

Mr. Chairs,

The protection of the environment is enshrined in our Constitution and is one of the highest policy priorities of the Philippines. The Constitution's Declaration of Principles and State Policies proclaims that "the State shall protect the and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony in nature."

When the resolution on "Towards a Global Pact for Environment" was introduced and eventually adopted in New York, the Philippines underlined in its position core principles which we wish to reiterate here:

1. While we recognize the value to have a global framework to address the protection of the environment, we are of the position that there already exists an integrative framework for bringing the global community's work on the environment, i.e. sustainable development which brings together the social, economic and environmental spheres to support human development in a sustainable manner.
2. What remains to be done is to deliver the commitments, anchored on the principle on "Common but Differentiated Responsibilities" (CBDR)
3. Despite the above position, we are now here in Nairobi, with the intent to actively engage in the GPE process in line with our commitment to protect the environment and to ensure that this

process be transparent, consultative and takes into consideration the concerns of all UN member-states. It needs to be underlined that this process cannot be rushed.

4. Our engagement in this process is with the understanding that we are not re-negotiating already agreed principles and commitments; that this will not disrupt or distract from the continuing implementation of existing international environment agreements; and that there will be no dilution or backtracking of existing internationally commitments on the protection of environment.

We wish to thank the UN Secretary General for his exhaustive report and wishes to assure the appointed co-chairs of this process of the Philippines' support and cooperation.