

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL STATEMENT**

UNEA-6: Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

H.E. MARIE CHARLOTTE G. TANG

*Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of Kenya
Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Program*

Your Excellency Madame Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of UNEA-6,

Madame Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Madame President,

The Philippines congratulates you, the Government of Kenya, and the UNEP Secretariat for the arrangements for this Assembly.

It has been 10 years since the first UNEA. We have come far but our planet and children require us to do more, together, urgently, and leaving no one behind. UNEA 6 provides us with this opportunity.

Madame President,

As one of the world's mega-biodiverse countries, the Philippines is fully aware of the nexus of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Balance and synergy in managing them is a must so that solutions in one do not lead to bigger problems in another, just as one area can be the source of solutions to the other.

As an environmentally vulnerable developing country, the Philippines has an abiding interest in promoting equitable and just multilateralism in shaping the governance of the global commons.

On climate action, we continue to forge partnerships in building climate, disaster and biodiversity resilience. To further disaster risk reduction in the world's most disaster-prone region, the Philippines will host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October this year.

Cognizant that the future will see more climate-induced migration and displacement, the Philippines, a Global Compact for Migration champion country, convened the Ministerial Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Climate Change and Migration with the IOM in New York last year (2023). The Philippines will continue to raise awareness on the interlinkages between climate change, migration and building resilience.

Madame President,

Climate justice remains elusive for developing countries disproportionately affected and yet are the least responsible for climate change. Developed nations must deliver on their commitments, and ensure equitable access to financing, technology and capacity for those most disadvantaged and vulnerable. The Philippines welcomes the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and we have offered to host the Fund's Board to sustain our engagement on the issue.

Madame President,

Following the adoption of the CBD Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022, the Philippines is updating our national biodiversity strategy and action plan to contribute to the 30 x 30 goals.

As an archipelagic nation located in the most marine biodiverse region in the world, the Philippines calls on all nations to nurture the integrity of our oceans and the biodiversity they host, which are essential for the health of our planet and a foundation for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

The Philippines has scaled-up ecosystem-based adaptation efforts and nature-based solutions to comprehensively address the drivers of

degradation of its marine ecosystems. With our local and international partners, our 35 nationally-managed Marine Protected Areas thrive.

Consistent with our active relationship with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Philippines calls on all nations to sign and ratify the Treaty on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). We will work with other nations for its early entry into force.

As we navigate the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), we recognize the role of UNEP's Regional Seas Program, which marks its 50th anniversary this year. It has been doing vital work in the conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including in our region, the Asia-Pacific.

We also recognize the work of the Philippine-hosted ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, for its work in our subregion.

On pollution, the Philippines has implemented an Extended Producers Responsibility Act to reduce plastic waste. It is working constructively with other states and stakeholders in crafting an ambitious treaty to end plastic pollution. We hope this UNEA will supplement efforts to our shared dream of a circular economy and sustainable lifestyles.

Madame President,

The Philippines supports shared goals to increase ambition as we build pathways to tackle environmental challenges at this UNEA.

In the same way, we call for equity and upholding of the CBDR-RC principle, the watershed from which a just transition towards a green economy should spring forth.

Eroding this principle keeps us out of reach of effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Thank you.###