Germany's Environment Ministry Announces Support for UNDP Assistance to Nations Vulnerable to Climate Change

25 February 2016: Geneva, Switzerland – US $830,000 grant from the Government of Germany to support the Philippines and other highly vulnerable countries in implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The grant, part of an agreement between the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Development Cooperation / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUB) under its International Climate Initiative, will support the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) under the Philippine presidency in research, global consultations and communications among the 43 CVF member states from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, through mid-2016.

“We suffer most from the consequences of inadequate action on climate change, but we have also acted as the voice of ambition to address global warming,” notes Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, which Chairs the Climate Vulnerable Forum. “Work continues with even greater urgency and assertiveness following the landmark Paris Agreement that enshrined our countries’ call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. We are thrilled that Germany, through BMUB and GIZ, is assisting vulnerable countries beyond Paris as we seek to maintain momentum during the initial phase of implementation following the decisions of the UN Climate Change Conference at Paris.”

“We are really pleased to see leadership being taken on climate change by developing countries around the world. We also appreciate the challenges facing these countries that limit their capacity to organize and collaborate internationally and to raise their voice. Their role in the Paris climate conference last year was crucial to achieving an ambitious outcome and will continue to be of great importance in the time ahead,” said Mr. Norbert Gorißen, Head of Department, International Climate Finance, International Climate Initiative, BMUB.

“We welcome the support of BMUB and GIZ in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular as it relates to those most vulnerable to climate impacts,” notes Jo Scheuer, Director of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster in UNDP’s Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. “Tremendous efforts to address climate change are taking place in vulnerable countries around the world, all of whom can be more effective by learning from each others’ experiences and successes.”
Initial funding from BMUB/GIZ has already facilitated important policy conferences and communications of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, including a High-Level Meeting of the Forum on 30 November at the UN Climate Change Conference at Paris (UNFCCC COP21) and a Senior Officers’ Meeting of the Forum in Manila on 9-11 November 2015, which produced the Manila-Paris Declaration, articulating common views of vulnerable nations.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum members represent one billion people highly at risk to heat waves, flooding, storms and other weather-related disasters whose severity has increased as the planet warms.

UNDP, one of the largest implementers of climate change programming globally – with a portfolio of $2.3 billion across 140 countries – maintains a support project to the Forum and assists member states to collaboratively promote more effective international and national responses to the common challenges they face.

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