

**Message to be delivered by
President Ferdinand R. Marcos**

**79th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(ESCAP)**

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“Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”

Your Excellencies,
The Honorable Under-Secretary General,
Distinguished delegates,

Climate change remains the greatest existential threat of our times.

The effects of climate change are acutely felt in our region, from rising sea levels to more frequent and severe weather events. We see and suffer from its devastating impacts on our communities, our economies, and our environment.

And while climate change affects all countries, it is the most vulnerable – and those least responsible – that bear its brunt.

We must stop this injustice if we are to turn the tide.

For countries such as ours, and many others in the Asia-Pacific region, achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rests on our capacity to work together in addressing this global challenge.

Foremost, industrialized countries must fulfill their commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating technology transfer, and helping developing countries close the

climate financing gap. It is imperative the Loss and Damage Fund begins to work.

As I mentioned at the United Nations, the global nature of climate change requires a truly united effort. We must bond together as a region to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

Only through enhancing international cooperation can we attain our shared goals of a more secure and prosperous future for all. Instead of being paralyzed by despair, let us take bold strides to mitigate and adapt to climate change and build a sustainable and resilient region for our peoples.

In this light, there is a need to create a comprehensive, coordinated, people-centered approach to climate action in Asia and the Pacific. Hence, we welcome the focus of this year's ESCAP and believe it can play an important role in strengthening our region's capacities and our solidarity to fight climate change together.

I am proud to share that the Philippines is taking significant steps to address climate change and shield our people from its shocks.

We are investing in renewable energy, implementing sustainable agricultural practices, and promoting nature-based solutions in adaptation and mitigation. We championed the cause of developing countries during the Conference of Parties in Egypt, just as we continue to fulfill our nationally determined contributions.

But we all can and must do more.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation can complement national strategies to increase access to investments, innovation, infrastructure required to build more agile, resilient, and adaptive communities.

Climate action should also take a prominent place in UN Cooperation Frameworks with programme countries. We must ensure that the scarce resources of the UN are directed to efforts that make the most impact on the ground. At the same time, we must harness the consequential benefits of multi-stakeholder cooperation.

The time for climate action is now. We must preserve the planet and build resilient, progressive and people-centered communities today for the survival of humankind.

Thank you.