

Speech for SRSG Wahlstrom
Climate Vulnerable Forum, 30 November
2 minutes

Excellencies,

I am very pleased to be here with you.

I congratulate the Philippines for assuming the presidency of this forum which is an important advocacy platform that signals your leadership and your common will to accelerate global action. It is based on shared interests and ambition to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.

Your collective vision captured in the Sendai Framework has really driven home the reality that disaster risk must be managed through the very processes (of development) that create it in the first place. Therefore we must get our development approach right in the post-2015 landscape.

Climate change is one of the most significant drivers of risk in our world today; a large majority, 90% by estimates, of disasters are in fact climate-related. Understanding the risk we face now, and will face in the medium and long term, must be at the heart of planning. Ultimately this will be the most effective way of coherently implementing the Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agreement that we are keenly looking forward to here in Paris.

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Let me also take this opportunity to thank Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines for her relentless efforts to advance disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through legislation and advocacy. As a UNISDR Regional Champion, she has been an outspoken and consistent champion for the need to rethink development and work with all stakeholders and in many sectors to prevent and reduce risk.

It is with great pleasure therefore that today we recognize her contributions and award her the title of 'Global Champion for Resilience'.

Even though she can't unfortunately be here with us today, I understand that she will accept the award with a few words through a video.