Green Call to Action

We, representatives from government, employers' and workers' groups, gathered at the 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference on August 15-16, 2011 in Pasay City:

Aware that inclusive growth, which creates massive employment opportunities and significantly reduces poverty, is the over-arching objective of the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016;

Conscious that employment-rich growth, where the people are economically engaged in productive and decent work is the aim of the Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016, which counts among its strategies adopting measures for energy efficiency through conservation and the use of renewables in order to reduce pollution and waste, thereby also generating green jobs and developing green workplaces;

Mindful that the Medium-Term Youth Development Plan 2011-2016 addresses the youth unemployment issue by, among others, providing decent work and livelihood alternatives in the green sector;

Cognizant that the creation of green jobs is embedded in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities as defined in the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 and its counterpart Local Climate Change Action Plans;

Enlightened that adoption of green growth can bring business opportunities and can lead to greater resource efficiency that make micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) more competitive, thereby enabling MSMEs to produce goods and services that respond to the demand for green products as embodied in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan 2011-2016;

Knowing that the implementation of the National Greening Program, which targets the planting of 1.5 billion trees, within 1.5 million hectares seeks to attain sustainable human development and economic and ecological security, thus creating green jobs;

Informed of enterprise-based initiatives to green workplaces and production processes and to make services more environment-friendly;

Delighted that workers' organizations in their pursuit of decent work that is sustainable have promoted green jobs as part of their social movement unionism strategy;

United in the belief that green jobs and decent work are one and the same—whether in agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, construction, research and development, administrative and service activities—in so far as they contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality and balance; that these help to protect and preserve the ecosystem and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials and water consumption through high-
efficiency strategies; low-carbon the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid all forms of waste and pollution;

Thereby AFFIRM and COMMIT ourselves to this Green Call to Action, for the benefit of the community and of utmost importance to the future generations; to take the necessary steps to protect our environment through building our mitigation and adaptive capacity to the impact of climate change, particularly on its impact on the world of work.

We hereby pledge to lead by example by taking the following steps to promote green jobs:

1. Spread awareness and regularly exchange information on the changes in the world of work as a result of climate change such as new and transformed jobs, skills and competencies that will be required in the medium-term; and practices that have promoted green jobs or green innovations in order to come up with greener solutions in more workplaces across the country;

2. Create awareness among youth leaders on initiatives that they can carry out in their communities that can help protect the environment and contribute to the creation of more green jobs;

3. Encourage greater environmental stewardship among our members, communities, local government units and stakeholders, through joint nationwide advocacy efforts in promoting green jobs;

4. Provide creative face-to-face or virtual platforms for employers, workers and the youth to learn from each other, and from national and international initiatives and best practices on greening the workplace to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

5. Establish a mechanism for government, employers and workers to discuss opportunities and constraints in the promotion of green jobs and the role that constituents can play, and equally to observe in their common actions the principles of a fair and viable transition;

6. Explore with an open mind, eco-friendly production processes at work and the delivery of services of enterprises and to provide incentives and rewards for industries and workers for such initiatives;

7. Actively participate in research and consultations on establishing green standards for the labor market and a green standards framework that will promote green jobs and decent work;

8. Study the establishment of new rights and labor standards that arise from the green commitment such as the right to information, whistleblower protection, right to refuse dangerous work and the right to refuse work that is destructive to the environment;

9. In the energy sector, contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments (whether foreign or local), new enterprises (whether micro, small, medium or large) and livelihoods that are sustainable and eco-friendly from the beginning; and cooperate on identifying priority green sectors that can engender a greater number of green jobs;

10. Help formulate standards on building green workplaces, finding practical ways to transform ordinary workplaces to greener workplaces through, among others: better solid waste management, energy conservation and low-carbon footprint, that are at the same time occupationally safe and healthy workplaces;
11. Meaningfully participate in social dialogue at the workplace, sectoral and national levels, in order to promote climate change adaptation programs and to create more green jobs;

12. Negotiate for Green Agreements that push for eco-friendly practices at work and that promote work in sustainable enterprises where there is gainful employment, respect for rights at work, social protection and social dialogue;

13. Continuously build our capacity to implement programs for the promotion of decent work and green jobs;

14. Partner with international organizations on resource mobilization, information sharing and technical expertise on climate change and other environmental concerns.

Signed this 16th day of August 2011 in Pasay City, Philippines.

Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

Maryann Lucille Sering
Secretary
Climate Change Commission

Leon G. Flores III
Chairperson
National Youth Commission

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Atty. Alex Villaraza
Vice President
Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

Atty. Jose Antoni Matula
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www.philgreenjobs.dole.gov.ph