



PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT
delivered by
THE HONORABLE CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN
Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
and
Head of the Philippine Delegation
World Humanitarian Summit
Istanbul, Turkey, 23 May 2016

Excellencies,

My country is no stranger to humanitarian crises. The Philippines thus stands in solidarity with the global community in responding to the Agenda for Humanity.

On Core Responsibility 1, we vow to sustain political engagement to address the root causes of conflict by investing in inclusive and peaceful societies. This is illustrated by the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, which has substantially reduced actual armed encounters, and by PAMANA, a program that brings crucial social and development services to conflict-affected areas.

On Core Responsibility 2, we will continue to uphold international laws and norms on human rights, armed conflict and refugees. In the conduct of hostilities, we commit to enhance the protection of civilian populations -- including health workers -- and civilian properties. And we will ensure that all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.

On Core Responsibility 3, we will work for the passage of our Internally Displaced Persons Bill.

I am pleased to announce that we recently passed the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, which improves the care and protection of children affected by disasters.

On Core Responsibility 4, we will accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through (1) open sharing of risk information and common and fundamental operational data sets among DRRM actors across the whole emergency cycle; (2) capacitating local actors governments and CSOs and harnessing in-country resources; (3) prioritizing disaster-resilient and community-driven infrastructure; and 4) continuing to engage the private sector in DRR initiatives.

We will continue our Conditional Cash Transfer Program, proven to be effective in empowering poor families and strengthening their resilience to disasters and crises.

On Core Responsibility 5, we commit to enhance financing and social support to vulnerable communities, implement disaster risk financing and insurance strategies, increase investments for risk resilience, and mobilize climate financing.

More than financial investments, we can contribute best practices and technical expertise. Our strength in these areas has been forged by disasters, and we commit to continue sharing them – particularly at the regional level – to build and capacitate resilient communities.

Excellencies,

Our participation in this Summit is a commitment to continue the Philippines' long tradition of humanitarian assistance, as we did with the Russians in the 1920's; the Jews, Spanish and Chinese in the 1930s; and the Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Lao people in the 1970s to the '90s. This tradition lives on.

We reaffirm our commitments under the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Finally, we call on all to put people at the heart of the Agenda for Humanity, uphold their dignity and empower them so that no one is left behind.

Thank you.