

Speech of H.E. Thomas Ossowski  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Ceremonial High Level Session at the Malacañang Palace  
November 11, 2015

Excellencies, delegates of the vulnerable countries, representatives of the Philippine Government, ladies and gentlemen.

Climate change is an imminent threat to the global community and certainly the most important challenge of this century.

As an archipelagic country located in the Pacific typhoon belt, the Philippines are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. In its Global Climate Change Risk Index 2014, German Watch rates the Philippines as among the ten countries most affected by the impacts of weather-related disasters.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference at Paris (COP21), starting end of the month will be of key importance to set the stage for the future climate agreement to keep global warming under a critical threshold in order to avoid devastating effects for the planet and mankind.

In order to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change, the global community has to closely work together and set out ambitious targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Countries have recently submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or UNFCCC. However, as computed by the UNFCCC Secretariat the combined commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as of now are inadequate as they would still lead to a 2.7°C global warming by 2030.

According to World Bank even under a 2°C scenario, there will be a 20% decline in water availability for many regions and 15–20% decrease in crop yield. How much more will be the damage to people, livelihoods and economies under a scenario that we could expect if existing commitments would not become more ambitious?

Germany stands firm with its commitment to support an ambitious climate agreement that will include global action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and avoiding climate induced disasters.

Germany as a member of the European Union has committed its mitigation action in its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) with substantial reduction of its greenhouse gases. The joint binding target of all EU member states will be at least 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. Besides, there will also be substantial investment in adaption to climate change impacts.

The German Government supports international initiatives to meet our climate goals. Therefore, Germany has already committed funding of 1 billion USD to the Green Climate Fund and more contributions are being decided. In addition, already since 2008, Germany supports developing countries and countries in

Speech of H.E. Thomas Ossowski  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of the Germany  
Ceremonial High Level Session at the Malacañang Palace  
November 11, 2015

transition in their climate protection efforts with new and additional funding through Germany's International Climate Initiative, based on a decision of the German Parliament. From 2008 until December 2014 there were 446 projects of the International Climate Initiative commissioned in 100 partner countries, with a total grant amount of EUR 1.6 billion. These projects mobilized additional funding from implementing agencies, public and private-sector in a volume of EUR 3.62 billion. The Philippines and other vulnerable countries are already benefiting from these projects.

During the last days, representatives of the most vulnerable countries gathered for the Sherpa Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum here in Manila under the current CVF presidency of the Philippines.

Germany welcomes the initiative of the Climate Vulnerable Forum gathering vulnerable countries across regions in preparing its critical inputs into the COP 21 in Paris. We are glad to support this initiative from the side of the German Government and we welcome the intention of this CVF Meeting to provide an important contribution to make COP 21 a success. We share the view of the CVF countries for an ambitious, universal, legally-binding, dynamic and durable international agreement at COP21.

Germany also welcomes the statement of CVF countries to strengthen their national climate actions and to upscale their mitigation actions, as contained in their INDCs.

Germany will continue to support countries in their efforts towards mitigation and adaptation, especially the avoidance of climate induced disasters.

We highly welcome the initiative of the CVF members to establish a South-South Centre of Excellence for Climate Information and Services in the Philippines. In this context, it may be of specific interest to you that Germany is prepared to support the project proposed by the Philippines towards a "South-South Collaboration on Climate Information and Services: Building a Knowledge Exchange and Learning Platform for the Philippines and the Climate Vulnerable Forum". This project with a grant of up to 5 Million Euro in the next 4-5 years is part of Germany's recently confirmed support for the Philippines under its International Climate Initiative with a total grant of more than 17 Mio Euros for projects starting in 2016. At present, five projects are formulated, most of these to strengthen adaptation.

With the important work of the CVF countries as shown in the recent days, and with the commitment of all countries we hope that Paris will become a success and will come up with an ambitious and legally binding Climate Agreement and the proper means to its implementation that will ensure the World's future.

Thank you.