



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

STATEMENT

Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon

10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

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Agenda 3: Towards the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Ministerial Segment

Madam UN Undersecretary General and ESCAP Executive Secretary
Alisjahbana,

Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

The Philippines wholeheartedly supports the proposed conduct of the SDG Summit, which seeks to help us regain our momentum in achieving the SDGs and to reignite our shared commitment to the goals we set in 2015. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic tested us in ways that we could never have anticipated, but it has also highlighted the importance of cooperation and partnership.

Furthermore, Agenda 2030 has proven to be invaluable in cultivating a deep understanding of the interdependencies between economic, social, and environmental outcomes, as well as their impact on health. In fact, the Philippines has integrated the 2030 Agenda in the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, placing sustainable development at the heart of our national development policy. The 2030 Agenda emphasizes collective responsibility in achieving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with SDG 17 emphasizing how

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development cooperation serves as an overarching strategy to fully implement the 2030 Agenda.

Our development cooperation partners have been essential in complementing the government's efforts. During the pandemic, for example, the UN Development Programme assisted us in crafting our Digital Readiness Strategy to help bridge the digital divide in a way that also addresses the risks brought by natural disasters and climate change. Additionally, Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains a crucial component in development and SDG financing. In 2021, a total of 141 programs and projects supported the Philippines in achieving the 17 SDGs, with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 1 (No Poverty), and SDGs 4 and 5 (Quality Education and Gender Equality) being the top three SDGs supported by ODA loans and grants.

The Philippine government has consistently emphasized the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in implementing the SDGs. During the pandemic, SSTC helped us access vaccines, medicines, and other medical supplies. More than being a recipient, we have also provided significant assistance to other developing countries, typically in the areas of capacity-building and sharing of expertise. We are also a donor to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster, and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries to help address gaps in early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

We have also institutionalized this partnership for the goals with the private sector, CSOs, NGOs, and academe through the creation of the SDG Stakeholders' Chambers. We continually exchange experiences and information with the intent of complementing everyone's efforts as we strive to leave no one behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic knows no boundaries. With a crisis of this magnitude and other challenges that may arise in the future, we must remember that meaningful recovery cannot be achieved in isolation. It will require strong collaboration and partnerships to build back better.

The 2030 Agenda is more than just a matter of meeting deadlines. Ultimately, it is about the pursuit of a better life for all of us, in which no one is left behind.

Thank you very much.