS DEEPLY HONORED TO TAKE PART IN THIS HISTORIC GATHERING – THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE 1995 COPENHAGEN SUMMIT PLACED PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT. THEN, AS NOW, THE WORLD WAS CALLED TO CONFRONT THE EXISTENTIAL QUESTION AT THE CORE OF PROGRESS: *HOW CAN WE BUILD SOCIETIES THAT LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND?*

THREE DECADES LATER, THIS QUESTION REMAINS URGENT. WE LIVE IN A WORLD MARKED BY WIDENING INEQUALITY, SOCIAL UNREST, AND THE INTENSIFYING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. WE SEE COMMUNITIES UPROOTED BY CONFLICT AND DISASTER, WORKERS DISPLACED BY TECHNOLOGICAL SHIFTS, AND FAMILIES STILL STRUGGLING TO RECOVER FROM THE SCARS OF THE PANDEMIC.

YET, IN THE FACE OF THESE COMPLEX REALITIES, OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MUST NOT WAVER. INDEED, IT MUST GROW STRONGER. THE PHILIPPINES BELIEVES THAT NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE MUST RENEW OUR COLLECTIVE RESOLVE TO PLACE HUMAN DIGNITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND SOLIDARITY AT THE CENTER OF GLOBAL RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES IS THE DEFINING MISSION OF GOVERNANCE. GUIDED BY OUR LONG-TERM VISION, *AMBISYON NATIN 2040* (OR “OUR ASPIRATION 2040”) AND UNDER THE BANNER OF *BAGONG PILIPINAS* OR “A NEW PHILIPPINES”, WE ARE BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE EVERY FILIPINO ENJOYS A *MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY* – A LIFE THAT IS STABLE, COMFORTABLE, AND SECURE.

OUR COMMITMENT IS BACKED BY CONCRETE ACTION AND MEASURABLE PROGRESS. POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG THE POPULATION IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS 15.5% IN 2023, A DECLINE FROM 18.1% IN 2021, LIFTING OVER TWO MILLION POOR FILIPINOS OUT OF POVERTY IN JUST TWO YEARS. THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT WHEN SOCIAL INVESTMENTS ARE CONSISTENT, INCLUSIVE, AND WELL-GOVERNED, LIVES TRULY IMPROVE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE A CORNERSTONE OF THIS PROGRESS. FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, IT HAS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 4.4 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS ANNUALLY, HELPING KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOL, ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, AND BREAKING THE INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF POVERTY.

WE ARE ALSO PIONEERING AN ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAM, THE WALANG GUTOM 2027, A TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE THAT SUPPORTS THE DAILY FOOD NEEDS OF FOOD POOR HOUSEHOLDS. THIS IS SOCIAL PROTECTION REIMAGINED – NOT AS MERE RELIEF, BUT AS A BRIDGE TO SELF-RELIANCE AND DIGNITY.

WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR SOCIAL PENSION FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS, NOW REACHING OVER 4 MILLION BENEFICIARIES, AFFIRMING THAT EVERY FILIPINO DESERVES CARE AND RESPECT IN THEIR LATER YEARS.

THESE EFFORTS ARE BEING STRENGTHENED THROUGH DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AS WE MODERNIZE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS, UNIFY BENEFICIARY DATABASES, AND PARTNER WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE THAT HELP REACHES THOSE WHO NEED IT – QUICKLY, TRANSPARENTLY, AND WITH INTEGRITY.

AT THE HEART OF THESE EFFORTS IS OUR BELIEF THAT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE. THUS, WE ARE ADVANCING INTEGRATED PROGRAMS ON FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, CHILD WELFARE, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, AND DISABILITY INCLUSION, ENSURING THAT NO SECTOR, AND NO GENERATION IS LEFT BEHIND.

YOUR MAJESTIES, YOUR HIGHNESSES, EXCELLENCIES,

THE PHILIPPINES IS VERY COGNIZANT OF THE CHALLENGES THAT PERSIST – PARTICULARLY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT CONFRONT FISCAL CONSTRAINTS, CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES, AND THE UNEVEN PACE OF GLOBAL RECOVERY. THESE REALITIES REMIND US THAT NO NATION CAN ADVANCE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ISOLATION.

THE PHILIPPINES THEREFORE CALLS FOR A RENEWED GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS – ONE THAT STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ENSURES PREDICTABLE FINANCING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, PROMOTES THE PORTABILITY OF BENEFITS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, AND GUARANTEES EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING.

IN THIS REGARD, THE PHILIPPINES WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF THE DOHA DECLARATION. THIS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S RENEWED COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND SOLIDARITY THROUGH A REVITALIZED MULTILATERAL SYSTEM THAT DELIVERS FOR ALL.

WE MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT THE GREEN TRANSITION, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AND DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS OF OUR TIME BECOME PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION, NOT NEW SOURCES OF INEQUALITY. TO ACHIEVE THIS, OUR GLOBAL AGENDA MUST BE GUIDED NOT ONLY BY EFFICIENCY OR COMPETITIVENESS, BUT BY COMPASSION, EQUITY, AND SHARED PROSPERITY.

IN 2026, THE PHILIPPINES WILL PROUDLY ASSUME THE CHAIRSHIP OF ASEAN. WE INTEND TO CARRY FORWARD THIS SPIRIT OF INCLUSION THROUGH THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY, WITH PRIORITIES THAT MIRROR OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT:

- PROMOTING THE SILVER ECONOMY AND ACTIVE AGEING TO HARNESS THE POTENTIAL OF OLDER PERSONS;
- ADVANCING YOUTH AND INNOVATION TO EQUIP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR A DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE;

- STRENGTHENING FAMILY DEVELOPMENT AS THE CORNERSTONE OF RESILIENT SOCIETIES;
- ADVANCING THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; AND
- DEEPENING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS THAT SAFEGUARD ALL.

THESE PRIORITIES REFLECT OUR STRONG CONVICTION THAT THE TRUE MEASURE OF PROGRESS IS HOW WELL WE EMPOWER EVERY PERSON, IN EVERY STAGE OF LIFE, TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND PURPOSE.

YOUR MAJESTIES, YOUR HIGHNESSES, EXCELLENCIES,

THE 2030 AGENDA GIVES US THE DIRECTION, BUT THE COPENHAGEN SPIRIT, AND NOW THE DOHA DECLARATION, GIVES US THE MORAL COMPASS. THE TASK BEFORE US IS NOT ONLY TO MEASURE PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC TERMS, BUT TO UPHOLD A VISION OF DEVELOPMENT THAT RESTORES FAITH—IN INSTITUTIONS, IN COMMUNITIES, AND IN HUMANITY ITSELF.

THE PHILIPPINES STANDS READY TO WORK WITH ALL NATIONS IN TRANSFORMING THIS VISION INTO ACTION.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD FROM DOHA, MAY THIS SUMMIT RENEW OUR SHARED CONVICTION THAT THE MEASURE OF DEVELOPMENT IS NOT FOUND IN WEALTH ALONE—BUT IN THE WELL-BEING OF EVERY PERSON, IN EVERY NATION, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

MARAMING SALAMAT. THANK YOU. ###