

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**  
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**Special Envoy representing H.E. Mr. Albert del Rosario**  
**Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs**  
**Republic of the Philippines**  
**On the occasion of the**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Session of the**  
**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**  
**24 April 2012**  
**Doha, Qatar**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the State of Qatar for the excellent arrangements in hosting UNCTAD XIII and for the warm hospitality extended to all of us. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the Secretariat, for the support that they have been extending to the Philippines.

The attainment of rapid, inclusive and sustained growth, alongside empowerment of the poor and vulnerable, as well as the integrity of the environment and climate change adaptation are among the top priorities of the Philippines.

Since 1999, we have achieved positive growth in our Gross Domestic Product. For seven consecutive years, we have attained a surplus in our balance of payments. This is supported by a robust growth in remittances and revenues from business process outsourcing.

The Philippines has established itself as one of the top destinations globally for services outsourcing, and major transnational corporations have recognized our cost competitiveness, excellent telecommunications infrastructure, large talent pool, and strong public-private sector partnerships. The services outsourcing industry now

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. Evan Garcia is currently Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

accounts for 60% of our services exports, and is forecast to employ 1.3 million workers by 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

As we make every effort to sustain our growth levels, we also endeavor to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development. Our President has said that as we walk the path to progress, we must ensure that no one is left behind. His “Social Contract with the Filipino People” envisions the attainment of inclusive, broad-based economic growth that is focused on creating more jobs and new opportunities to achieve full employment, and on significantly reducing poverty.

As a middle-income country, the Philippines aspires to reduce its poverty levels and empower the poor and vulnerable in our society. With the community-driven development programs of the government, we focus on improving the overall quality of life of the poorest in our community. Through our *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*, or the 4Ps, we provide cash transfers to the poor on the condition that their children continue to attend school, and the family makes use of preventive health care and nutrition services. Through the *Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Programs (KALAHI – CIDSS), we empower communities through enhanced participation in local governance and community projects. And through our Sustainable Livelihood Program, we improve their economic viability by providing them capability building and skills enhancement as well as capital assistance.

We intend to create sustainable employment through enterprise development and strong private sector partnership. With micro-, small and medium enterprises forming the backbone of our economy, we hope to generate 2 million jobs from these enterprises out of a possible 4.6 million jobs from both the industry and service sectors.

Our Government recognizes the essential role of the private sector as the main engine for national growth and development. We are providing incentives to attract private resources to finance the construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure and development projects normally undertaken by Government.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development, and believes that the Rio + 20 Summit can be instrumental in reaching a new consensus and commitment from the international community to develop an integrated approach to sustainable development. We have begun a series of consultations with business, labor and civil society groups to assess our implementation of Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21).

A Labor Force Survey in our country shows that 35 percent of our labor force is dedicated to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry— which are all dependent on coastal ecosystems, river basins and watersheds. Being the third country most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change,<sup>2</sup> and with greenhouse gas emissions being less than 1 per cent, the Philippines is prioritizing climate change adaptation strategies in our efforts to build resilience in our sources of livelihood.

Under the recently approved National Climate Change Action Plan, priority programs and activities will be developed and implemented to address the immediate concerns of the Philippines relating to the adverse effects of climate change. More specifically in the energy sector, the 20-year National Renewable Energy Program (2011 – 2030) provides the long-term policy and program framework to develop the country's renewable energy sources and triple its contribution to power generation.

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<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security ranks the Philippines the third most vulnerable country to climate impact.

Mr. Chairman,

In line with the Philippine Government's commitment to United Nations Resolutions on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries (TCDC-ECDC), the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) was established. The Council, whose Secretariat was established in the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, is tasked to formulate and implement our technical cooperation program by offering non-degree training courses in areas where the Philippines has the expertise and which are relevant to the development efforts of beneficiary countries.

Through the years, the Council has focused its non-degree training courses on programs that would help alleviate the plight of the poor, which would enable the Philippines to fulfill its commitment to South-South cooperation. Trainees from countries in the South, including those from the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America, have been provided with programs on livelihood, income-generating skills, small and medium enterprise, science and technology transfer, and agricultural management.

Parallel to this, non-degree training courses being organized by other national or local government agencies and non-government organizations, notably by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under its Third Country Training Program (TCTP) for the benefit of countries in the South, are being coordinated and administered by the Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Indeed, the Philippines has made significant progress in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nonetheless, there are a number of challenges that we still face.

The most severe economic crisis since the 1930s that we have suffered has demonstrated that exclusive reliance on markets is untenable, and that markets need a

degree of regulation and oversight. It revived calls for a 'new Bretton Woods' to bring back stability into the international economic system. While we have learned our lessons from the Asian financial crisis, and while our economy managed to avoid the worst effects of the global financial and economic crisis of 2007 – 2009, we need to continue learning lessons from the crisis.

The Philippines thus reiterates its call for an international economic system that reflects today's realities and reflects the views and interests of all states. More specifically, there is a need to establish a fair and more inclusive international economic system and to further enhance the role of developing countries in global governance mechanisms and the decision-making processes of these institutions, while enabling them to preserve their policy space at home.

In pursuing inclusive growth and sustainable development, we aim to further improve the Philippines' competitiveness. Our policy directions are to stimulate domestic demand, and to strengthen economic relations with our fast-growing neighbors in Asia. We aim to double our exports and move up the value chain.

Internationally, the Philippines will continue to call for the conclusion of a Doha Round that delivers on its development mandate, ensures market access, and addresses trade-distorting subsidies. For trade to serve as a real engine of growth, the Philippines believes that the multilateral trading system must remain open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines has been and continues to be a beneficiary of UNCTAD's technical assistance programs. Over the next four years, we would like UNCTAD to support to the Philippines in the following areas:

We request UNCTAD to continue to support the development efforts of middle-income countries such as ours in facing the specific challenges of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

We would like UNCTAD, in cooperation with concerned stakeholders, to continue providing technical assistance and support in building our capacities through the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System, or DMFAS.

We would like UNCTAD to continue its work in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI), in order to make STI capacity an instrument to support our national development goals and help our industries become more competitive.

We would like UNCTAD to carry out research and analysis on the trade and development-related aspects of intellectual property rights, in particular the protection of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore and on fair and equitable benefit-sharing, taking into account the Development Agenda of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

We hope UNCTAD could work on the impact of migration on development holistically, by considering the challenges and opportunities for both countries of origin such as the Philippines and destination countries. We would also like UNCTAD to continue working on enhancing the impact of remittances on development, including facilitating access of our migrant workers to financial literacy and other financial services in preparation for their eventual return to our country.

In view of our development goals and priorities, we welcome the Conference theme and sub-themes. We are actively participating in the major Conference events and look forward to a successful outcome document that is meaningfully shared by all member-states of UNCTAD.

Thank you.