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STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ  
MINISTER FOR GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
World Climate Conference - 3, Geneva, 03 September 2009

Excellencies,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, I thank the organizers of the third World Climate Conference or WCC-3 for giving us a unique forum to discuss urgent climate-related concerns, share views and experiences, obtain a clearer global picture of the most recent trends and pick up useful ideas to be pursued in the international arena and to bring back home to our region.

Being here is compelling. I come from a country which is extremely vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change. The Philippines "qualifies" for many of the vulnerability characteristics listed in Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC. We are increasingly affected badly by more extreme weather events than ever before -- from El Nino, more frequent, stronger and therefore more catastrophic typhoons, sea level rise affecting more than 3,000 kilometers of our coastlines and coral reef bleaching due to more CO2 over warming seas.

It is in this context that my delegation reaches out for the success of this Conference. The sessions since Monday dwelt on issues that indeed underscore a limited opportunity to adapt and survive as a community within the framework of scientifically quantifiable carbon emission mitigation of Annex 1 countries.

The topics covered by the sessions underline what the people of the Philippines know from direct experience -- climate change is happening and getting worse, and those of us living in developing countries are affected more adversely by such change. In this Conference, we have listed key areas to be addressed and identified ways to address them. Calls for international, regional, national, institutional and community and grassroots action have been heard. We have reaped a rich harvest from the discussions -- always grounded on practicality with respect to the role of scientific climate research and systematic observation, the sharing of climate science and information, and on what needs to be done and what is being done for the future.

But the best calibrated weather and climate adaptation cannot substitute for the scientifically appropriate mitigation of CO2 and greenhouse gases. We must first deliver on the scientifically indicated emission reduction or mitigation targets, for without the benefits to be had from such action, a Global Framework for Climate Services could be an exercise in futility.

Indeed, WCC-3 achieved all these while keeping an identity distinct from UNFCCC, but its results are inherently linked to our preparations for Copenhagen. The outcomes of this Third World Climate Conference will bear significantly on all countries' individual and joint efforts to adapt to climate change, not least in terms of ensuring that such efforts are grounded on climate science while responding as well to development priorities and objectives.

Looking at the road ahead, I take this opportunity to reiterate what the Philippines has been consistently

stressing in international forums: Effective global cooperation and action to address the urgent challenges that climate change poses to present and future generations consistent with the sustainable development of developing countries, will require the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC.

The UNFCCC, to which the Philippines and virtually every other country participating here is a Party, is the basic multilateral framework that governs how multilateral cooperation among both developed and developing countries could respond and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The Philippines is performing its role to implement the UNFCCC, consistent with its provisions.

Ensuring effective adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, on the basis of climate science and in the context of its sustainable development objectives, is a matter of great urgency to the Philippines.

Enhancing our adaptive capacity must be in lock-step with developing sustainably. In this context, we look forward to engaging more fully and deeply with our partners in building such adaptive capacity, consistent with the provisions of UNFCCC.

In recognition of the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibility and polluter pays, as embodied in UNFCCC, Articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7 of the Convention commit developed countries to provide financing and technology to developing countries in order to help the latter enhance their implementation of climate change-related actions in the context of their development priorities. The full implementation of such commitments by developed countries forms a fundamental basis for more effective and enhanced adaptation by developing countries, including the Philippines, to the adverse effects of climate change, and for developing countries being able to contribute more to global actions to address climate change. In this context, the Philippines and other developing countries have called for enhanced institutional mechanisms for the effective provision of such financing and technology under the UNFCCC.

Supporting the sustainable development of developing countries as the best means for enhancing their adaptive capacity will also require deep, rapid and early cuts, undertaken primarily domestically, in the emissions of developed countries, consistent with UNFCCC objectives. This is in recognition of the historical responsibility of developed countries for global warming as reflected in the Convention. Such cuts are needed in order to provide for the adaptation opportunity that developing countries such as the Philippines would require for sustainable development. The Philippines has made specific proposals in relation to such cuts in the context of the negotiations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent commitment periods under the Kyoto Protocol.

Adaptation financing will be dealt with in depth in a consultation session tomorrow afternoon and I look forward to a fruitful exchange of views on this topic.

For the Philippines, having an international framework for cooperation in climate services under which the national meteorological agencies of developing countries would be strengthened in their ability to support, with science-based climate information, their countries' respective climate adaptation and sustainable development efforts is very important. It is in this context that, on behalf of my delegation and the Government of the Philippines, I wish to convey admiration and gratitude to the World Meteorological Organization, the Swiss government, other partners, the International Organizing Committee and the Conference Secretariat for their collective leadership in this process that gave us today the Conference Declaration. We also thank the group of developing countries that ensured that the concerns of similarly-situated are addressed in the Framework.

Today, WCC-3 adds another essential part to the global structure that the international community is building to respond to climate change. I note that, even if carbon emissions were successfully cut by 50% as recommended by the IPCC, the Framework would still be needed to enable countries to respond to the adverse effects brought about by the remaining 50%.

We look forward to a future when the Global Framework for Climate Services will be established, and serve its purpose as a common resource for humanity. It is a vital and essential dimension to confront the impact of climate change.

Thank you.