Your Excellencies,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good day to all of you.

The Philippines, through the Department of Transportation (DOTr), reaffirms our commitment to achieving sustainable, inclusive, and safe transportation for Asia and the Pacific.

Aware of our country’s vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and crises, we cling to the institution of transport policies and the development of much-needed infrastructure to scale up sustainable transport and strengthen regional cooperation. And we are making sure to carry out these initiatives in all of our transport sectors: the Aviation and Airports, Railways, Road Transport, and Maritime.
To sustain economic growth and address climate change threats, the Philippines has submitted its first Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 15 April 2021.

We are also committed to achieving a projected 75% greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and avoidance through various transport regulations to uphold the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other global international agendas and agreements.

We remain steadfast in strengthening the efforts stipulated in all five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action, which covers better road safety management; safer roads, vehicles, and people; and enhanced post-crash care.

To address the road safety crisis, we reviewed and updated the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2020, and developed the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2022. It is a comprehensive and inclusive plan that envisions zero road traffic death, -- a goal that the Philippine government is diligently working on through the interventions of various concerned agencies and sectors.

Apart from these initiatives, the DOTr issued vital policies, such as the Guidelines and Protocols for Active Transportation and Light Mobility Vehicles. The guidelines were issued in 2020 to promote active transport, especially amid the raging COVID-19 pandemic. Other policy instruments to achieve safer roads
include the Anti-Distracted Driving Act enacted in 2016 and the Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act, signed into law in 2019.

The Philippine government is also actively promoting low-carbon transport by implementing the Duterte administration’s most extensive transformational program -- the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program or the PUVMP. One of its major components, fleet modernization, aims to replace old, dilapidated vehicle units with modern ones to provide passengers with more comfortable, accessible, reliable, and safer transport services.

Most importantly, to achieve a more sustainable transport system in the country, we have also been persistent in improving our transport infrastructure across the archipelago through the “BUILD, BUILD, BUILD” program.

As we speak, the DOTr has completed a total of 233 airport projects nationwide since we took over in 2016. In 2018, we have opened the country’s first eco-airport: the Bohol Panglao International Airport. This “green” gateway uses sustainable structures with solar panels on its Passenger Terminal Building.

In the Maritime sector, we have finished 484 commercial and social tourism port projects nationwide. Anchored in digitization and automation, we have likewise rolled out various solutions such as automated ticketing systems at ports, contactless vessel booking and payment systems,
electronic payment schemes for port users, accreditation, permit management, and other transactions.

In our Road sector, we are relentless in our pursuit to implement modernization and use of intermodal transport systems. We have built almost 500-kilometers of bike lanes across the country and continue to push through with the establishment of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects in major cities nationwide.

In the Railways Sector, construction works for big-ticket infrastructure projects are being fast-tracked to extend the country’s railway length from merely 77 kilometers to over 1,000 kilometers before we step down in 2022.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a challenging year. Still, we are one with you, our fellow Member States in Asia and the Pacific, in translating a year of difficulties into a year of opportunities to create a universal, sustainable, inclusive transportation ecosystem. One that caters to the needs not just for the people of today but for generations to come.

To all of you, thank you very much and Mabuhay!

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