Thank you Mister Chair,

The Philippines is highly exposed to natural hazards and disasters because it lies along the Pacific Typhoon Belt and is within the Pacific Ring of Fire. Its vulnerability is exacerbated by unmanaged settlement in hazard-prone areas, high poverty rate, unplanned urbanization and land use, and degradation of forests and coastal resources, among others. On average, eight or nine tropical storms make landfall in the Philippines each year, with another ten entering Philippine waters.

The brunt of these natural hazards is most felt by 27.6 million Filipinos who are among the poorest and marginalized who also have large family size. They are often trapped in a seemingly never-ending cycle of disaster, displacement and rebuilding.

Given its vulnerability to disasters and to the impact of climate change, the challenge to ensure the resiliency of every Filipino family is indeed daunting. But as united people, Filipinos continue to institute measures to build individual and communal resiliency. We have a Climate Change law that aims to institute mechanisms to enhance resiliency of communities to natural disasters. This is supported by the People’s Survival Fund that
financially supports the implementation of these measures. We are likewise promoting the Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) integrated approach to ensure a more holistic approach to addressing population dynamics, environmental and health issues.

Since natural disasters and climate change is a global phenomenon, a collective approach is imperative. We call the countries in the Asian and the Pacific to continue working together and collaborate with each other to build the resiliency of our constituents in the region. The Philippines will always welcome collaborative and coordinating mechanisms with our neighboring and development partners to establish a workable arrangement that can help each country to protect itself from negative impact of natural disasters and climate change.