PRESS RELEASE

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Manila Coalition of Vulnerable Nations Raise Level of Ambition for Paris Climate Agreement

Climate Vulnerable Forum Issues The Manila Communique

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

• Expanding forum of 43 nations representing one billion climate vulnerable people globally
• Vulnerable nations to strengthen national climate actions to trigger commitments from all
• 2 new nations reinforce call for Paris to agree 1.5°C goal now supported by 106 countries
• Call for new culture of international partnership on finance, capacity, technology

Manila – 11 November 2015: Representatives from the 20-member Climate Vulnerable Forum together with 23 incoming members from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific met at Manila and agreed to move unitedly to strengthen their collaboration and domestic climate action to trigger increased commitments from all countries and seize the COP21 opportunity for a climate-secure framework to keep warming below 1.5°C.

The call was articulated in the “The Manila Communique” released today by the 43 nations at the conclusion of a three-day meeting at Manila from 9-11 November.

The Manila Communique called for the Paris climate change agreement to enshrine the critical goal of below 1.5°C together with a successive 5-year commitment cycle to ensure further ambition progression and the enabling of upscaled mitigation action of all countries’ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Following the Manila CVF meeting, the 1.5°C goal is now supported by 106 nations, in addition to hundreds of civil society groups, as emphasized by the CVF #1o5C campaign (www.1o5C.org).

The Communique highlights the endangerment of more than 1 billion people living in vulnerable countries represented in Manila and already suffering serious consequences even at just a global warming temperature of 0.85°C.

“Our vulnerable nations are the ground zero in the global struggle against climate change. Meeting here in Manila we shine a light on the grave dangers we face but also our achievements in addressing climate change and the benefits this is bringing us,” said Joyceline Goco, Acting Executive Director of the Climate Change Office who chaired the Manila CVF meeting together with Costa Rica and Bangladesh.

“We are encouraged by the Manila Communique that emphasizes the importance of national action while calling for greater global commitments to respond to the needs of most vulnerable countries. We remain committed to trigger actions that will accelerate progress towards the goal of staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius,” she added.

The Manila conference served as the Sherpa Senior Officers Meeting of the CVF concluding one and a half years of 5 regional meetings and global diplomatic and negotiator
consultations in Geneva, New York and Bonn, and was the final preparation for a High-Level meeting of the Forum that will take place at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the UNFCCC. The Manila Communiqué calls for an ambitious, universal, legally-binding, dynamic, and durable international agreement at COP21 conference expected to conclude the Paris accord and also decide on the strengthening of the long-term 2 degrees goal to 1.5 degrees.

The communiqué also called for an agreement to confirm an international mechanism on loss and damage, building on the Warsaw International Mechanism; ensure protection of human rights; improved access to climate finance; ensuring a 50:50 balance for international climate finance between adaptation and mitigation; for enhanced technology development and cooperation to foster innovation, diffusion and deployment; and for accelerated capacity development for pro-active climate action including the integrations of climate change into development.

Ambassador Javier Diaz of Costa Rica representing the CVF troika nation on climate change said: “I am extremely pleased to have come to Manila joined by so many of my colleagues from our region who will now become members of the CVF, together with many others from all around the world as our coalition is more than doubling in strength. Costa Rica has adopted a 1.5C consistent INDC. If small and vulnerable nations can, so can all countries.”

“Chairied by the Philippines, the CVF is a potent and growing caucus in the global climate change community. It has the potential to make substantive and meaningful contributions to the success of COP 21,” expressed Assistant Secretary Jesus Domingo of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

“Not doing anything on climate change is a crime against humanity. Bangladesh remains extremely committed to raise the voice of the vulnerable through the CVF for a more ambitious response to protect our people from the growing dangers of climate change,” said Shanchita Haque, Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Secretary General Haoliang Xu commented: “The conference has made a truly valuable contribution to push for greater ambition, such as through your call to strengthen the long-term goal to 1.5C. Despite the constraints and challenges your countries have made remarkable advances, whether it’s in renewable energy diffusions, community based adaptation or otherwise, you have time and again shattered preconceived notions about what is possible in the fight against climate change. We commend your collective leadership and are honored to host the Secretariat of the CVF as well as the newly formed V20.”

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and Chair of the Forum’s Expert Advisor’s Group further commented that: “The 1.5C goal is tough but achievable. Many countries are emphasizing that a 2 degrees goal is a more feasible target. But 1.5C is also the right moral decision. The vulnerable nations are insisting that the Paris climate summit takes that right moral decision for humanity.”

The gathering was jointly hosted by the Climate Change Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs and was supported by the UNDP.

In addition to the 43 existing and incoming members of the CVF, the gathering also involved observers, including France, Germany and other nations, as well as international and civil society organizations and international experts.