

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION PLENARY SESSION: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Statement by:

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Undersecretary of National Defense  
PHILIPPINES

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Philippines acknowledges the previously endorsed findings of the 2011-2013 implementation review using the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor jointly conducted by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Significant challenges were identified in the implementation of national and local disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions that would enable the country to refocus its attention to an end state that goes beyond the initial HFA planning horizon.

Three Future Outlook Areas were gleaned as an outcome of the Review, which includes: 1) mainstreaming tools, procedures and mechanisms at all levels; 2) providing social support, safety net, and humanitarian aid mechanisms; and 3) strengthening networking and coordinative capacities in linking all stakeholders.

The findings of the Review and the conduct of post disaster needs analyses of recent large-scale disasters that struck the country compelled the NDRRM Council to organize in March 2013 a National Summit on DRRM for Local Chief Executives (LCEs), being the key players of DRRM implementation at the local level. The objective of the Summit was to come up with a comprehensive and standard understanding of DRRM roles and responsibilities of the LCEs for the effective and efficient delivery of services. The Summit further identified and clarified the roles and responsibilities of LCEs on DRRM and defined the mechanisms to achieve transparency and accountability on the utilization of DRRM resources.

As a result of the National Summit, the Philippines has identified the single, most important element of the post-2015 Framework on DRR. "Strengthening Governance at the Local Level" is now the Philippines' Future Outlook Area Number 4.

This Area requires the full integration of DRRM in local ordinances, policies and plans relative to DRRM.

Overall Challenges: How to operationalize and practice several laws, policies, plans and other legal documents highlighting LCE's roles and responsibilities in DRRM. Standardization of the Local DRRM Plan template. Prioritization of obligations between DRRM roles against generation of employment and promotion of tourism. Enhancing coordination and communication in times of disasters.

Future Outlook Statement: Integrating DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and other local laws, policies and plans; capacitating local communities down to the “barangay” (village) level; establishing DRRM offices and facilities; enhancing coordination and communication among stakeholders through a common platform; and whole-of-nation approach in all DRRM decisions and actions.

In conclusion, the Philippine government recognizes that there is much room for improvement in the five priority areas of the HFA. This shall fortify the country’s relentless commitment in improving disaster risk reduction capabilities that would more importantly improve the lives of its citizenry by providing for a safer community and sustainable economic growth.

Thank you.