

**Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals
to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015**
26-28 August 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

*Philippine Statement: United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 and
Implications for Sustainable Development Goals*

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have witnessed the Asia Pacific region's considerable efforts and progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets, since the formulation of the MDGs in 2000. The current human development situation in the Asia Pacific region calls for a successor/second generation global development agenda:

1. Since the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, the region had remarkable gains in reducing poverty but this is not enough.
2. The region is an early achiever on important targets such as improving access to safe water, reducing gender disparities at all levels of education, and stopping the prevalence of tuberculosis and HIV but wide disparities and deprivations continue to persist with respect to hunger, and child and maternal mortality.

The Philippine's contribution to the UN development agenda beyond 2015

The Philippines was fortunate to be chosen by the United Nations as one of the countries to be consulted in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. As a result, the Philippine government has identified the building blocks of the country's framework for the post-2015 development agenda with inputs from the poor, the marginalized, vulnerable and the civil society.

Insights on the Report of High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda

The Philippines commends the work done by the High Level Panel (HLP) and its Report, which calls for major *transformative shifts* that will create the necessary conditions so that we can all together address persistent inequality and poverty across all sectors and regions. We are one with the Asia Pacific region that push for a development agenda that prioritizes human development while taking into account global challenges such as poverty and inequalities within and among countries, employment generation, social justice, climate change and environment sustainability, among others.

While the Philippines is not at the forefront in the discussions of the HLP, *we are pleased that the proposed Post-2015 Agenda is serious in meeting its timelines* given that there are only less than 1000 days before 2015 sets in. We share the same aspiration of pursuing this paradigm shift in international cooperation that will guide and direct national transformations

to ensure sustained prosperity for all. The Report indicates that we are now ready to strengthen our efforts to collectively respond to the global challenges, building on the MDGs and with the intent of ending poverty.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Philippines likewise wishes to highlight the following:

On illustrative goals. Given the broad scope of the proposed agenda, we concur with the Panel's recommendation that the Agenda be accompanied by clear, high priority goals and targets supported by measurable indicators. We recognize that the Agenda's proposed illustrative goals are intended to fill-in the gaps where the MDGs fell short and stimulate debate over the prioritization that will be needed.

On new global partnership. The Philippines agree that imperative to this new development agenda is the need for a revitalized global governance and regional partnerships that will focus beyond business-as-usual growth through meaningful participation of countries toward these transformative shifts and consequently implement priority strategies that will contribute to the achievement of goals. We **reiterate that global partnership should take into account regional and national perspectives** in order to strengthen cooperation and provide adequate assistance to countries in setting and achieving respective development goals and targets.

Means of Implementation. We believe that progress on transformational shifts and new set of illustrative goals will require adequate resources and collective actions thus the need to include provision for means of implementation such as, financing, capacity building, technology transfer, data availability, among others.

On SDGs. The Philippines supports the formulation of clear, measurable and verifiable SDGs that will help ensure global and national actions will significantly contribute to the realization of our common development vision. It is therefore critical to have quantified targets to ensure that countries have data collection in place and statistical capacities to assess and monitor progress.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

To conclude, we support the emerging results of the sessions of the Open Working Group on SDGs as integral part of the ongoing discussions on the post 2015 development agenda. In particular, we agree that poverty eradication will remain to be the overarching objective of both the SDGs and Post 2015 Agenda. We deemed it important that development challenges at the global, regional and national levels are prioritized in the conceptualization of the SDGs, such as poverty, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation, employment and decent work, social protection, education and culture, health, population dynamics, among others. **END**