

**STATEMENT OF THE  
HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ  
ON HARNESSING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION (STI) FOR A MORE PEACEFUL AND  
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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Fellow members of parliaments, colleagues;  
Representatives from different countries;  
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) officers and staff;  
Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is a privilege and an honor to speak with you today on the topic of great importance: *“Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for a More Peaceful and Sustainable Future”*.

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration which integrated the millennium development goals.

Recognizing the important role of science and technology in achieving most of these goals and with the heightened acceleration of advances in modern technology, the domain of science and technology was extended to include the concept of innovation. The complementary, interdependent nature of these three different concepts means that they must be considered as one; together.

Science, technology and innovation serve as our guiding lights of hope. They are our tools in addressing some of the most pressing issues we have today. They support us in achieving our sustainable development goals and in shaping future peace. They hold vast potentials to form and drive global solutions to the world's problems.

Science, technology and innovation are recognized as key drivers that enable and accelerate the global transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies in developing and developed countries alike. They are the pillars of sustainable development. They have the strong potential to contribute to the achievement of almost all the sustainable development goals. They are the heart

of international cooperation and global partnerships for development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development involves transformation that will not be possible without a sustained effort to close the technological gaps between developed and developing countries.

Cognizant of the importance of these tools toward economic development and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we, in the Philippines, have enacted several policies and reforms and implemented initiatives through the approval of legislative measures to improve innovation governance in the country. To cite a few, we have **Republic Act No. 11293, also known as the “*Philippine Innovation Act*”**; **Republic Act No. 11927, otherwise known as the “*Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act*”**; and **Republic Act No. 10055, also known as the “*Technology Transfer Act of 2009*”**.

In line with the legislative priorities of His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the National Innovation Council was created to ensure that

innovation is embedded as a key priority in our country's pathway to socio-economic development.

The Council, which is chaired by the President, administers a 10-year policy vision, goals, and strategies, referred to as the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD), that contains the country's vision and long-term goals for innovation and a road map of the strategies for improving innovation governance; deepening and accelerating innovation efforts; and integrating and fostering public-private partnerships, mindful of the policy of **"leaving no Filipino behind"**.

This has borne dividends for our country. In the 2024 Global Innovation Index of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which measures the innovation-based performance of 130+ economies, the Philippines ascended in their rankings from 59<sup>th</sup> in 2023 to 56<sup>th</sup> place in 2024. In the same report, the Philippines was recognized as one of the decade's top innovation performers, having achieved its highest rank at 50<sup>th</sup> place in 2020 during the global pandemic.

**The Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act** aims to address gaps in digital technology and skills by providing programs that equip Filipinos with the necessary competencies for the global labor market. The Act ensures support for the digital workforce through co-working facilities and loan facilities with concessional terms. It also allows for public-private partnerships to plan and implement training, skills development, and certification programs for digital careers.

**The Technology Transfer Act** aims to promote and facilitate the transfer and commercialization of intellectual property, technology and knowledge resulting from research and development programs funded by the government for the benefit of our national economy.

**Under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023-2028,** our Government has emphasized the importance of innovation in achieving deep socioeconomic transformation. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched the PAGTANAW 2050, the first DOST funded inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary project on Philippine-focused

Science Technology Innovation Foresight and Strategic Plan. It is a compendium of science, technology and innovation megatrends, global and national societal goals, transdisciplinary operation areas, and current and emerging technologies relevant to the nation's development that is firmly grounded in the aspirations of Filipinos.

With all of these legislation, policies and programs, in terms of innovation governance, the Philippines Global Innovation Index has been increasing over the last decade. In fact, the Philippines is recognized as one of the middle-income economies with the fastest innovation catch up.

As we continue to work for our respective nations' sustainable development ambitions, we need as well to work hand in hand to achieve our common global goals. Let me then urge each one of us to foster collaboration, equity and responsibility. It is through this collaboration that we can harness the technological tools to be able to build a future not only more sustainable but more peaceful.

Let us take advantage of this potential of science technology and innovation and utilize them fully and responsibly to be able to address the challenges in these modern times. Let us ensure that innovations and technological advancements are accessible to all. Let us unite together and continue to cooperate for the betterment of the world we live in.

**Thank you very much and mabuhay po kayong lahat.**