



Intervention

Delivered by Ms. Kira Christianne D. Azucena
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Tuesday, 10 July 2018 (9:00 am to 11:00 am)

The development plan of the Philippines is people-centered and has, at its core, the vision and mission of improving the lives of all Filipino people in a thriving and resilient communities.

Side by side with this goal is the persistent reality that the Philippines ranks high on most global indices for vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Over the long term, losses due to earthquakes, tropical cyclones and floods are estimated to be PHP206 billion or 1.8% of GDP in direct losses and PHP42.2 billion or 3.6% of total government expenditure in emergency losses per year.

For these reasons, disaster risk reduction, risk-informed and risk management are fully entrenched in the national development planning of the Philippines. We have significantly shifted from disaster response to disaster risk reduction in government policies and programs, specially in the areas of hazard mapping, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness.

In 2017, the National Resilience Council was formed in the Philippines, a partnership between government, private sector, academe and scientific community, with the principal mission of establishing Resilient Cities in the country. The Council supports the adoption of a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks—earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.—but also the stresses that weaken cities.

Such stresses include high unemployment; an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system; endemic violence; or chronic food and water shortages. By addressing both the shocks and the stresses, a city becomes more able to respond to adverse events.

Also last year, the Philippines with the World Bank launched the first-ever natural disaster insurance program worth US\$206M which provides coverage against losses from major typhoons and earthquakes to national government assets, and to 25 participating provinces. We are now closely coordinating with our ASEAN partners on disaster-risk financing strategy for the region.

Here in the UN, we sponsored and welcome the recent adoption of the “Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.” We believe that the collective and coordinated work of all governments and stakeholders, and quality geospatial information and services that are accurate, available, and accessible in a timely and coordinated fashion are critical to building safer, adaptive, and resilient communities.

We support the need to fill the information gap. Data collection should be prioritized to facilitate the crafting of good policies. In this regard, the Philippines, with partners, is actively involved in developing whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder data roadmaps that shall generate and monitor data for the 230 unique indicators and 169 targets of the 17 SDGs.

Thank you Chair!