

Statement of the

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Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and
Head of the Philippine Delegation to the *High-Level Roundtable
Discussion on “Leaving No One Behind: A Commitment to Address
Forced Displacement”* during the World Humanitarian Summit
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To the Honorable Chair, Mr. Filippo Grandi, and Co-Chairs, Honorables Tammam Salam, Ruhakana Rugunda, and Justine Greening, fellow speakers, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, magandang hapon, salaam alaikum.

I am Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary of Social Welfare and Development and Head of the Philippine Delegation. I am pleased to read the commitments of the Philippines under the UN Secretary General’s Core Responsibility 3: Leave No One Behind.

On **Core Commitment 1**, the Philippines will work to pass the country’s Internally Displaced Persons Bill that will define the roles and responsibilities of different government bodies in addressing the needs of affected communities that will help identify conflict drivers and the root causes of vulnerability. The IDP bill's provisions are

aligned with international standards but at the same time culturally sensitive.

The Philippines will also ensure the efficient implementation of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act which was signed by President Benigno S. Aquino III recently on May 18, 2016. This law seeks to establish and implement a comprehensive and strategic program of action to provide the children and pregnant and lactating mothers affected by disasters and other emergency situations with utmost support and assistance necessary for their immediate recovery and protection against all forms of violence, cruelty, discrimination, neglect, abuse, exploitation and other acts prejudicial to their interest, survival, development, and well-being.

On **Core Commitment 2**, the Philippines, through its National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council and its response cluster led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, will continue to implement the Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment protocol and the Oplan Liso which is a comprehensive guidebook for local governments and CSOs on risk mitigation measures to prepare them to respond to emergencies. This promotes safe and dignified response for IDPs.

The Philippines will continue to operate the Emergency Transit Mechanism, in coordination with the IOM and UNHCR, to provide

protection to persons in emergency and urgent situations or those at risk of being deported back to countries which persecuted them.

The Philippines will continue to strongly advocate for the voluntary commitment of member states to the guidelines of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative and the Strategic Framework and Workplan for the Nansen Initiative's successor - Platform on Disaster Displacement. The Philippines believes that all states have a shared interest in the protection of displaced nationals, climate change refugees, and migrants.

The Philippines will continue to urge countries to create and implement effective policies to address displacement caused by disasters, a provision under the Sendai Framework in Disaster Risk Reduction which the Philippines strongly advocated during the First UN World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction.

On **Core Commitment 3**, the Philippines will continue to support the call for global efforts to strengthen multilateral financing instruments so that assistance can be provided to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact on communities with large numbers of displaced population or receiving large of number of returnees.

On **Core Commitment 5**, the Philippines will continue to ensure the full and effective implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as of the 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons.

Finally, the lessons gained and commitments made from this roundtable affirm the importance of upholding the dignity and humaneness of humanitarian response to emergency situations. Let us bring these home and allow those whom we work with in our offices and in the field to become more inspired and dedicated to the work of leaving no one behind.

Thank you very much. Maraming salamat.