



PHILIPPINES

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement delivered by
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Honorable Chairperson, distinguished delegates:

2015 marks the deadline for the achievement of the MDGs. It also marks the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Thus, this is an opportune moment to critically assess how we are faring in attaining the MDGs for women and girls. The results of this review must guide the crafting of the post-2015 development agenda.

The country reaffirms its strong commitment to promote gender equality. The Philippine Development Plan for 2011-2016 includes gender-related targets and strategies toward achieving inclusive growth. Eradicating inequalities is given utmost priority through the implementation of converging programs and projects to accelerate the attainment of the MDGs.

We are likely to achieve all the 2015 MDG goals, except in poverty reduction, universal primary education, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS. But there are challenges that need urgent attention such as the sharp increase in the rate of adolescent pregnancies, maternal deaths and continuing economic marginalization of rural women.

Undermining the MDG gains are the rising incidence of disasters, episodic and slow-onset impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, which compounds the multiple and intersecting inequalities, discrimination and violence experienced by women and girls.

Mr. Chairman,

The world witnessed the destruction wrought by Typhoon Haiyan, and we thank all who provided overwhelming support. In his International Women's Day speech this year, President Benigno S. Aquino III recognized the strength and exceptional spirit of resiliency of Filipino women and girls, and emphasized their important role in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction preparedness and management interventions.

Mr. Chairman,

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be a stand-alone goal. Critical issues to be addressed are violence against women and girls, women's unpaid work, multiple roles played in the family and society, access to assets and productive resources, wage gap, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's insecurity in the context of conflict, disasters and climate change, discrimination of women on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity and participation in all levels of decision-making.

Gender perspective must also be integrated in all the sustainable development goals with targets and indicators disaggregated by age, sex and location. We must all strive to create an enabling environment for transforming discrimination into more equal gender relations across all sectors and at all levels.

We are in the process of formulating our own post-2015 development framework. Five pillars have been identified as areas where progress is most needed to build a rights-based, gender-responsive, equitable, and sustainable society, namely: poverty reduction and social inclusion; environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster management; accountable, responsive and participatory governance; fair and stable order based on international rule of law; and peace and security.

Gender equality, women and girls' human rights and empowerment firmly at the core of the post-2015 development agenda is the future we want.

Thank you.