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## PH PRESSING NATIONS TO RAISE INDC COMMITMENTS FOR CLIMATE FUND AND GREEN ENERGY

Marrakech, Morocco  
– The Earthsavers Movement UNESCO Dream Center founded by Former Senator Heherson T. Alvarez who also served as Secretary of Environment and the Climate Change Commissioner of the Philippines was the lead convener of a successful official side event in COP22.



The Tri-Continental Dialogue, De-Carbonization to Defy Disasters with climate solutions was held in partnership with Tzu Chi Foundation, Climate Institute, South-South Cooperation Council (SSCC), WeatherRisk Explore Inc., The International Theatre Institute (ITI-CIDC), Social Change Network and Ugandan Member of Parliament.

In particular, Alvarez, urged G20 countries to fulfill their nationally determined contributions (NDC's) in order to help curb the suffering of climate-vulnerable countries. On average, the GDP of G20 countries is USD 4000 billion. This means that the USD 100 billion contribution towards climate finance is miniscule. For instance, the European Union (average GDP: USD 18,398 B) would only have to contribute 0.54% of this amount. Additionally, the United States whose GDP on average is USD 17,416 billion would only have to contribute 0.57%.

“This contribution is measly compared to the national wealth that was created by countries who have historically emitted greenhouse gas emissions. If you look at the destructive impact of

climate change, noting in particular super typhoon Haiyan in my country, USD 300 million worth of onslaught happened,” Alvarez said.

“We need more technological capacity building assistance for developing countries and more carbon reduction from developed countries. Unless these values are changed so that they become responsive to the threatened climate disaster, the meeting in Marrakech would be just another meeting. It will not be a watershed as many have expected since Paris.”

“But,” he said, “while we have been able to manage physical destruction, it is always far more difficult to address the invisible impact of disasters like the trauma of children who have lost their parents, of families who have lost homes and miserable fortunes. There are many people who have been emotionally dislocated. That is why the UN Green Climate Fund is so important - to help us develop fully the capacity to manage the peoples’ grief, too.”

Joining Alvarez in the panel were Lead Scientist and Founder of WeatherRisk Explore Inc., Dr. Chi-Ming Peng, who explained the need to decarbonize to prevent the irreversible stage of climate catastrophe globally. Additionally, Debra Boudreaux, Vice President of the Tzu Chi Foundation, underscored the importance of changing our lifestyle in order to help those who are less fortunate.

Viktor Sebek, Chairman of SSCC, focused on addressing the concerns of indigenous people of South America, particularly different tribes around Ecuador and Venezuela. Ugandan Member of Parliament, Hon. Cecilia Barbara Atim-Ogwal, passionately explained that Africa is rich in resources but needs assistance to manage their own wealth to fight poverty and climate change.

Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez, a Magsasay laureate for public service, Director of Earthsavers Ensemble and honored as UNESCO Artist for Peace presented the plight of Climate and Conflict Refugees in a conscientizing call for emergency humanitarian response. An intercultural exhibit at COP22 organized by the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and the EarthSavers Movement showcased paintings and photographs, poetry, video clips and songs gathered by Guidote-Alvarez from Colombia, Philippines and Georgia to remind wider society of the suffering of generally forgotten victims who live in degraded conditions.

The exhibition from Marrakech can be viewed locally during the observance of Climate Change Consciousness Week courtesy of Senate Climate Change Committee Chair, Loren Legarda in liaison with Environment Committee led by Senator Cynthia Villar and the Education and Culture Committee of Senator Bam Aquino from November 23 until December 3, 2016 at the Philippine Senate.

The COP22 in Marrakech is focused on building the implementation mechanisms in view of the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement. Topics such as loss and damage have been at the forefront of the negotiations. This year, vulnerable nations, like the Philippines, and small-island states want a concrete guarantee of assistance in finance, capacity building and technology transfer.



The South-South Dialogue served as a platform for participants to voice the ruin that has been suffered in their own countries and to deliberate on what vulnerable countries expect in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate justice along the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. These conclusions were also shared in a press conference in the UNFCCC Media Center.