PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

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Means of implementation to match the scope of the crisis and the breadth of our ambition for 2030:

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
10:00-11:00 am, 10 July 2020

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Good evening from the Philippines.

It is a privilege to join you in this session. The world has seen unprecedented challenges and threats brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside these, opportunities also emerged.

To respond to the current health crisis, we were able to progress by harnessing our capabilities in science, technology and innovation, maximizing strong government-industry-academe collaboration and strengthening linkages with domestic and foreign partners. The Philippines, with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) remodeled a local technology platform developed for dengue into an effective rRT-PCR COVID-19 detection kit. We also use an information system called FASSSTER[1], which was designed for other diseases, to predict COVID-19 transmission and severity through time and space.

Digitalization is now being widely explored. It is high time that we promote free, open, secure, and universal access to the internet while protecting human rights. The Philippines recently co-sponsored the Global Declaration on the Digital Response to COVID-19. Our country applies digital technologies in various methods such as telemedicine, distance learning, logistics, manufacturing, and business services.

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[1] FASSSTER - Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler for Early Detection of Disease

The COVID-19 could leave permanent and long-term impact which may impede our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. New and existing effective STI policies and programs that pursue synergies among SDGs can counter this setback.

Some of the Philippines' examples include:

One - the DOST's SETUP[2] assists MSMEs to adopt technological innovations to boost their productivity and competitiveness. S&T human resource development and capacity building for R&D, technology transfer and innovation are being pursued vigorously consistent with SDGs 8, 9, and 10;

Two - programs on space and data science for environment and mapping, addressing SDGs 11, 13, 14, and 15; and

Three - disaster risk reduction technologies and initiatives such as GeoRiskPH, addressing SDGs 9, 11, 13, and 15.

The Philippines encourages all States and governing institutions to formulate inclusive policies and reassess programs that would cater to the needs of our people, especially of the marginalized and most vulnerable sectors. We also promote strengthened international cooperation to ensure that no one will be left behind.

Thank you.

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[2] SETUP - Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program