



Climate Vulnerable Forum
Foro de Vulnerabilidad Climática
Forum de la Vulnérabilité Climatique



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Report of the High-Level Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Le Bourget, Paris, France 30 November



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Proceedings of the High-Level Event

Background

The Climate Change Commission of the Office of the President of the Philippines hosted the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) High Level Event on 30th November 2015 during the Leaders' Event Day of the 21A session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP21 Conference Center in Le Bourget, Paris, France. This Meeting enabled CVF Members to express their unity of purpose and action towards securing a successful and meaningful outcome of the COP21 for vulnerable countries. The High-Level Meeting convened the top decision-making body of the full Forum in its third such meeting since its foundation in 2009.

The High-Level Meeting saw the announcement of the incoming presidency of Ethiopia for 2016-17, the adoption of the Manila-Paris Declaration, the 2016-18 Road Map of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and Guidance for capitalization of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Trust Fund; the confirmation of 10 new members; and the acknowledgement of pending membership for 13 countries. The High-Level Meeting took part in two segments: Opening Leaders Session followed by a Working Session and Business. The first Opening Leaders Segment of the event was moderated by the Chair of the CVF Expert Advisors Group and Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Dr. Saleemul Huq and the Working Session of the CVF was chaired by Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman.

The adoption of the CVF's new Manila-Paris Declaration, the third issued by the CVF since its establishment in 2009, together with the 2016-18 Road Map clarified the shared interests of vulnerable countries of all regions, amplified the calls of vulnerable countries vis-à-vis the Paris Agreement which came to enshrine the key call of the CVF on 1.5°C, and established a cooperative programme of activities for ensuring further advances in the year ahead to protect the vulnerable from climate change and remain activated at the forefront of climate solutions.

Event Details

Monday 30 November 2015

4:45pm – 6:15pm

Part I: Opening Leaders Segment

Part II: Business of the CVF

Part III: Member Statements and Closing

Organizers

The Climate Change Commission of the Office of the President Republic of the Philippines

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines

United Nations Development Programme (secretariat)

Venue

Le Maroni Room

United Nations Climate Change Conference at Paris (UNFCCC COP21)

Le Bourget, Paris

Participants

- A. Ministers and high-level representatives of the Forum's members: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam
- B. Incoming member states verbally confirming membership in meeting: Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mongolia, Niger, Palau, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Sudan
- C. Observer Countries: France, Ireland, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

- D. International institutions and civil society actors and experts: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change.
- E. The Expert Advisors Group to the CVF: Senior Associate E3G, Dr. Monica Arya; Director of Climate Analytics, Dr. Bill Hare; International Director of Climate Action Network, Mr. Wael Hmaidan; Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Dr. Saleemul Huq; Member CCC National Panel of Technical Experts, Philippines, Dr. Rosa Perez; and Christian Aid's Senior Climate Change Advisor, Mr. Mohamed Adow
- F. A wide-range of other parties, delegates to UNFCCC COP21, non-governmental organizations and media as public participants in the open event.

Furthermore, the following nominated incoming member states were recognized at the meeting: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Malawi, Morocco, Myanmar, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

Summary

KEY DECISIONS

Official Forum Documents

The meeting saw the adoption of the Manila-Paris Declaration, the 2016-18 Road Map of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and Guidance for capitalization of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Trust Fund.

Membership

The meeting confirmed the following ten countries for CVF membership: Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mongolia, Niger, Palau, Senegal, and Sri Lanka.

The meeting acknowledged the pending CVF membership of the following thirteen countries: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Malawi, Morocco, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Next Chair

Ethiopia was nominated Chair-designate and will begin serving as Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum for the period 2016-17.

Statements

Statements were delivered by:

- Chair of the CVF Expert Advisors Group and Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Dr. Saleemul Huq
- The Honorable Secretary of Finance and V20 Chair, H.E. Mr. Cesar V. Purisima
- The Honorable President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Benigno S. Aquino III
- The Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Manuel Gonzalez Sanz
- The Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju
- Secretary of State for Development of France, H. E. Ms. Annick Girardin
- Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Ms. Christiana Figueres
- Commissioner at Large, National Youth Commission Philippines, Mr. Jose Sixto Gonzalez Dantes II
- Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman
- State Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Kere Chawicha Debessa
- Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Mines of Honduras, H.E. Mr. Jose Antonio Galdames Fuentes

- Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Ms. Mary Robinson¹
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom
- Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines (via video message)

RESUME OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING SESSION

H.E. Emmanuel de Guzman, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines takes over the Chair of the High-Level meeting. The Chair requests the Secretariat to place before the delegates and describe the documents forwarded to the High-Level Meeting by the Forum's Senior Officers' Meeting which convened at 9am on 9th November in Manila, concluding its business at 7pm on 10th of November, the draft Manila-Paris Declaration being the principal document for consideration. The Manila-Paris Declaration is identified as capturing the common aspirations of CVF members with respect to the Paris Agreement, shared commitments to action and cooperation, and further priorities and operational decisions of the CVF. The document was described by the Chair as follows—it:

1. Articulates the agreement to establish a CVF South-South Center on Climate Information and Services in Manila;
2. Articulates the endorsement of a guidance note for capitalization of the CVF Trust Fund.
3. Identifies the incoming CVF Chair;
4. Acknowledges 23 incoming members of the CVF confirmed or recognized as: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Malawi, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen;
5. Agrees to undertake the activities of the 2016-2018 Road Map of the CVF.

The Chair described the draft the Road Map as outlining the CVF's intent to operationalize its aims and commitments into action in programmatic terms, and through the cooperation of CVF members for the following three years. The Road Map builds on the Costa Rica Action Plan and focuses on finance, health, human rights, labor, migration, displacement and science – work that should continue and expand the CVF's engagement into five new sectors:

1. Agriculture
2. Education
3. Gender
4. Tourism
5. Water

The Road Map additionally confirms the regular publication of the CVF Climate Vulnerability Monitor and Low Carbon Monitor and establishes clear working approaches and communication.

Chairman H.E. Emmanuel de Guzman, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines indicates he will be seeking a motion for the adoption of the Manila-Paris Declaration.

Chairman H.E. Emmanuel Guzman calls on countries working to reconfirm their proposed membership. Confirmations are forthcoming from:

- Dominican Republic
 - Grenada
 - Guatemala
-

¹ Ms. Mary Robinson also represented the CVF/V20 ad hoc Secretariat hosted by UNDP

- Haiti
- Honduras
- Senegal
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Yemen

Guatemala additionally states it is actively working with the G77 to attain a comprehensive language, which includes in the agreement all countries that have characteristics of vulnerability including poor people and those who suffer the effects of the impacts of climate change.

The Chair requests for any objections on the motion of the adoption of the Manila-Paris Declaration and documents before the delegates and seeks comment.

Bhutan confirms their support for a motion to adopt the documents.

The Chair requests for a seconding of the motion to adopt the documents before the delegates.

Afghanistan asserts their support for the motion.

The Chair confirms the motion is carried and thus the Manila-Paris Declaration and associated documents are adopted by the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

The Chair confirms the incoming member countries of the CVF are:

- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Mongolia
- Senegal
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Yemen

The Chair acknowledges the presence of the high representatives that have indicated to the Chair their endorsement of the Declaration in due accordance with the Forum's operational modalities. These countries are:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Bhutan
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guatemala

- Haiti
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Madagascar
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Niger²
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Saint Lucia
- Tanzania
- Timor-Leste
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Vietnam
- Senegal
- Sri Lanka
- Yemen

The Chair concludes the session by announcing the adoption of the Manila-Paris Declaration and the next Chair of the CVF, Ethiopia, to proceed the Philippines in mid-2016 to carry the responsibilities of the presidency until December 2017 as Ethiopia. Ethiopia accepted the chairmanship of the CVF (see Annex for Statement). The session was closed.

² Niger requests recognition of their membership of the CVF. The Chair recognizes Niger recognizes the membership of the CVF.

Appendices: Statements at the High-Level Meeting

Chair of the CVF Expert Advisors Group and Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development Dr. Saleemul Huq

My name is Saleemul Huq and I am the director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development based at the Independent University in Bangladesh but I'm here today as a moderator in my capacity as the Chair of the Independent Expert Advisory Group to the Climate Vulnerable Forum and I'd like to recognize my fellow experts on the panel sitting across from me. It's my pleasure to be moderating this discussion. This is the 3rd time that the CVF has held this high-level meeting. The first time when it was first convened in the Maldives in 2009 by then President Nasheed of Maldives. The second time was a few years later in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and today in Paris is the third time that we are convening under the leadership of His Excellency, the president of the Philippines, President Aquino. I'll say a couple of things and then I'll invite the speakers and the program to make their statements.

Firstly, a little history of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, as I mentioned the first time it met was in 2009 in the Maldives. At that time there were about a dozen plus countries – over the years it has now grown to well over 40 countries, many of them are represented around the table here. And it has become a very proactive group of southern countries who primarily got together initially due to their vulnerability but now are moving forward to become leaders in actively tackling climate change both in the form of adaptation as well as in mitigation and other areas. It's a very proactive group and you'll be hearing about the statement that they have developed called the Manilla-Paris Declaration.

The second point I'll make about them is that CVF is not a negotiating forum to replace the existing negotiating groups like Least Developed Countries or The Africa Group or the AOSIS Group which remain the groups through which these countries negotiate. It is an active leadership group that brings together countries at that the leadership level to take forward common interests. In this particular case the common interest in context to Paris is to argue and advocate for the long-term temperature goal for dealing with climate change to no longer be 2 degrees Celsius but changed to 1.5 degrees Celsius in order to protect roughly 100 million people who will fall between the cracks – between the 2 degrees and 1.5-degree temperature target. Many of whom will be from the countries represented in the Climate Vulnerable Forum but not just there – there are vulnerable countries all over the world. Even developed countries like France and the US are also vulnerable. Vulnerability is now a universal attribute of all countries. The CVF is the leading voice on behalf of all the vulnerable people, communities, and countries.

It's my pleasure be moderating this discussion and to invite the 1st speaker, His Excellency, Cesar Purisima, the Honorable Secretary of Finance and the Chair of the V20 Group which is the group of finance ministers of the CVF.

Hon. Secretary of Finance and V20 Chair H.E. Cesar V. Purisima

Opening Remarks

Thank you and good afternoon. His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, president of the Republic of Philippines and Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines; Her Excellency of Costa Rica; His Excellency Anwar Manju, Hon. Minister of Environment and Forest of Bangladesh; Secretary of State for Development of France; His Excellency Manuel de Guzman Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines; Ms. Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC; Ms. Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Climate Change, Ms. Margereta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary General.

The honor of this year's presidency is poignant for the Philippines. The ABD said just a few days ago that if carbon emissions continue to rise at the annual rate of 0.5%, floods and storms would double in frequency in 17 years. For a country to frequently ravaged by typhoons, so much that the phrase "build back better" has not only been a governance philosophy but a necessity. We believe that climate change is the existential challenge of our time. We share the conviction that global climate action is an inalienable human right and responsibility. Our very survival rests on ambitious and decisive action despite being among the countries contributing the least to global carbon emissions, we count as one of the most vulnerable countries. In what I see as an inverted example of the Pereto Principle: vulnerable countries bare more than half of the economic burden of climate change by 2030 and over 80% of its health impact. Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of our people live in extreme forms of poverty. Due to climate change, we now face estimated losses of at least 2.5% of GDP each year. More pressing, additional economic costs from climate change account to \$44.9 billion for vulnerable countries. Inaction is said to cost us even more. This number is said to multiply almost tenfold by 2030 amounting to \$418 billion given this rate of climate degradation. The costs of climate change are unaffordable. Economic projection overall is expected to fall by about 23% by 2100, if status quo persists, according to a most recent study on nature inequality will worsen. Climate change is said to reduce average income in the poorest 40% of countries by 75% in 2100 as 23% of countries are likely to be poorer than today.

In COP21, we take what may be our last best shot at restoring hope for the one planet that we all call home. The CVF has come together to register our voices in this week's historic discussions. Perhaps precisely because our survival is most at stake: the smallest and most vulnerable countries have the most to say. Together the planets most vulnerable hope to be first conscious advocate. Thus we hope to adopt and launch the Manila-Paris Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the unified voices of the most vulnerable countries, to COP21.

We also look forward to launching the CVF Road Map 2016-18 which contains the medium-term action of the CVF and reaffirming and recalibrating priorities further of the Costa Rica Action Plan of 2013-15. With this document, we aim to put forward our shared commitment on climate action at home and with international partners on adaptation, mitigation, risk management, and climate finance. Elements of the fact we choose to undertake together for the sake of our peoples and future generations. We are eager to accelerate the rapid mobilization of unprecedented levels of climate finance from wide-ranging and innovative sources. Specifically, we look forward to closing our financing needs of about \$20 billion prior to the 2020 in order to secure fast-track climate protection. May today's high-level event be a decisive and productive meeting. Thank you.

H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III

Hon. President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines

Keynote statements by lead member states of the CVF

Thank you. Allow me first to convey my deepest sympathies of our people for the tragedy that hit Paris last November 13th. We are with solidarity with the rest of the world in saying that the no amount of effort from the forces of darkness can ever make the lights of Paris dim.

Colleagues, in the Philippines there are only 2 seasons: wet and dry. The monsoon season has historically ended by October. Over the past few years however, the most destructive typhoons have come to my country in November and December especially this current phenomenon. Because it happens the joyousness of the Christmas season, which is among the most important celebrations in a predominantly Christian nation such as ours. In this our country is not an isolated case: those of us who compose this Forum and many others who are also exposed to a high concentration of risks, experience climate change in its darkest possible terms. For example, since 2010 in the CVF member countries an average of more than 50,000 deaths have occurred every year due to climate shocks. Up to 40 million people may potentially be displaced due to rising sea levels which threaten to engulf entire nations in the Pacific. Even beyond such phenomena, we are aware of our discourse on development and inequality within and among nations that is intertwined with climate change. Invariably, those with the least bear the most burden. We are getting better at adaptation however the reality persists: people still die, whole communities are displaced, and businesses are affected thus stunting economic activity. Funds that could be used for other developmental needs are channeled towards the costly efforts involving relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. By some estimates, annual losses amount to about 2.5% of GDP for us in the CVF. This despite the fact that we collectively contribute less than 2% of current greenhouse gas emissions. We have all echoed the call for global solidarity responding to climate change. Our gathering today and the hard work that our representatives have been doing since the Climate Vulnerable Forum came to be highlights an essential pillar of the solidarity we are pursuing. Fairness and equitability are not mere catchwords for the vulnerable. They form the very foundations of a truly global climate response.

Our friend, President Hollande and I have outlined a response in the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change urging not only climate action but climate justice, cooperation, and solidarity in the financial and technological aspects of climate response. We all have all probably noticed how climate change discourse has so far taken shape. The focus on many debates seems to be on who should be doing what. We believe however that the question is not about who among us should be doing what. The question is not about the contributions of individual countries. It is imperative that all countries do everything and maximize what can be done towards addressing climate change now. Either we all strive and sacrifice or we only vary in how much we lose.

I ask you to picture a situation: after Typhoon Bopha in 2012, an opportunity to conduct an aerial assessment of provinces for coconuts were the main source of food as far as the eye could see, not a tree was left standing. I know that it takes 5-7 years for a coconut tree to grow to maturity. Fundamental question was: what will people do to survive in the meantime. We had to innovate by promoting alternative crops and inter-cropping to ensure that our communities would have other sources of fiber to sustain our progress until the new coconut trees reached maturity. So many talk of resilience being one of my peoples' highest attributes. We have been able to build back better even after the most devastating storms. For example, by moving entire communities away from disastrous areas but building back better has become less and less of a guarantee given that the new normal might be still replaced by an even newer normal that is even more destructive, if we fail to act in concert.

Positive national development can be broken by disaster especially in emerging economies in a country such as the Philippines. After all, what if we could channel these resources used in building back better towards developmental interventions. By now the truth should be evident to all: no amount of effort, however gargantuan, by a single nation can ever be enough to address climate change in its entirety.

In the Philippines, we have been implementing an ambitious national greening program, planting 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 billion hectares to be completed by next year. We have cracked down on other illegal logging and other unsustainable environmental processes. We have worked to diversify our energy resources, increasingly tapping into renewables such as solar, wind, biomass, hydro, and geothermal power, to the extent that they now constitute 33% of our energy mix. Government scientists have been conducting research towards more resilient crops and we have been continuously upgrading our weather forecasting capabilities. We are willing and ready to share with you all the

knowledge and best practices that we learned from our own experience. Despite this, much remains to be done in term to creating a fully climate-proof Philippines. I suspect it's the same for most, if not all, of our brother nations in the CVF. In the Philippines we have as one of our core philosophies the idea of byania, loosely translated it means communal action born of community responsibility. Back home, we have been harnessing the energies of byania towards national transformation and instituting good governance in engaging the engines of economic growth and in creating a more passionate and inclusive society. We have called on the spirit of byania to lift up our continent during every storm, let us make that fall within our islands.

The spirit of byania is exactly the same spirit that informs the Climate Vulnerable Forum. It is also at the core of what we launched today the Manila-Paris Declaration which embodies our shared aspirations for a world that is more just and more sustainable. Individually, we are already survivors. Collectively we are a force towards a fairer, more climate proactive world. Many of us have already been taking action byania, particularly in terms of climate finance. Let us not only enhance and intensify such work but also fully leverage our solidarity in ensuring the remaining barriers towards concerted action and knowledge sharing are broken down so that we in turn may link arms together towards a more resilient and inclusive future.

H.E. Manuel Gonzalez Sanz

Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

Keynote statements by lead member states of the CVF

I'm very pleased to join this group today as a member of the troika of this increasingly active and relevant Climate Vulnerable Forum. Credit goes to the Philippines for all they have done to expand our collaboration since the start of the year.

We believe the argument that emissions cuts harm economic growth for human development is pure myth. Costa Rica has aggressively expanded its renewable energy supplies over the past decade together with the first station reversal and now forest growth. At the same time, as we made progress toward reducing emissions, over the entire last decade we have also been amongst the fastest growing economies in our region and we have been able to maintain and sustain the high human development category in the Human Development Index. And it's not just us: the same happened to the world only last year. Emissions growth temporarily stalled in 2014 but the world economy enjoyed some of the most robust economic growth in years. So it is not true that when a nation makes a commitment to reduce emissions, it does not curtail economic growth or human development. We therefore see huge scope to the Paris Agreement progress and mission forward and take us off-track from the 3 degree world implied by commitments on the table today and to drive global economy, economic prosperity, and human development at the same time. But the urgency could not be greater to raise our ambition now.

Our own region, Central America, has been declared by the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as one of the most vulnerable in the world. The world is currently warming at 2 degrees more than doubles the danger we face – some of them irreversible. For one, the coral reefs we treasure will likely be lost. But it is the human toll of the dramatic floods, storms, and heatwaves that are the heartbreaking sacrifice of a hotter planet especially for the hundreds of millions of vulnerable women, children, and the poor. It also means that the international agreement that we adopt here in Paris has the greatest potential of any action before in the world's governance for improving the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. We launched the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action and we are pleased this Forum is promoting it in the draft documents. Keeping warming to a minimum level below 1.5 degrees won't simply deliver safety and prosperity, it will also deliver justice.

I would like to respectfully invite all your countries to consider the strong linkages between human rights and climate change and to incorporate this vision in your positions during the negotiations. There is now widespread recognition that climate change undermines human rights and failure to integrate human rights into climate action can hinder people's rights. We are convinced that ensuring a people centered approach to climate action and the integration of human rights to climate change policies can improve effectiveness and result in benefits for people and the planet. Integrating a rights perspective is important to understand our obligations as an international community, when what's at stake is the right to life and as Pope Francis rightly pointed out the right to the existence of human nature itself. Intensifying international collaboration will essentially be enabling greater ambition. Our national achievements on climate change would not have been possible without significant international support. Fulfillment of our carbon neutrality ambition can be bolstered through international collaboration and serve as an inspiration for all.

Last month, the V20 group of the CVF Finance Ministers was launched because we know \$100 billion a year from 2020 is far short of what is required from more than 150 developing countries to develop resilient nations. So we have committed to do all we can to mobilize resources domestically, to work with regional opportunities for mobilization, and to ready ourselves for expanded international finance delivery. In doing so, we aim to leverage maximum of private finance to compensate for deficiencies in public resources. But we do expect countries with per capita incomes 5 or 50 times our economies to stand in solidarity with us and support communities on the frontline whose contribution to emissions is absolutely marginal.

Without public financing for adaptation, despite our best efforts, we know people and the environment will suffer because at one point we do have finite limits on our capabilities. We have a historic opportunity in Paris. Big or small you are all like Costa Rica without an army to defend your borders against climate change - it means we are all at the mercy of the international system's collective ability to keep peace vis-a-vis climate change. It's time we do just that. Thank you very much.

H.E. Anwar Hossain Manju

Hon, Minister of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh

Keynote statements by lead member states of the CVF

Mr. Honorable President, Christiana, ladies and gentlemen we have been hearing about this climate vulnerability for a very, very long time. Not that we have not been doing anything regarding this, but we've got to do more. We are jeopardized by the fact that unless we take any of these steps, not only the vulnerable countries that we've point out now, no country can avoid the impact, damage, calamities, and the human sufferings. I was encouraged to hear the speeches of the powerful countries of the world, and there is no need to impress anybody about the vulnerability, the danger in that regards we do not have any difference. What happens if the temperature rises further, what kind of natural calamities it can cause to the countries - well I'm optimistic myself, yes the international bodies, those who can afford to spare more as well as those who can spare less but all have to contribute this is my personal opinion and I believe that this is also the position of my prime minister. We are not sitting idly, we are not looking forward for others money to come in, in my country our prime minister has formed a trust fund with 400 million dollars to face the natural calamities and what steps we can take to reduce it. Of course the multilateral agencies they give us loans, of course at relatively less interest and of course we also get bilateral cooperation and assistance. The world agrees, there's not enough not only for Bangladesh, not only for these vulnerable countries in fact it is for the whole world. When you talk about mitigation, we must understand what we are talking about and when we're talking about.

When we talk about keeping the temperature below 2 degrees preferably, we've got to understand what is required and what we are saying. That is why it can range in how much commitment we can make and how much we can implement our commitments. This is also true in regards to the Fund we have been talking about – \$100 billion per year.

There was probably a time when the world looked much better than it looks today. Every country has problems, every country has unemployment, and every country people are not as satisfied as they used to be. Yet, I welcome the global populations, that we take it as a global issue, global problem. It's a problem of humanity, it's a problem of civilization. Without any malice or prejudice, we have put our heads together. We all have to put our hands in our pockets and let us put our resources on the table and see if the creativity of human beings can handle the crises that we all are facing. And with this note, I'll end because not matter talking the details about it. Everyone must be tired. What time did we start, 9:30? 10 o'clock. Before that there was another Paris thing and before that a United Nations thing. We all have acquired special knowledge in regards to climate temperature rising, sea level rising, and people were initially recommending countries like Bangladesh. Well, now I see even Washington DC will go also under the water if the temperature cannot be kept under control and sea level cannot be contained.

Yes, the world has become a small place thanks to the electronic media. Sometimes the types of typhoons that come to Philippines, in Bangladesh we had never met such kind of cyclones or tornadoes. There was a time when natural calamities, floods and everything, were synonymous with Bangladesh's name: it is no longer true.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this I thank you all and I wish success.

H. E. Annick Girardin

Secretary of State for Development of France.

Keynote statements by COP21 hosts

Monsieur le Président des Philippines,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernement,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Il y a 10 mois, nous étions, avec le Président de la République François Hollande, aux Philippines, à Manille, à votre invitation, puis à Guyana, au cœur d'une des régions dévastées, il y a deux ans par le typhon Yolanda.

Les élus, les pêcheurs, les habitants que nous avons rencontrés là-bas nous ont tous raconté l'horreur de ce super Typhon, de ces vents violents et de l'eau qui recouvre la terre. Nous avons partagé avec le peuple Mexicain, il y a quelques semaines, l'angoisse de voir se reproduire, une catastrophe de cette ampleur.

C'est pourquoi la France salue l'engagement de vos pays particulièrement vulnérables, pour poursuivre l'engagement en faveur d'un accord qui limite au maximum le réchauffement de la planète, en dessous de 2°C, voir de 1,5°C.

Les négociations que nous entamons à Paris nous offrent une opportunité unique en matière d'adaptation. Pour la première fois de l'histoire de ces négociations, nous avons l'opportunité d'écrire un accord qui mette au même niveau les questions d'adaptation et d'atténuation. Pour la première fois, nous avons la possibilité d'écrire un accord qui apporte des réponses précises aux victimes du dérèglement climatique.

La France a en commun avec vous d'être exposée, dans le Pacifique, dans la Caraïbe, à de nombreuses conséquences du dérèglement climatique.

C'est pourquoi nous savons, comme vous, que les attentes des populations qui sont en première ligne face au climat sont fortes.

C'est aussi pourquoi nous soutenons la démarche du V20, qui s'engage dans des actions concrètes sur ces questions, comme le montre le plan d'action que vous préparez.

C'est enfin pourquoi nous saluons les initiatives concrètes issues du G7 sur l'assurance, ou encore celle que la France a proposé à Sendai, au Japon, en mars 2015 sur les systèmes d'alerte. Ces mobilisations, elles viennent renforcer l'accord de Paris, et ne remplacent pas les négociations.

L'objectif de cette initiative nommée CREWS (*climate risk and early warning systems*) est simple : parvenir, d'ici 2020 à une couverture globale des pays vulnérables de systèmes d'alertes précoce, c'est-à-dire étendre la couverture existante à 1 milliard de personnes, et 80 pays.

Car c'est avec des actions concrètes que nous affronterons, ensemble, à vos côtés les conséquences du dérèglement climatique.

Je vous remercie.

Ms. Christiana Figueres

Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

Host remarks by UNFCCC

Thank you very much, my good friend Saleemul. And now Honorable Aquino and dear friends. I would first of all like to welcome once again and congratulate the work of the CVF because it seems to me that what you are doing in working with each other is underlining what I would call the different but similar among so many nations. In doing so, you remind us that we not only have to raise the voice of alarm but actually we are compelled here to accelerate all the action to both increase mitigation, increase resilience in order to decrease and avoid disaster.

I would also like to congratulate you on the 2016 and now the 2018 Road Map with which you are already looking ahead to a very concrete action plan that is going to join you in your efforts. To me, what that Road Map is saying is how do you turn your common vulnerability into strength? How do you transform that which is common into something that is going to bring you together even more into strength either through improved health or increased jobs through better infrastructure to better water access through better tourism, through increased consideration of gender, human rights, and certainly through increased finance via the newly formed V20 group? However, may I raise a voice of concern? I do not see the countries around this table working in an articulated and coordinated fashion for this Paris agreement. This is an urgent matter, I very much appreciate that you're already looking after Paris. But is the countries around this table and many other outside that are going to determine whether we have an ambitious agreement or whether we just have an agreement.

That difference is a key difference for all of you and for many other who are outside. It's a pretty simple equation: the quality of the Paris Agreement = the quality of life of the most vulnerable in every geography. That is the simple equation. That is the stark challenge that brings us here together in Paris. And let me finish by taking the words of President Hollande this morning when he said "the danger is not to aim too high and fail the danger is to aim too low and only do that." Thank you.

Mr. Jose Sixto Gonzalez Dantes II

Commissioner at Large, National Youth Commission, Philippines

Presentation from the #NowPH Campaign and its results and key messages and hand over to H.E.

Thank you very much. Your Excellences, government officials, fellow delegates, ladies, and gentlemen. My being here before today during this Climate Vulnerable Forum is really an unfortunate thing if you think about it because it means my country flew halfway around the globe is hideously vulnerable to the elements. My name is Jose Sixto Gonzalez Dantes and I'm from an archipelago that knows an average of 22 typhoons a year.

I stay informed because every Filipino that has survived a typhoon, like I have, is a climate change expert in one way or another. So please take our word for it, we know. To choose to be involved and to get people involved is truly the greatest contribution we can make in addressing the common problems we face in our common home. With a reach of 221 million social media impressions and 3.6 million total pledges, please listen to all these voices saying "Now." So today, on behalf of the Filipino youth, we would like to formally turn over the output of the campaign proof that we are committed to working together towards climate action with one voice and one call. So Your Excellences, Honorable officials, of different governments in the world, we thank you for listening to us. On behalf of my country and all the countries who agree that the planet is our common home: I thank you for listening to us now. You have the Filipino on your side and we hope to have you fight with us because at the end of the day it is not about us anymore but about the future of the generations to come. A future that is secured and ensured. No other time and no other way. Thank you very much.

H.E. Mr. Kere Chawicha Debessa

State Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia

Leaders Remarks by incoming presidency

Thank you, Mr. Chair. It gives me a great pleasure to join you here and to accept the chairmanship of the CVF. We meet here at a defining moment as we negotiate and adopt a new climate agreement. We are hopeful that this agreement will address the interests and concerns of the members of this platform however, we cannot hide the glaring fact that climate change does not affect us equally. Those countries that have contributed the least are affected the most. An agreement that does not take account of this fact is not a fair one and it will not be effective one. When I hear this inequality downplayed, I am reminded of a proverb in my country: a child whose mother went to a market cries as much as a child whose mother has died. We, the most vulnerable countries, stand to lose the most in these negotiations but we are not here to cry. We are here to cooperate and form partnerships. We are here to share experiences. Even if we contribute the least and suffer the most, we do not sit idly.

Ethiopia, for example, communicated that in its INDCs that it will reduce emissions by 64% by the year 2030. We expect the Paris Outcome to take account of our vulnerability and include the following: an ambitious temperature goal of 1.5 degree Celsius, regular review of efforts to top-up contributions to staying on track to meet this goal, extensive mobilization of support vulnerable countries.

As the next chair of this Forum, Ethiopia will work to continue to strengthen the measures to implement the Paris Outcome, mobilized support to the most vulnerable including enhanced capacity support to better access climate finance, the cooperation among ourselves, to share our experiences and help each other. Finally, I would like to reiterate our commitment to this Forum and our willingness to take on the chair. I would like to thank the current Chair for the excellent work carried out so far. I thank you very much.

H.E. Mr. José Antonio Funes Rodríguez

Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Mines, Honduras

Leaders Remarks by incoming members

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and CVF representatives first thank you for the new members. On behalf of the Honduran Government and people I am honored and grateful to the incoming membership of our country to the CVF. Hereby I am glad to present the initiative for climate change action.

Good afternoon, representing Honduras we believe that co-responsibility of what happens here today will be used tomorrow. As we are taking part in important solutions to the problems the whole nation are facing as Hondurans we have problem with deforestation and recycling. The climate campaign is the most important one because protection of the climate needs action. It is our individual actions, our responsibilities and expectations to the problems, we all as mobile ants we can get a grip. The goal against global warming of Honduras with the advice from Central American countries and the government throughout society has over the last six weeks resulted in 1 million signatures calling on the countries to take action or we will all suffer serious consequence and results that affect the country by the effects of climate change which are global. But more interesting is that according to a report Honduras produces 12,000 gigatonnes of carbon annually while the United States produces 6.8 million annually and the European Union 4.6, showing that we are suffering drastic problems as the result of large instances of developed countries having emissions framing put every moment. Thank you everybody.

Mr. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar

Deputy Director General National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan

Leaders Remarks by members

Good evening everybody. Mr. Chair, his Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the National Environmental Protection Agency I would like to congratulate the new members of the CVF and associate ourselves with the statements made here at the forum and also the Manila Parties Declaration. I am also pleased to extend my support to the regional recommendations made during the Global consultations in Bonn in June 2015. As a member of CVF Afghanistan is highly prone to natural disasters throughout our 34 provinces. As a result of Climate Change it is anticipated that in the instances of extreme weather, including heat waves, floods and droughts will likely increase as linked to climate change such as glacial lakes outflows. In conclusion Afghanistan will commit to the activities that the forum makes and also we would like to work with you in all events that are coming in the future.

Ms. Shobini Gunasekara

Deputy Chief of Mission, Sri Lanka

Leaders Remarks by incoming members

Mr. Chair, Excellences and ladies and gentlemen. Sri Lanka is a country highly vulnerable to climate change we have presented nationally determined contribution to strengthen the global efforts of both mitigation and adaption in response to challenges posed by climate change. Today we have become a member of the Manilla Paris Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. We share with the Member States the collective ambition to undertake concerted efforts to protect the most vulnerable nations from adverse climate effects work in the spirit of the south-south cooperation in giving a voice to the issues we face. We congratulate all the countries who have joined the CVF today.

Mr. Thinley Namgyel

Head of Delegation, Bhutan

Leaders Remarks by members

Thank you Mr. Chair, Excellences, and Representatives I have the honor of speaking on behalf of the delegation of Bhutan. At the outset I convey the regrets of my Minister who has not been able to join the Climate Vulnerable Forum as he is in Bhutan for the parliamentary session. As a member of the group of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts of climate change, we join others in thanking the leadership of the Philippines and guiding the work of this group and also the work of all other members in the lead up to the outcomes of the Manilla Paris Declaration and the roadmap that has been adopted. While Bhutan is presently classified as one of the least developed country due to our social economic development status we are also highly vulnerable to climate change due to our geographic situation being landlocked and a mountainous country with a very fragile weather system in the Himalayas. So for us, with the high mountain situation and rise in temperatures, 2 degrees is really significantly high which means about 3-4 degrees in our situation. Like many other countries in this group we are also facing extreme events such as flash floods, hailstorms and landslides and the risk of catastrophic glacial floods just like our neighbors in Nepal and also in Afghanistan as mentioned continues to be a growing threat. The dependence of our population on agriculture and the economy on hydropower for economic development furthers our vulnerability. Reflecting on the progress on climate change of this group in the INDC of Bhutan we have reiterated our pledge of 2009 to remain carbon neutral where we envisioned we want to limit our growth of emissions within the same capacity of a forest. Central to this is our commitment to keep 60 percent of our land and forest covered at all times. We have also identified broad priority actions for low emission development as a way to limit the growth of emissions. Our INDC also includes another component outlining our needs to address the adverse impacts of climate change. While Bhutan had nothing to do with causing climate change we are still committed in line with the philosophy of gross national happiness towards social economic development and a belief in intergenerational equality. Finally Mr Chair we welcome all new members who have just joined the CVF and we look forward to this group progressing further under the new presidency of Ethiopia and we extend our full support and cooperation in the work ahead.

Mr. Batjargal Zamba

Climate Change Unit Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia

Leaders Remarks by incoming members

Thank you. So far, Mongolia is an observer member to the CVF and the president of Mongolia announce I think in the last meeting in Manila that Mongolia's willing to be a member of this group therefore I would like to confirm that Mongolia would be happy to upgrade its status from observer to member of CVF. Thank you.

Ms. Mary Robinson

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change; Representative of the CVF/V20 secretariat (hosted by UNDP)

Statements of appreciation

Well Good Evening Excellences, ladies and gentlemen I wanted to reflect on the pleasure of sitting here and listening at this meeting because I've attended a number of different events today involving forest countries, least developed countries and to some extent I've had to leave almost immediately after speaking, and or before or early on in the meeting and it was good to have time to listen to this meeting because throughout the day I've been struck by the ambitious leadership that has been visible from so many countries including countries who are part of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. This was particularly evident during this morning's opening statements by presidents and prime ministers, heads of states and governments where leader after leader spoke of how they want to play their part in ambitious climate action. So I believe we must use the moment that COP21 presents because it will be hard to build this momentum again and I want to perhaps build a little bit on what I think Christiana Figueres was hinting at - she was suggesting that you could be even more effective, even more able to build alliances and I think one of the ways in seeking to do that would be to capture the statements of the presidents and prime ministers particularly from developed countries and actually remind their delegations that their leaders have spoken in this way. Because I have heard them speak about climate justice and about the vulnerability of countries that had no role in responsibility in creating climate change there's a lot of possibility to actually put this to the delegations who will be negotiating the agreement that you will all be negotiating and I suggest that you might do that because as has been said around this table the CVF has a powerful role to play in building and sustaining this momentum for action. You're a platform for the voices of 1 billion climate vulnerable people around the world and you should use this power. These people are the men, women and children that experience hunger, disadvantage, the loss of homes, of livelihoods and loved ones as a result of climate impacts that they bear the least responsibility for. So as the leaders of 1 billion people you have the responsibility to raise their voices in the negotiating rooms and hold firm to secure an agreement that reflects their voices and needs and from time to time remind delegations of what their president or prime minister said about their countries and the need to be fair and the need to have a climate agreement that protects the most vulnerable. The ultimate test of this agreement will be the extent to which it protects the most vulnerable. By raising your voices you can draw on your collective work, which highlights the impact of climate change on the human rights of people in your countries and you can create a strong moral voice for action. For too long, climate change has been understood as a narrow environmental issue. Even the climate convention itself doesn't talk about people. I was very amazed when I read the text and I began to realize the impact of climate change on human rights but there is actually no reference to people but it does talk about protecting the climate system for present and future generations of humankind so perhaps that's another way of saying it. You remind the world that climate change is about sustainable development, poverty eradication, well-being, and opportunities for all. You have a great chance in the coming days to place people not just at the heart of this new agreement but also at the center of a new approach to zero carbon climate resilient development that is founded on equity and solidarity. I've actually followed the progress of the Climate Vulnerable Forum over the last few years and this year under the chairmanship of the Philippines it has grown from strength to strength to become a powerful collective voice to reflect countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that is I think why a number of countries this evening have become interested in joining this forum. One of the most exciting aspects of the CVF is its practical demonstration of the value of South-South cooperation. It's exciting that the UN has been able to support such an innovative and game-changing initiative. This recognizes the realities of a changing international system. Finally if I could just say that I'm pleased the UN has provided an effective secretariat to the CVF and V20 through UNDP I'd like to express thanks and acknowledge the financial support for these activities through the CVF trust fund which includes finance from CVF members themselves as well as from the government of Germany. I hope that the United Nations will continue to lend intensified support to the CVF and other examples of South-South cooperation as countries intensify their efforts to combat climate change. So in conclusion we need to use this COP in Paris to keep the momentum building. Many of the poorest and vulnerable people in the world are relying on you, relying on you to augment their voices, relying on you to remind leaders who spoke here and delegations who are represented by their president or prime minister in what was said today. Let me put it this way as I listen to the speeches that were made by leaders I think that we could really get a great agreement but the trouble is are they telling their delegations this is what we want! So it's up to you to hold them to account for what they said publicly at this COP and try to use that to get the fair binding robust agreement and the 1.5 degrees and the other issues that are so important for the Climate Vulnerable Forum. I wish you well and I was delighted to be able to hear the views around the table. Thank you very much.

Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Statements of appreciation

Thank you very much and Excellences members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum old and new ones I am very pleased to be able to join you today for this session and see how this forum is growing. I would also like to echo Mary Robinson just said in congratulating the Philippines for the very dynamic leadership you've provided to this forum and allowed it to have an impact here in Paris. It's very important for the future. You made it very important advocacy platform that also provided strong leadership and your common will to accelerate a unified global action based on shared interest and an ambition to mitigate climate change. Excellences the presidency of Philippines said in his opening comments for this Forum said it's not about "who does what but all countries need to do everything". You also quoted the new normal we use to talk about, which now has everyday even newer normals. This strong vision was captured in the leadership that the Philippines provided also in the development of the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that was agreed in Japan in March this year. Where the Philippines with many other countries really draw home the reality that disaster risk must be managed through the very processes of development that created the risks in the first place. Therefore we must get our development approach right in the post 2015 landscape and what you are deciding here in this conference is critical to that. Climate change is one of the most significant drivers of risk in our world today we've heard a lot about disasters from early in the day through to late this evening. The majority 90% by global estimates of all disasters are all climate and weather related. Understanding and recognising these risks that we face in the medium and long term must be at the heart of the agreement that you are about to negotiate. Ultimately this will be the only way and the most effective way and maybe only way of implementing all the agreements of 2015 starting from Sendai, from the SDG and the climate agreement that we are look forward to the conclusion of here in Paris. If I can also take this opportunity after benefiting from the relationship with Philippines to thank our absent Senator Legarda who has relentlessly advanced the causes of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation through legislation, advocacy and mobilisation of partners of society. Senator Legarda was appointed champion of disaster risk reduction many years ago. She has been an outspoken and consistent champion for the need to rethink development and work with all parts of society. Therefore in order to recognise her services to the disaster risk reduction but also as a legislator for climate change adaptation I think it will be appropriate also to tell you that today we will appoint her the Global Champion for Resilience and I ask the chair to take a symbolic acknowledgment back to the Philippines for this and hand over with our great appreciation.

Hon. Senator Loren Legarda

Closing remarks by the Philippine presidency

We may be vulnerable but we are not incapable.

The Philippines and other nations in the Climate Vulnerable Forum are committed to making the world a safer and livable place for future generations. We know how it is to become victims of a phenomenon we did not cause. We do not want our children or anyone's children to be victims as well.

We can talk about the climate change laws we have passed and our efforts to build resilience, and the attention we have paid to increasing the share of renewable energy in our country. None of this really matters if Paris does not deliver the agreement that sets all of us on the road to a safe future.

What good is a list of achievements if Paris fails to set a target that aims for 1.5 degrees? If Paris fails to set clear long-term goals – if the outcome in Paris is mute about the absolutely undeniable need for global decarbonization by or before 2050, all the efforts of vulnerable countries will not be enough to stem the crisis.

We in the CVF have come together so that others may act with a greater sense of urgency. We are calling for more ambitious plans domestically if only to give the gift of greater ambition to those among you who are in a position to deliver not only drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions but also in urgently needed finance.

Paris must aim for nothing less than the transformation of the global economy. When we say the age of fossil fuels must end, we should see Paris as milestone that set all of us on this course.

We need Paris to deliver Loss and Damage in a way that does more than just confirm the Warsaw Mechanism. It must already set in motion steps that develop innovative finance approaches able to respond to impacts that are beyond the reach of adaptation.

We need Paris to send the strongest possible signal to the private sector – it is in the realm of sustainable investments where business is most needed.

We must penalize coal enterprises for the pollution they engender. Let Paris signal the shift of finance to clean, reliable, accessible and affordable renewable energy.

The CVF welcomes other vulnerable nations that wish to become part of the Forum and we ask the developed countries to support us. It is no longer a philosophy of 'to each his own', and not only a matter of economy, or policy. It is an issue of humanity and conscience.

The truth is, there are no borders; we are all connected and we suffer the consequences of climate change together. This is not the time for restraint; this is not the time to wag the finger of indictment. This is the moment for collective and urgent climate action.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlstrom, who has been most supportive in our initiatives to strengthen resilience of the various institutions in my country. You have ably led the UNISDR in empowering nations, business, individuals and the whole of society to build safer communities. I thank you for the trust given to me as Global Champion for Resilience.

May the Road to Paris lead the world to a brighter and resilient future.

H.E. Mr. Emmanuel M. De Guzman

Secretary and Vice Chairperson, Climate Change Commission

Closing remarks

Thank you very much. As we close we'd like to express our profound gratitude to Madame Wahlstrom for her recognition of the efforts of the Philippines presidency of the CVF and the same goes to Madame Robinson thank you very much. As we close wish to thank Senator Loren Legarda for her steadfast championship of the climate action in the Philippines and abroad and today we end the Climate Vulnerable Forum High-Level event with a united and unequivocal call for global climate action. Launching the Manila-Paris Declaration as well as the Climate Vulnerable Forum Road Map for 2016-2018 we mark this day with this decisive stride in the march against the devastating onslaught of climate change and its devastating effects we hope for a successful conclusion of COP21. We look forward to collectively reshaping the global economy with the promising potential of a globally binding framework on inclusive and sustainable development. It's not just existential survival we want - we need a more sustainable model of shared prosperity for the world. The work has just begun we have agreed to strengthening our own national climate actions towards the goal of staying below 1.5. Upscaling our own mitigation actions, capacity development for adaptation and climate risk management. Together we develop countries who have also committed to accelerating progress for climate finance turning to innovative solutions to close the 100 billion needed to secure ourselves a more livable planet. We thank all of the members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum as well as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, The Asian Development Bank, the International Organization for Migration, for their contributions from day to today's High-Level event towards a successful COP21. Fostering this new cultural of global collaboration for climate action is crucial for our individual survival and our shared prosperity. We believe we are more than just the sum of our parts and that our collective voice and action will count for much not only in COP21 but even as we return to our home countries to proceed with the hard work of fulfilling our shared commitments. With this we close today's CVF High-Level event with hope. May Paris be forever known for the lights we all commit to hold up together for a more sustainable future. Thank you.

Annexes at the High Level Meeting

1. Manila-Paris Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum
2. 2016-18 Road Map of the Climate Vulnerable Forum
3. Press Release "World's vulnerable open gateway to climate safe future at Paris"