In the past two days, esteemed delegates of the most vulnerable countries in the world gathered together as the Sherpa Senior Officials Meeting, which the Philippines, in its Presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is both proud and humbled to host.

The Manila Communique embodies the outcome of these intensive discussions. The CVF Philippine Presidency is encouraged by the Manila Communique that emphasizes the importance of national action while calling for greater global commitments to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable countries. We remain committed to trigger actions that will accelerate progress towards the goal of staying below 1.5 °C.

Let me outline three of the most critical issues that have been thoroughly discussed at this meeting, bearing in mind the considerable charge that a warming climate confronts us all, of which leaders of the international community are expected to come to an agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference 2015 in Paris this December:
1. First, that we recognize the urgency for an ambitious, universal, legally binding, dynamic and durable agreement; that our highest motivation is to limit warming below 1.5 °C in order to secure our survival, but beyond this, sustainable development in which prosperity is inclusive of all.

2. Second, that we acknowledge that the climate crisis affects us all—developed, developing and least developed countries. But though our contributions to this crisis are remarkably dissimilar, the impact especially upon us, countries more exposed and vulnerable to increasing frequency, intensity, and severity of climate-related disasters, is enormously acute than we have been responsible for and can currently cope with. And this is despite the initiatives climate vulnerable countries have been undertaking to ensure that we are progressing to strengthen our national and local capacities to adapt and mitigate against increasing climate disturbances.

3. And third, but definitely not the last of the fundamental issues we will tackle in Paris, is recognizing the urgency to put in place actionable means of implementation by all responsible parties. We underscore the ascendancy of fully operationalizing climate finance mechanisms to enable vulnerable countries to secure our prosperous and climate-resilient future.
Responding to these challenges, the Climate Vulnerable Forum will take these collectively agreed actions to Paris:

1. One, we will strengthen our leadership in taking national climate actions to ensure progress towards the goal of staying below 1.5 °C, upscaling our own mitigation actions and accelerating our capacity development for adaptation.

2. Second, we will work in solidarity with developed countries to put in place actions on loss and damage consistent with the Warsaw International Mechanism to ensure developing countries are enabled to manage climate risks.

3. Third, we will call for the global community to hasten means by which vulnerable countries are able access predictable, scaled-up climate finance, while directing our own resources and capacities towards climate actions.

4. And finally, climate vulnerable countries will continue to articulate the centrality of tackling climate change within a regime of human rights protection.

Beyond Paris, the Climate Vulnerable Forum is committed to

1. Draw attention towards innovative finance mechanisms through the Vulnerable 20 Group of Finance Ministers (V20) of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, launched in Lima, Peru in September.
2. Establish a South-South Centre of Excellence on Climate Information and Services in the Philippines that will serve as our platform for exchange of knowledge, technology, and best practices with the aim of intensifying our capacities to conduct science and evidence-based research to further our advocacy.

3. Work towards a new culture of international partnership by expanding collaboration with civil society, academe, private sector and other stakeholders.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum convenes again at a High Level Meeting in Paris on 30 November 2015, in conjunction with the commencement of COP21. Inspired by our collective progress as vulnerable countries, we will bring our bold ambition to the world leaders, not as an end of a journey but a milestone towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.

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