



Towards Coherent Policies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Philippines:

**A Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Inputs to the
Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019**

A Documentation Report
February 7-8, 2019



Acronyms and Terms

ALS	Alternative Learning System
BBB	Build-Build-Build
BCC-CO	Basic Christian Community-Community Organizing
BOL	Bangsamoro Organic Law
BOP	Balance of Payments
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CYD	Children and Youth with Disabilities
DOE	Department of Energy
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
Exim Bank	Export–Import Bank
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FIT	Feed-In Tariff
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEO	Green Energy Option
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
ICC	Investment Coordination Committee

ICT	Integrated Communications Technology
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IRRs	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LUCs	Local Universities and Colleges
MACR	Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NM	Net-Metering Law
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OFW	Overseas Filipino Workers
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRRM	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RE	Renewable Energy Act
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RPEL	Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standards
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
SWP	Social Watch Philippines
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Care Act
UNCAT	United Nations Convention against Torture
VAT	Value Added Tax
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive Summary

The upcoming 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July in New York with the theme, “*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*,” spurred Social Watch Philippines (SWP) and other organizations on to facilitate a process for civil society organizations from different sectors towards engaging the Philippine government on the Voluntary National Review (VNR). With around 70 CSO participants, a consultation workshop *Towards Coherent Policies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Philippines: Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Inputs to the Voluntary National Review (VNR)* was held on February 7 to 8, 2019 in Quezon City, Philippines.

The ultimate objective of the CSO Consultation Workshop was to provide a participatory and inclusive process in crafting a parallel report that will spotlight the issues and themes important to civil society, and provide an alternative lens to the official reading of the status of SDGs in the Philippines. Specifically, the workshop aimed to gather the rich and diverse perspectives of the CSOs on the current status of SDGs in the country with particular focus on the key themes of the 2019 HLPF.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the organizations to discuss the key trends and challenges on the intersecting SDGs 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17, and served as a venue for strengthening CSO unity around a common policy agenda on the SDGs. Over the course of one and a half days, the participants brought into focus the trends and status analysis on the SDGs, identified the key challenges that have the greatest impact on the poor and socially excluded groups, and proposed solutions and policy recommendations. Discussions were framed by presentations by the panelists, additional inputs from reactors, followed by an open forum in which participants were invited to ask questions and share their insights.

At the same time, the workshop echoed the essence of the message of Mr. Isagani Serrano, President of Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) and Convenor of Social Watch Philippines during the reading of his Opening Remarks, that is while many good things are happening within society as a whole, it is imperative to engage with the government, not only by taking a “whole of government approach,” but also a “whole of society approach” to work towards turning “the dream of fairness in a fragile world” into reality (See Appendix II).

During the first day, discussions revolved around “*Increasing Concentration of Wealth and Economic Power as Obstacles to Sustainable Development and What to Do about it? (SDG 8, SDG 10).*” In the afternoon of the first day, participants were divided into three groups for the parallel sessions on “*Are Climate Justice Battles Being Fought and Won? Keeping Score (SDG 13),*” “*Debt, Trade, Aid, Foreign Investment (SDG 17),*” and “*Social Policies: Education, Health, and Social Protection.*” On the second day, the focus was on “*Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16),*” followed by an open forum and the summary of the parallel sessions.

The workshop brought about what has been dubbed the ‘People’s National Voluntary Review’ that takes into account and highlights the perspectives of the indigenous peoples (IP), Moro people, persons with disabilities (PWD), children, women, and other socially excluded and marginalized groups. Participants were encouraged to rethink the time scales and consider centennial planning with future generations in mind, whilst thinking of ways to destroy age-old, recurring problems in order to build, recreate, and reimagine a better world for all.

Some Key Recommendations:

- Improve the collection and analysis of quality, reliable data disaggregated by age, gender, location, race, ethnicity, income, education, disabilities, migratory status, and other factors by investing in civil society, community, and national statistical capacities;
- Promote green agro-industrialization development paradigm and sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and put in place industrial policies with low or reduced carbon footprint. This includes putting greater focus on MSMEs and sustainable enterprises;
- Strengthen universal and transformative social policies by addressing backlogs and issues of quality, affordability, and access to education, health, social protection;
- Substantially increase public investments for education and health, and ensure that these finances go to projects that benefit the poor and socially excluded groups;
- Mobilize resources to finance the country’s development and coordinate policies on debt financing, relief, and restructuring to ensure that the debt is long-term and sustainable;
- Integrate the teaching of the SDGs into the curriculum of public administration schools with the aim of changing mindsets, attitudes, and values for the better;
- Redistribute resources and access to decision-making;
- Strengthen government capacity to regulate the private sector, and strictly enforce rules, laws, and regulations, as well as fairer wages through supporting labor and pushing for redistribution;
- Support civil society organizations through financing, consultation, collaboration, and the creation of broader spaces to amplify their voices and express their advocacies;
- Create enabling environments for strengthening the agency, participation, and leadership of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other marginalized groups; and
- Establish direct partnerships and networks and promote coordination among social movements, local communities with LGUs, and the civil society.

I. Background on the CSO Consultation Workshop

In the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016, the United Nations created a platform for follow-up and review of the Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the SDGs. This platform is called the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) which happens every year, in July, and is highlighted by country reports on the status of SDGs implementation. Each year, a number of countries make voluntary national reviews (VNRs) which take stock of the actions, achievements and challenges, lessons learned, and identified next steps with a view of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Philippine government has once again raised its hand to do a VNR on the status of the SDGs in the country for 2019 HLPF and has catalyzed a multi-stakeholder consultation process. Social Watch Philippines (SWP), with its long-time policy advocacy on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now on the SDGs, is one of the few CSOs that has been invited to participate in the consultation process that will generate inputs to the crafting of the government VNR.



Social Watch Philippines Convenor Rene Raya talks about the Consultation Workshop as a way to highlight the voices of the civil society and the marginalized groups.

Given the limited participation of civil society in the process of coming up with the VNR, SWP together with other groups like the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Save the Children, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA), Plan International, Philippine Social Enterprise Network (PhilSen), Tebtebba, Voice of the Free, and Fair Trade Alliance among others, organized a broader CSO consultation workshop that provided a venue to gather civil society members in order to do the following:

- a. generate inputs on the status of the SDGs in the country;
- b. identify challenges to its implementation; and
- c. propose solutions, including coherent policy recommendations to be forwarded to the Philippine government.

The CSO consultation was concentrated on, but not limited, to the six SDGs that were selected for review during the 2019 HLPF, namely:

- **SDG 4** on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality **education** and promote **lifelong learning opportunities** for all;
- **SDG 8** on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable **economic growth**, full and productive **employment** and **decent work** for all;
- **SDG 10** on reducing **inequality** within and among countries;

- **SDG 13** on taking urgent action to combat **climate change** and its impacts;
- **SDG 16** on promoting **peaceful and inclusive societies** for sustainable development, provide access to **justice** for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- **SDG 17** on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the **global partnership** for sustainable development.

The CSO consultation involved a broad range of organizations that come from the national and local networks of SWP, and other groups that have also been involved in monitoring the implementation of the erstwhile MDGs, and now the SDGs, and promoting relevant policies for its full realization. The outcomes of the CSO consultation will be used as basis for engaging the Philippines government in the context of policy advocacy on the SDGs.

II. Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the CSO consultation was to provide a participatory and inclusive process in coming up with a parallel report that will spotlight issues and themes important to civil society, and provide an alternative lens to the official reading of the status of SDGs in the country. Specifically, it seeks to:

1. Gather CSOs perspectives on the current status of SDGs in the country with focus on key themes of the 2019 HLPF;
2. Highlight key challenges that confront the poor and socially excluded groups, with a view to proposing policy recommendations; and
3. Serve as a venue for strengthening CSO unity around a common policy agenda on the SDGs.

III. Points of Discussion

A. Increasing Concentration of Wealth and Economic Power as Obstacles to Sustainable Development and What to Do about it? (SDG 8, SDG 10)

SDG 8 aims at promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, while SDG 10 aims at reducing inequality within and among countries. These SDGs are closely interlinked because in order to reduce the burden of intersecting inequalities, societies need to create an enabling environment necessary for people to access decent work, thereby contributing to economic growth. Hence, addressing inequalities within and among countries must be central to the agenda.

Inequalities undermine economic, social, and cultural rights, worsen poverty for many, and breed insecurity, crime, social unrest, strife, and even war. Vertical and horizontal inequalities intersect and persist in all societies. Vertical inequalities are defined as the inequality among the number of individuals or households, while horizontal inequalities arise from identity-based discrimination around age, gender, location, class, ethnicity, religion, and disabilities, among other aspects. These existing inequalities threaten long-term, sustainable, and inclusive social and economic development.

According to the World Bank, the Philippines is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world in 2017. The growth rate continually increased from 2.9% in the 90s to 4.8% in the last decade. In 2018, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) hovers between 6% to 7%. While the growth rate did go down to 6.1% in the third quarter of 2018,



Dr. Ma. Victoria R. Raquiza of the UP Diliman National College of Public Administration and Governance and Social Watch Philippines discusses the trends on poverty and the inequalities in income, employment, and growth.

the country remained among the top performing countries in the region. The growth is driven by the private consumption of households in the demand side. This is mainly fueled by the massive remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). Investments on Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sectors and exports also contribute to the growth. On the supply side, services such as real estate, renting and businesses, and financial intermediation are contributors to the increase in the GDP.

However, OFW remittances have slowed down, from 5% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2017 to 3.1% in 2018. Demand for real estate has also gone down. On the other hand, government spending on the Build-Build-Build (BBB) program, education, pension, and cash transfers has increased, besides the capital formation. The high growth rate yet high poverty rate characterizes the development paradox situation in the country called 'jobless growth'. This means the gains of economic growth are not shared or distributed equitably. Those who are positioned in areas of growth, such as construction and banking services, benefit more than those who are in areas of non-growth like the agricultural sector.

There seems to be an unspoken yet dominant perspective on wealth, that as long as poverty is minimized, there should be no objection to the unbridled gains of the rich. It is assumed that wealth will trickle down to the poorest. Trickle-down economics asserts that high growth rates increase employment, income, and standards of living. However, that is not the case at all. In fact, economic inequality or the gap between the poorest and the richest continues to widen, with the poor comprising the majority and coexisting with an elite few. As such, it is of utmost importance to realize that it is not about the rate of economic growth, but the kind of economic growth that the country is experiencing.

Inequality manifests itself in income and in employment. The GINI Coefficient measures the income inequality, with 0 being the most equal and 1 being the most unequal. In terms of international benchmarks, if the GINI Coefficient is more than 0.4, it indicates a high degree of inequality. The Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) found that the Philippines' GINI Coefficient was estimated at 0.4439 in 2015. Compared with most of the countries in Southeast Asia, the Philippines has a higher degree of inequality. This poses a huge problem in reaching the SDGs, particularly SDG 10. Data on the Number of Families by Income Class (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015) show that there is a very skewed income distribution in which the majority of Filipinos are low income earners, if not already living in poverty, while an elite few continue to capture the gains of growth.

Data on the employment indicators in the country show that employment (94.9%) is relatively high in comparison to underemployment (13.3%) and unemployment (5.1%). However, the persistence of underemployment reveals the quality of jobs in the country. The quality of work matters. For instance, a majority are employed in the service sector of which a huge chunk is in the informal economy. Working in the informal economy usually means low wages, little to no job security and social protection, potentially hazardous working conditions, long working hours, and no pension or insurance. Workers in this sector include indigenous and tribal peoples, workers with disabilities, and those are victims of stigma and discrimination.

This is due, in part, to the limited livelihood opportunities and jobs for the working poor. It is also because of the limited access to education, public institutions, government programs, and skills training that prevent workers from improving their employability and productivity, and taking on jobs in the formal sector. As a sustainable path out of poverty and inequality, employment represents the single most important source of income. Therefore, productive employment must be provided and earnings-economic policies for decent work should be improved.

The quality of work can be seen in the labor productivity growth- the higher it is, the better the quality of work. Labor productivity growth is raised by increasing the productivity within each sector and moving labor from the less productive sectors to the more productive sectors. For instance, manufacturing has more labor productivity than agriculture and services, but the agricultural sector remains the priority because it is where a majority of the poor are located and it is a source of food security or sovereignty.

On the sectoral contribution to the GDP, data shows that the service sector dominates with an average contribution of services in 2018 at 54% to 56%. The industrial sector's contribution to the GDP fluctuated between 31% to 35% from 1998 to the present. In 2018, the average contribution of the industry is 34.7%. The agriculture sector, on the other hand, remained dismally low and hovered between 8% to 12%, falling further to an abysmal 6% to 8%. This could be attributed to the continuing concentration of land in the hands of a few with the stalled Agrarian Reform. The long-term decline of agriculture has implications on the massive land conversion, and on the quality of work in rural areas that are condemned to marginal, low-value work.

The dismal performance of the agricultural sector, significantly affects the country's poverty level and its consequences, such as hunger, food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, physical and cognitive development, low productivity, and low income. These consequences are highly related to the sectoral concerns. In order to address these, the formula of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and manufacturing-based agro-industrialization could make a difference. This entails shifting to better agricultural and manufacturing practices to produce safe and nutritious food, and promoting preventive health and wellness lifestyle through nutrition based sensitive and food systems.



Organic and Hobby Farm Complex Owner and Operator Pablito M. Villegas proposes the need for Nutrition Sensitive-agriculture and Manufacturing Based Agro-industrialization and Value Chain Optimization.

From 1998 to the third quarter of 2018, the service sector's contribution to employment has been on a steady and upward climb to 58.8%. In 2018, the average contribution stood at 56.7%. The second largest contributor to employment is the agricultural sector, which gradually declined from 37.8% in 1998 and reached an all-time low at 21.1% in 2018. It is worth noting that data from labor force surveys show that the informal sector accounts for 38% of the total working population, including vendors, domestic helpers, tricycle and jeepney drivers, and unpaid family workers. The lowest contributor of employment is the highest productivity sector that is

manufacturing. There is a general stagnation at 16.2% to 15.9% from 1998 to 2015. From 2016 until the present, there is an upward acceleration from 17% to 18%. In 2018, the average industrial employment rate stood at 19.1% which is higher than previous administrations but lower in comparison to the Duterte administration's earlier performance at 19.7 % during the second quarter of 2018.

A number of challenges may be identified in relation to the fulfillment of SDGs 8 and 10. Firstly, there is a lack of positive structural change or transformation in relation to decent work. The Philippines has done relatively poorly in transferring workers from low-productivity to high-productivity sectors or activities. Workers are still stuck in the agricultural sector which has dismal productivity, when they could be transferred to the highest-productivity sector, the manufacturing or the industrial sector. Unfortunately, there is still no policy consensus on the national industrialization model that will allow for this structural change.

It is also worth noting that the labor force is segmented and uneven. Although the informal economy is one of the biggest sectors, there are still no labor rights spelled out for its workers. The proposed Magna Carta for Workers in the Informal Economy remains unacted in the House of Representatives. This means many workers, such as those in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), do not have formal employment contracts and job security.

Weak measures of redistribution also pose challenges in sustainable development in the country. The lack of redistribution means the gains from real productivity growth are not shared or distributed equitably. This issue is compounded by the poor implementation of the agrarian reform due to underspending and the weak enforcement of the law. Another challenge arises from tax revenues by plagued by leakages from high levels of tax evasion. The Philippine government loses an estimate of about 4% of the GDP yearly due to tax evasion. The tax revenue as a share of GDP in the Philippines stands at 12.4%. Although the country has high corporate income tax, there are also very high tax evasion rates.

It has been mentioned that the Philippines has been hailed as one of the fastest growing economies, however its economic growth did not necessarily translate into the significant reduction of poverty. In fact, stagnant wages amidst labor productivity growth has condemned a majority of workers in the country to being low-income earners, earning just above poverty-level wages. This traps low-income classes at the bottom, and even makes middle-income classes vulnerable to sliding further downward.



UP Professor Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo speaks about decent work and equitable growth during wicked and confusing times in the Philippines.

Another major concern is the 'race to the bottom.' This is the reality globally, particularly in the Asia Pacific and in the Philippines. In the name of global competitiveness and developing markets, the labor standards go down. This is the root of deepening inequality. The 'race to the bottom' is reflected in 'endo,' or the phenomenon of employment through labor contractualization and widespread labor precarity.

President Duterte's promise to end contractualization was not fulfilled. Instead, DO 174 was issued to tighten the rules on permissible job contracting. Besides the 'Race to the Bottom,' other challenges include the flexible labor hiring that leads to casualization, disappearing jobs in terms of technological revolution and outsourcing, the lack of bargaining capacity, and the decline in trade union members.

Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

The following solutions and recommendations were highlighted as ways to address challenges on the concentration of wealth and power, decent work and equitable growth, and food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty:

- Promote structural changes to improve access to decent work through complete agrarian reform, continuous support for the agricultural sector to improve rural

incomes and productivity of small farmers, and proactive industrial policy to strengthen the industrial and manufacturing sectors, especially the MSMEs;

- Promote redistribution through agrarian reform, as well as progressive taxation as paying taxes is the most systematic expression of social responsibility and social solidarity and far superior to individual charity or even CSR (corporate social responsibility);
- Strengthen universal and transformative social policies by addressing backlogs and issues of quality, affordability and access to education, health, social protection;
- Promote meaningful and substantive participation of citizens in public policymaking, including budgeting;
- Develop and strengthen a developmental state framework that proactively intervenes in both economic and social development;
- Promote preventive health and wellness lifestyle through nutrition-based sensitive agriculture and food systems and shifting to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP);
- Strengthen community-based organic, natural farming, and agro-ecological agriculture, and promote agriculture and vertical gardening;
- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Banking System to proactively implement “Inclusive Finance and Value Chain Financing Policies;
- Ban highly toxic farm and processing chemicals and stoppage in the registration of highly poisonous and systemic chemical substances for utilization in the food production and processing system;
- Revisit, amend the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) and strictly implement the laws and enforce food safety facilitating and regulatory measures, as well as food safeguards mechanisms in agriculture and agro-industries; and
- The Food Security and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food System should become a major growth driver. Thus, a policy agenda on the following needs to be formulated:
 - Climate-resilient, sustainable, organic and agro-ecological farming systems by adopting Good Agricultural Practices and Organic in Conversion Technologies. Prioritize science-based RDE;
 - Agripreneurship at the farm family and cooperative levels need to be institutionalized through the Presidential Center for Entrepreneurship and Department of Trade and Industry thrusts on “Go Negosyo Centers” and full-scale development of agro-based micro, small and medium enterprises through Go Negosyo Kapatid Mentor Me Program; and
 - Simplified and shortened value chain approach via the Producers Linkage with User Scheme and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in rural and urban areas.

B. Are climate justice battles being fought and won? Keeping score (SDG 13)

Ecosystems have been altered, droughts have been increasing, biodiversity resources are threatened, crop productivity has been low, rainfall patterns vary, infectious diseases continue to be rife, and climate change is worsening these trends. Climate change has an array of irreparable damages and catastrophic consequences to the environment that will indubitably take a huge toll on all living species. Ranked as the third most vulnerable country in the world to climate change, the Philippines has been declared as 'A Nation at Risk' by the United Nations. In the face of extreme environmental concerns, it is high time to expose those who are the most responsible for climate change through the climate justice approach.

According to Greenpeace Philippines, climate justice “seeks to challenge the influential role of the big polluters, alongside their host governments, for refusing to take responsibility for climate change, weakening political commitments, and hindering the implementation of required solutions to help mitigate and avert future catastrophes.” It asks the pertinent questions of whose justice must be fought for, who must recognize the moral obligation to reduce consumption.



Roberto Verzola of Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST) speaks on energy status, trends, solutions.

On the subject of the status analysis, it was found that the energy mix stood at 55% fossil energy and 45% renewable energy in 2000. In 2018, the mix was 75% fossil energy and 25% renewable energy. This shows that the fossil fuel-based generation increased in comparison to renewable energy generation. The Department of Energy's plan by 2040 is 65% of fossil energy or nuclear and around 35% of renewable energy. There will be slight improvements. However, should the 2040 plan be accomplished, it would still be lower compared to what has already been achieved in the year 2000. The climate commitments are on

'reduction.' This is a problem in following the DOE plan. The government is going full-speed ahead in terms of generating coal.

Very little has been attained as far as the Renewable Act of 2008 is concerned. The feed-in tariff (FIT) was suspended. The guaranteed fixed price is relatively higher than the average price of generation. The government has also modified the FIT which made it significantly worse. Solar investment can be considered but there is a need for a good policy environment. Likewise, the Net-Metering (NM) Law was badly modified by the government, while the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), Review and Evaluation Committee (REC), and Green Energy Option (GEO) remain unimplemented.

Price trends suggest that coal prices will increase while oil prices will be volatile. Nuclear prices will remain high as usual. There may also be a dramatic decline in the prices of solar and wind, while EV will be mainstreamed. What's more, lithium battery prices are also dropping and the solar rooftop levelized cost of electricity is now half of grid price. With the dramatic decline of prices in solar and

wind, it was recommended that mix energy be utilized as it would be impossible to rely on wind energy alone. The energy mix of the future might entail that solar and wind energy will gain bigger shares while the capital costs continue to decrease; rooftop solar expansion will be market-driven; base load plants will play a declining role in the energy mix because they cannot be turned off once a day and; flexible plants such as hydro, biomass, and batteries will play a role in the market.

It was proposed to approach the huge issues on climate change sideways. This means not only using the approach of climate mitigation and adaptation, but also working towards better development in the country and focusing on stakeholder accountability. Furthermore, it was recommended that time scales and maps be reimagined in consideration of future generations and the places that no longer exist but still do in the maps.

Reimagining time scales also involve anticipating the slow onset climate events which may present opportunities to spur wider, more sustainable and inclusive economic transformation. For instance, in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, the slow onset events that have been observed are the rise in sea level and the acidification of the ocean. On resource mobilization, particularly noteworthy is the creation of the Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the submission of the People's Survival fund proposal, and enhancement of the Local Climate Change



Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities Executive Director Renato Redentor Constantino talks about approaching big problems sideways.

Action Plan. In terms of energy, Suluan Island has been designated as the renewable energy capital. The challenges then remain in the national capacities to understand, appreciate, and act on the longer term implications and opportunities of climate change that are far from optimal, as well as the vertical and horizontal fragmentation in public policies, planning, service delivery, and financing that the Philippine Development Plan mentions but does not quite fully address in more detail.

SDG 13 focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Although there been actions taken to mitigate climate change, it would not enough to achieve improvements if these are not sustainable. Thus, for the purposes of meeting SDG 13 and its targets, climate justice must be considered to hold individuals and corporations accountable and collectively responsible for the impacts of climate change.

Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

The following measures were proposed to prevent and alleviate the impacts of and issues brought about by climate change and environmental degradation:

- Pursue off-grid electrification through solar and microhybromicrogrids that are owned or controlled by communities;
- Review the Department of Energy's (DOE) plan on baseload bloat, and prioritize flexible plants in future planning;
- Fully implement the Renewable Energy (RE) Act (FIT, true net metering, RPS, REC, GEO) and remove all barriers to rooftop deployment;
- Revisit the Philippine Development Plan on climate crisis that articulates more on "Hazards" in anticipation of extreme events, but not the slow onset events;
- Create a holistic, multi-disciplinary development approach to improve the resilience of the community and the local government; and
- Promote green agro-based industrialization, the shift to solar energy, and the use of wind turbine and solar panels in the community and in households.

C. Debt, Trade, Aid, Foreign Investment (SDG 17)

SDG 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors. A component of SDG 17 is finance on strengthening domestic resource mobilization, as are international support to developing countries, capacity for tax and other revenue collection, and the increase of Official Development Assistance (ODA) of developing countries.

Foreign direct investments (FDI) net inflows to the Philippines dropped from \$806.8 million in September 2017 to \$569.35 million in December 2018. This is but one of the many significant obstacles to the fulfilment of SDG 17. The decline in the FDI is reflective of the balance of payments (BOP), or the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange. It could be attributed to the investors' apprehension about the Philippine economy that seemingly does not offer a conducive environment for investments, as well the plateau in the OFW remittances, and the decrease in the country's exports and increase in imports.

The outdated tax efforts and non-responsiveness of the tax system negatively affect the economic growth of the Philippines. Compared to its ASEAN counterparts such as Vietnam and Malaysia, the Philippines has one of the highest Value Added Tax (VAT) rates. This could be due to the government's notion that the most convenient way of raising revenues is through the VAT. What's more, instances of tax avoidance and evasion have been prevalent, especially among the rich. Not only does it increase the wealth accumulated by corporations and entrepreneurs, but it also reduces the public goods and services brought by the government.



Social Watch Philippines Co-Convenor Jessica Reyes-Cantos talks about the trends of investments in the Philippines.

With 75 flagship projects planned, the ‘Build Build Build’ (BBB) program is an ambitious infrastructure initiative that seeks to contribute to regional growth, develop industries, create more jobs, and encourage rural investments. Some of the projects under BBB are the Clark International Airport Expansion Project, Chico River Pump Irrigation Project, Subic-Clark Railway, and North-South Harbor Bridge, among others. However, the BBB program comes across as too urban-centric, concentrating on developed areas and neglecting the rural areas. In fact, it has been progressing at a slow and uneven pace because of the lack of capacity

and funding, deficiencies in design, and poor coordination.

Another challenge that arises from financing these infrastructure projects is the increase in debt. The BBB program is funded by the national government budget, ODA, as well as the Public-Private Partnership (PPP). In October 2018, the national government debt amounted to Php 7.167 trillion. It is possible that it will increase to Php 8 to 9 trillion. The upsurge of ODA from China is particularly worrying and a pressing concern what with the Philippine government’s long-standing experiences with debt, particularly under the Marcos regime. China is not among the top five in indicative total ODA in 2017. However, its share is rapidly increasing.

Some of the observed features of the Chinese ODA include the special Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) approval process which allows for Chinese support for pre-investment studies to be availed by Philippine government agencies, corporations, and even local government units. To speed up the approval process, the ICC has a parallel agency in the Chinese government and in the Export–Import Bank of China (Exim Bank). Another is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI or New Silk Road) in which projects are often built with low-interest loans and lack transparency, thereby leading to canceled projects.



UP Professor Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo provides the big picture on the Chinese ODA under the Duterte Administration’s Build-Build-Build (BBB).

Moreover, the social and environmental standards of the Chinese ODA involve provisions, such as in the Chico Dam Agreement, that stipulate it ‘shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of China,’ and the investor state dispute settlement should be in China. Chinese loans also have

higher costs and interest rates when compared to Japan and other ODA givers. Further, the China Exim Bank and Development Bank's Northrail project has not been consistent in its progress. In fact, they would bring their own raw materials and even human resources.

Investments are not only vastly insufficient, but also flow into the wrong areas. Although it is one of the major sectors of the Philippine economy, the agricultural sector remains the most neglected in terms of investments. As the country's main food producers, farmers should be given more priority, but this is not the case. In fact, agricultural workers are overlooked in government programs, projects, investments, and aid. They are also among the poorest in the labor force.

Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

The following measures were raised to tackle issues and challenges on the country's debt, trade, aid, and investments:

- Design and implement a strong industrial policy;
- Promote and practice sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices and green economy with reduced carbon footprint;
- Place greater investments and incentives that are people-centered and rights-based in areas where rural poverty is prevalent;
- Develop more social enterprises and promote social entrepreneurship;
- Craft an Asia-wide briefing paper on ODA investments;
- Strengthen the South-South cooperation through a global formation;
- Define and carry out parameters of the entry of investments and improve the collection of information and resources on the agreements to build the awareness of the civil society and the public;
- Mobilize resources to finance the country's development and coordinate policies on debt financing, relief, and restructuring to ensure that the debt is long-term and sustainable;
- Strictly ensure the exercise of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples before carrying out projects, particularly priority projects, that will displace the IP and destroy natural resources and ancestral territories; and
- Improve the collection and analysis of quality, reliable data disaggregated by age, gender, location, race, ethnicity, income, education, disabilities, migratory status, and other factors by investing in national statistical, civil society, and community capacities.

D. Social Policies: Education, Health, and Social Protection

Education

SDG 4 focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Providing access to quality education, particularly for the most disadvantaged, is indispensable to efforts in achieving sustainable development. Not only will it reduce intersecting inequalities, but it will also drive economic growth and eradicate poverty.

Several issues on access, equitability, and quality persist. For instance, there are huge gaps in ensuring that all children are in school, such as at the primary level where only three fourth of 5-year-old children are enrolled in kindergarten. The enrolment rate in elementary school is at 5%, while it is 25% in high school. The rate in high school is higher because once secondary level has been reached, the rates of dropouts increase. Furthermore, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) found



Mitzi Chan (rightmost) of E-Net Philippines discusses the issues on access, equitability and quality that affect the achievement of SDG 4.

that the number of out-of-school children and youth (OSCY) has continually increased from 2.7 million in 2008, 3.249 million in 2013, to 3.8 million in 2016. In fact, 53% of OSCYs belong to families whose income falls to the bottom 30% based on their per capita income. This suggests that poverty is the main contributor to the low or declining number of children in school.

At the tertiary level, the vast majority Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are privately owned. The privatization in and of HEIs translates to limited capacities, disparities, exploitation, and low-funding levels for the public tertiary level. It also entails higher, commercialized costs. As a result, underprivileged children and youth are not able to reach the tertiary level. A large percent of the poorest of the poor are not enrolled in college because of financial limitations and other socio-economic barriers. Another challenge lies in the children and youth with disabilities' (CYDs) access to education. UNICEF estimates that there were about 3.3 million children with disabilities and only less than 3% have access to education in 2016. For the school year 2015-2016, only 250,000 CYDs were enrolled in elementary and 100,000 in high school, and only 648 SPED Centers and regular schools. Data reveals that the most marginalized groups, such as the CYDs, PWDs, IPs, Muslim children, and children in the vulnerable sectors, are still left behind.

While the public education expenditure has increased, the country is still far from reaching the international benchmark of allocating 6% of the GDP to the education sector. The national budget on education hovers from 2.5% to 3%. In Southeast Asia, the Philippine government spends the least per

student with only a 9.3% average per pupil spending as a percent of GDP per capita. It is also unfortunate to note that the number of OSCYs in the country is one of the highest. What's more, the budget allocation for programs that cater to marginalized and disadvantaged groups add up to a meager less than 1% of the total budget for basic education. The yearly education budget shows that the allocation for the education of CYDs, IPs, Muslims, and OSCYs continues to decrease.

The ill-budget distribution and inefficiency in delivery are also serious concerns that have been raised. In the proposed 2019 budget, a huge chunk of the DepEd's budget will be cut off because delivery remains slow. DepEd admitted that there was underutilization of its budget in the previous years, and reported that it has only a 1.3 level of efficiency on procurement. In short, it has only procured 1.3% of what it has projected. Although these challenges loom large, they must be addressed by the government in order to drive progress on sustainable development.

Health



Ramon P. Paterno, MD, MPH of UP Manila and Social Watch speaks on the Alma Ata Primary Health Care and the status of SDG 3 in the country.

Health is not merely the absence of disease, but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. To fulfill SDG 3 which is on good health and well-being for all, it is important to recognize its interlinkage with other SDGs, such as SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

People's right and duty to participate in sustainable development is key to ensuring the achievement of health for all. In addition, socio-economic development is also integral as health inequalities are rooted in social inequalities among and within nations. This is not in line with the SDGs' slogan on leaving no one behind. Thus, this implies that the social determinants of health must be prioritized and given consistent investment and resources.

Globally, there was a dissatisfaction with the biomedical approach to health and disease. China's barefoot medical doctors and the liberation theology of South America, as well as the Basic Christian Community-Community Organizing (BCC-CO) were the three global learning experiences that led to the declaration of Alma Ata Primary Health Care, which reasserted that health is a "fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector." Governments, therefore, have a responsibility for the health of their people.

A specific target under SDG 3, the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act was adopted with the view of providing health care coverage and ensuring that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health goods and services. It is also seen as a platform for assessing how close the country is to the SDG 3 targets. Reducing health inequities is considered the most important priority among the three health guarantees, specifically ensuring financial protection for the poorest people; improving health outcomes with no disparities; and building health service delivery networks for more responsiveness. Unfortunately, few SDG 3 indicators are close to the target.

The World Health Organization (WHO) UHC and SDG Country Profile 2018 Philippines found that the country has achieved 95% in reducing the under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births) and 96% in neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) in 2016. However, what this data fails to take into account are the population groups that are left behind. Data on the poorest 20% show that 52 children out of 1000 live births will not reach the age of 5 in comparison to the richest 20% with only 16 children. The problem on inequities in health are masked by the national coverage. These large inequities need to be addressed.

Another serious problem is undernutrition which damages the health and development of children. Those who are affected by chronic undernutrition are stunted. This negatively impacts their chances of finishing their education and even looking for decent employment. One study entitled “Reconfiguring PHC in the Context of UHC Research” found that growth should not be the only focus, but also the inclusiveness of the growth. For the longest time, growth has been exclusive. The 25-year assessment of the healthcare reform found that the Philippines is lagging behind its ASEAN neighbors.

The tendency of privatized healthcare institutions to value profit over people must also be addressed. If there are not enough health professionals in the public system, there will be longer queues, dissatisfied patients, and other inefficiencies. The private sector might end up providing better clinics and faster services, thereby leading to the privatization of hospitals and even primary care which is a major obstacle for sustainable development, particularly SDG 3. It is important to realize that health services and municipal health centers should not be expected to generate revenue.

The vision of Filipinos for the country is “By 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle class society where no one is poor. Our people will enjoy long and healthy lives, be smart and innovative, and live in a high trust society.” However, much work remains to be done in order to see this vision into fruition.

Social Policies for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are more likely to be disadvantaged, experiencing socioeconomic barriers that may hinder their personal fulfillment. In fact, many PWDs do not have equal access to education, decent employment opportunities, health care, information, social protection, and decision-making processes. Besides the issue of inaccessibility, other challenges lie in the lack of awareness of the community, the lack of empowerment opportunities for PWDs, and the lack of spaces for meaningful participation in society.

In addition, there are gaps in the physical environments and transportation, inefficient service delivery, and discrimination in society. This shows that the problem is not disability or the impairment, but in society which fails to meet the four principles of inclusive development, namely awareness, accessibility, empowerment, and participation. Hence, it is equally important to change social policies with the view of addressing the needs of PWDs and ensuring disability-inclusive development. Such changes can be brought through the use of the twin-track approach which may reduce inequalities.

A globally accepted approach, the twin-track approach aims to include a disability perspective in all development projects. It pertains to two tracks, specifically the disability-specific (empowerment) and the societal (mainstreaming disability). According to CBM International, the disability-specific track “enables and empowers persons with disabilities, their families and representing organisations through increasing their access to support services, healthcare, education, livelihood and social activities as well as through political empowerment,” while the societal track “works to identify and overcome the barriers in society that people with disability face, e.g. physical accessibility, communication, attitude, legislation.”



Life Haven Center for Independent Living Secretary General Jun Bernardino presents the twin-track approach as a way to drive progress towards disability-inclusive development.

The balance between the twin tracks will help create better-targeted investments that cater to the needs of PWDs. Its importance can be seen in the following example- PWDs could be provided with free health insurance but the actual health institution does not have the facilities to allow access and accommodate them. Thus, the government, private institutions, and the civil society must make concerted efforts to provide accessible services, create more decent opportunities, and remove disabling barriers in order to meet the unmet needs of PWDs.

Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

The following solutions and recommendations are designed to improve disabilities-inclusive development; indicators and the means of implementation of the SDGs; data collection; government responsibility; integrated communication technology; financing of SDG 4; equity, inclusion, and quality; Alternative Learning System; healthcare; higher education; and technical and vocational education and training:

On Disabilities-Inclusive Development

- Reduce inequalities through the twin-track approach. This means addressing disability-specific needs whilst mainstreaming disability concerns.
- Include disability-specific questions in the census/survey for the collection of data in disaggregated format

On Indicators and Means of Implementation

- A broad range of indicators and means of implementation of policies (policy implications) for SDG4 need to be developed and the targets cross-referenced to each other;
- Indicators and implementation programs need to be customized to the varying needs and contexts of different marginalized groups;
- Government needs to ensure the participation of CSOs and relevant communities as stakeholders in the formulation of policy indicators and the design of programs;
- Government needs to ensure that SDG4, along with all the other SDG indicators & means of implementation should be publicly available.

On Government Responsibility for Implementation of SDG4

- As duty bearers for ensuring the right to education, the national government needs to take responsibility for setting in place the enabling policy environment and financing for SDG4, ensuring quality provisioning and leaving no one behind;
- This requires the planning of milestones and medium-term timelines between now and 2030 to ensure achievement of the targets.

On Data Collection

- Strengthen data collection systems & expand the coverage outside the formal education system; focus on the marginalized, excluded and vulnerable sectors, as well as on disaggregated indicators ; Dimensions of equity and inclusion must be reflected;
- Increase funding to ensure sustainable ongoing training for data collection and 'data literacy' at the local level, and the use of local communities for data collection;
- Invest more to make data more inclusive, especially for marginalized groups, as sub-national data is needed rather than reliance on aggregated national data alone;
- Funding is needed to develop systems to track data of individual learners and their transition from training to work, to inform policy making.

On Integrated Communications Technology

- Government needs to monitor and coordinate ICT to determine the most relevant, cost effective, affordable technologies. Local communities need to be consulted about use and relevance to local contexts;
- Make internet access and power (electrical or solar) and related infrastructure needs available to ensure coverage and usage of ICT in remote areas.

- Government needs to promote multi-media (e.g. mobile phone and television) based learning programs and opportunities;
- Training is needed to ensure ICT literacy and the associated technical skills at local capacity to maintain and sustain ICT. This will facilitate, for example, stronger STEM and non-traditional livelihood initiatives for women and girls.

On Financing of SDG 4

Financing plays a huge role in the implementation of SDG4. Budget must be allocated to the SDG targets for them to be achieved.

- Substantially increase the national education budgets to achieve the SDG 4 targets. Locate additional funds, for example by expanding the tax base and ensuring corporations contribute their fair share of tax;
- Funds for SDG4 need to be better targeted. This includes:
 - Funding for new facilities, equipment and mobile training units in areas of need, ensuring these are integrated into existing systems and can function sustainably.
 - Funding for supportive and inclusive local infrastructure, including safe public and learning spaces, transport, washrooms, hostels & lodging for girls and women, access for people with disabilities, and facilities in provincial areas, not just urban areas.
 - Linking of education and training for decent work at local levels (particularly with a pro-poor approach) to job opportunities that arise in connection with infrastructure projects.
 - Flexible distance learning opportunities.
 - Funding for additional teachers and trainers and quality training programs.
 - Support for the sustainability of and scaling up of good practices undertaken by local government units and community-based organizations.
 - Financing for information and awareness campaigns to ensure information reaches out to the marginalized communities.

On Equity and Inclusion

- Leverage the capacity of TVET to challenge gendered social norms that impact on the socio economic status of women and girls. This means addressing gender disparity. This includes undertaking social campaigns that encourage men to take their share of care and domestic work. That is still one of the biggest obstacles for women to overcome in order to participate;
- Utilize the capacity of TVET to increase opportunities and pathways to decent work for women & girls, and for other marginalized & vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities;

- Government needs to increase the provision of programs and pathways to learning opportunities for those who have not completed schooling to have bridging courses, to enable them to access further learning and training;
- Pathways from non-formal short courses at community level need to be funded, established (with community participation and ownership), and formalized to access formal TVET programs and then higher education. These need to be well-articulated & promoted;
- Formalize, promote, make accessible and affordable mechanisms for recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL) for women and needs of other marginalized groups;
- Increased scholarships or fee waivers for university and TVET courses for marginalized groups will substantially facilitate equity and inclusion.

On Quality

- National qualifications frameworks need to include the potential for accreditation of bridging courses, return to work & livelihood development;
- Standardized teacher training is needed to ensure quality teaching and training;
- A data bank needs to be developed of good models of quality teacher training programs which can then be disseminated;
- Similarly, it is important to develop a data bank of accredited short courses & work related education & training courses & programs;
- Training is required regarding course quality issues & quality assessment.

On the Alternative Learning System (ALS)

- Significant financial allocation for expanding coverage of ALS-EST;
- Strengthen coordination of agencies to ensure productive exit points for ALS graduates;
- Maximum collaboration for implementing ALS programs – from targeting and validation of beneficiaries, planning, budgeting and implementation of alternative education programs and projects;
- Involve more institutions like Community Extension Offices of Universities and academic institutions and other private institutions – NGOs, corporate foundations to help in ALS delivery.

On Healthcare

- Provide free healthcare and other public services instead of privatizing them;
- Provide pensions, child benefits and other social protection for all;
- Redesign the tax system with the view of ending under-taxation of rich individuals and corporations and placing tax wealth and capital at just levels.

On Higher Education

- Enhance the capacity of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) to accommodate and provide higher education to students belonging to lower income and poor families;
- Support the establishment of more local colleges and universities;
- Regulate tuition in private universities and colleges and other fee increases both in public and private schools;
- Increase support for scholarship programs.

On Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- Anchor TVET policies and programs within a country development plan that emphasizes rural sector development and human security because these must be propelled both by the needs of the local economies and global market;
- Given the challenges of food security and climate change, the emphasis of TVET on service-oriented programs must be complemented by more attention to agriculture and “green” technology;
- With the ever-expanding knowledge-based economy, TVET (along with the other sciences) must be able to address the digital divide in the Philippines through learning programs linked to the different communications technologies;
- Devote more finances for TVET research and materials development (and equipment development) to improve its quality and make it at par with college courses, and increase the total budget of TESDA and that for contracting service of NGOs and private sector to cater to more learners;
- Install appropriate community-based TVET must be installed in more communities, cognizant of the unique needs and situations at the local level;
- TVET must be made available as an affirmative action for the out-of-school youth, women, indigenous, Muslim and other marginalized groups;
- Scale up good practices in TVET and adapt these practices to local learners’ needs, and sustain through durable partnerships between government and civil society.

E. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels are integral to sustainable development. Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report, which states that, “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Peace, justice, and strong institutions are highly-interrelated elements essential to fostering a society free from fear, conflict, and violence. A peaceful, just, and inclusive society naturally provides an enabling and nurturing environment and promotes a culture of peace and non-violence, thereby allowing

people to enjoy a sense of security in public spaces, educational institutions, workspaces, and public transport. It will also mean a strong and fair justice system that abides by the rule of law, follows due process, and provides people with access to justice.



Professor of Public Administration and Governance at the UP National College and Asian Association for Public Administration President Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr talks about recognizing local governments as frontline institutions.

As duty-bearers, institutions have human rights obligations to its people and need to ensure that no one is left behind. Institutions should be functioning, transparent, and guided by a rights-based approach in order to effectively fulfill their mandates, responsibilities, and duties in the areas of education, health, housing, employment, social security, and environment, among others. Thus, it is imperative that institutions, from public to political institutions, be strengthened to drive inclusive growth and lasting development. Particular focus should be given to public administration, local

governments, and educational institutions.

In the Philippines, a few prospects for lasting peace and justice have been noted. One is the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL). This is recognized as a major achievement in terms of having a law in place to aid the Muslim community, address historical injustice and long-term poverty, and put an end to rebellion. However, this is only one step. Concrete action plans need to be carried out in order to realize and sustain peace and justice, especially among Muslim communities. This remains a huge challenge not only to the government but also to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Another prospect is the people's peace and human rights movement. Despite the repressive atmosphere and the challenges posed by the government, non-government organizations and people's organizations all over the country are determined to push for people's rights, equity, and justice in their areas. The delivery of SDG 16, along with the other SDGs, requires a multi-sectoral approach that brings together the civil society, the private sector, the government, the academe, and the citizens.

Many of the obstacles to peace and justice continue to plague the Philippine government. Over time, some of these challenges have even worsened. One of which is state-sponsored violence compounded by the erosion of the rule of law and the persistence of the culture of impunity. The current administration's "war on drugs" is an appropriate example of the corruption of the concepts of peace and justice in the country. With roughly 23,000 to 30,000 victims of extrajudicial killings, this tactic can be likened to a "war against the poor" because poor urban Filipinos bear the brunt of the drug war.

This has left children as orphans and single-parent families struggling to fend for themselves. Other consequences include the exacerbation of poverty, discrimination, and deprivation. One study on the impacts of extrajudicial killings found that children, whose parents have been killed or arrested due to the anti-illegal drugs campaign, face trauma and stress. They also experience bullying in school which forces them to drop out. The economic conditions of these children and families hinder access to public services like education, healthcare, and social services.



Dr. Nymia Simbulan, UP Manila Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, speaks on the obstacles to peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Another indicator of state-sponsored violence is the military solution to insurgency or internal armed conflict, such as the proclamation of Martial Law in Mindanao. Due to the conflict that continues to arise in the region, many have been forcefully displaced from remote indigenous communities thereby negatively affecting their economic lives and losing their homes, families, properties, and livelihoods. The shrinking of democratic space, sowing of fear, and the filing of trumped-up charges and vilification campaigns against critics or oppositionists pose challenges to peace and justice as well.

The promotion of “kill policies” of the State, such as the bills on the restoration of the death penalty and on lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) from 15 to 9 - 12 years of age, are another indicator of state-sponsored violence in the country. The adoption of these policies is a contradiction to the Philippines’ commitment to major international forums, agreements, and declarations, specifically the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The pursuit of a neoliberal framework of development has had an impact on the economic, social, and cultural rights of the people, leading to poverty, joblessness, homelessness, and even environmental destruction. The ‘Build Build Build’ infrastructure thrust of the government shows an illusion of rapid growth and development in the country, and will significantly increase public debt. In addition, the Train Law has undermined the income of fixed wage earners employed in the informal sector.

Although these have not taken place yet, charter change and federalism will mean drastic changes to the 1987 Constitution. The adoption of the federal system of government hides the agenda of politicians that is to further amass power and fortune through the institutionalization of political dynasties and warlordism. In fact, the proposed constitutional revisions cover the foreign ownership or control over the country’s natural patrimony and economy, including natural resources and public utilities.

Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

In order to promote and sustain peace and justice and build strong institutions in the country, the following recommendations were proposed:

- Recognize the importance of educational institutions and other providers of capacity-building to local institutions;
- Recognize that local governments are frontline institutions that play a role in the fulfillment of the SDGs and must be continuously strengthened through continuous capacity building;
- Integrate the teaching of the SDGs into the curriculum of public administration schools;
- Deepen decentralization and devolution to enable frontline local governments to respond to imperatives of the SDGs;
- Bring about the reform of policies, structures, institutions, as well as the mindsets of the people; and
- Strengthen and expand the people's peace and human rights movements through:
 - Mass education and information work on human rights and peace through countering the distortion of human rights and disinformation campaigns; enhancing the capacities in human rights' claiming and defense and the importance of research and evidence-building; building a human rights culture (change values, attitudes, and the mindsets and inculcating the concept of rights and defending these rights);
 - Organizing and strengthening grassroots and sectoral organizations; formation and capacity building of HRDS in communities, schools, and workplaces, and the formation of broad alliances; and
 - Mobilizing communities and sectors through monitoring and documentation and gathering evidence; conducting campaigns, mobilizations, and mass protest actions; conducting rights-claiming initiatives by communities/sector; conducting lobby and solidarity work (local and international- formulate the necessary policies and legislation).

IV. Open Forum

The consultation workshop opened up a space for participants to pose questions, remark on the presentations, share their experiences, express their views, and put forward recommendations. This section attempts to provide an overview of the discussions during the open forum.

A. Social Entrepreneurship

It was well noted that there was much to be done in restructuring the economy. However, because the economy remains market-based and corporate-led, it proves to be quite difficult to begin an overall transformation with the aim of achieving sustainable development. One major proposition was social entrepreneurship, which signifies a plural economy that is not only a market economy, but an *ethical* market economy. The need for corporations leading the market economy to be advocates of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and corporate citizenship has been recognized.



Maria Lisa Dacanay of the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) recommends social entrepreneurship as a major strategy in achieving the SDGs.

A fair trade organization, or a cooperative, is not set up to take advantage of markets. They are established to help small producers become stakeholders in a fair economy. These organizations do not have market principles, and are founded instead on the principles of reciprocity and redistribution. For this reason, fair trade organizations must become a significant part of the economy. Social entrepreneurship was proposed as a serious endeavor for the civil society, and many participants were keen on the idea.

Recommendations:

1. Make social entrepreneurship a major strategy to achieve the SDGs and support this as a transformational partner of the poor and a multi-stakeholder in the industrial, manufacturing, agricultural sectors and all sectors of the economy;
2. Consider social enterprises as creators and providers of sustainable, quality, and decent jobs;
3. Develop social enterprises across all segments of the economy. Social enterprises have the potential to be the main form for formalizing the informal sector;
4. Promote the use of the Social Enterprise Balanced Scorecard to assess how transformational an enterprise or an entity is;
5. Offer social enterprises as an alternative in all sectors. Social enterprises can be the partner of the government in providing basic economic and social services to the poor; and

6. Build the resilience of the poor. Communities are more resilient if they are organized. Social enterprises can provide relief, especially for local communities struck by disaster.

B. People's Economy

The economy should be an economy of the people, by the people, and for the people, with its culture based on the Filipino values of '*damayan, bayanihan, at tangkilikan*.' Thus, one recommendation was to rebuild the community and transform people, not as objects of dole-out, but into active agents of development. For instance, farmer-focused value chain formulated by social enterprises and cooperatives will help build and strengthen the solidarity and unification of the communities. The pertinent questions of "Who participates? Who decides? And who benefits?" must be asked in order to discover where political, economic, and market power lie, and how to ensure that the needs of the most marginalized groups are being addressed and prioritized.

C. Effects of the 'War on Drugs' on Children

There are 74 documented cases of child execution from July 2016 to December 2017 with some considered as collateral damage of legitimate police operations on vigilante style killings. Another result of the war on drugs is the conservative estimate of 18,000 orphaned children. These children face trauma or negative psychological impacts such as bullying and harassment in school once other students find out that their parents have been killed or arrested due to the war on drugs. They also tend to drop out of school and even experience physical or verbal aggression. It is particularly disturbing that the nation is raising a generation of children who are exposed to these kinds of violence.



Save the Children Philippines' Reylene Dela Paz speaks on the negative impact of the 'war on drugs' on children.

The presence of torture is evident in some of the children who are victims of alleged extrajudicial killings. There were instances in which children were forcefully detained and the proper handling of children was violated. It was reported that 14.8% of 385 children were accused of drug-related crimes in Barangay Pag-asa. What's more, the National Police Data show that there were 26,905 child surrenderees, but there is no clear definition of 'child surrenderee.' On violence against children, 3 out of 4 experienced physical violence and 1 in 4 children experienced sexual violence. It is unfortunate that most cases of violence happen in the home. These forms of violence contribute to the mental health issues of children today.

D. Decent Jobs, Child Labor, Slavery, and Trafficking



PSLink's Jillian Rocque underscores the importance of decent work to combat poverty.

In the Philippines, most of the jobs are endo or contractual. Many people choose to work abroad and their remittances keep the economy afloat. Because of the lack of decent work in the country, people are forced to leave their families to work abroad, and are exposed to exploitation and abuse such as illegal recruitment and trafficking. The Philippine economy benefits from OFW remittances, yet the government fails to provide safe and decent jobs with good working conditions.

Given the environmental challenges that are being faced and the rapid reduction of natural resources, decent work will not be enough. It is now widely recognized that 'green jobs' must be

created and advocated for. Not only are green jobs decent, but these will also help promote and preserve the environment towards sustainable development.

More than 55% of the 10 million overseas Filipino workers are women who mostly are domestic workers. A majority are still in debt before even going out of the country and spend two to four months of work to pay off their debt. They cannot save up as their savings usually go towards the fees needed to apply for the next cycle of migration. Some cannot afford to send their children to school, thus these children are forced to work.

About 2.1 million children are working in agriculture, fishing, mining, and domestic work, and even cyber sex. Besides the rampant corruption in the government, sexual exploitation and parents helping perpetuate slavery and the worst forms of child labor are some of the most serious problems in the country. The issues of child slavery, labor, and trafficking are ingrained in sexism, poverty, and lack of decent jobs.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure the national plans of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) should go beyond police work and law enforcement towards holistic response to economic and cultural root causes;
2. Mainstream gender-based, gender-sensitive programs in all anti-poverty efforts that help prevent discrimination, bridge access to basic social services and leverage targets on education for all;

3. Strengthen families through alternative livelihoods, social enterprise development, and access to financial institutions. It is important to innovate to bridge people to social entrepreneurship which can be considered as a long-term solution;
4. Ensure access to stable work and decent working conditions especially by women in the informal sector;
5. Protect populations at-risk especially children and youth from trafficking syndicates, online predators, and those taking advantage of their vulnerability; and
6. Invest in reliable, trustworthy, and ethical recruitment agencies to help people find decent work abroad.



Voice of the Free's Roland Pacis puts forward recommendations to address the major issues of child slavery, labor, and trafficking in the country.

E. Persons with Disabilities



Arthur Letim (leftmost) of the Calamba Associations for Persons with Disabilities speaks on the exclusion of PWDs due to poverty and the

The SDGs pledge to leave no one behind. However, this commitment will never be fully realized unless the needs of the most marginalized are considered and met. In this regard, persons with disabilities (PWD) or households with disabilities are often at risk to be left behind. They can be found working in the informal sector, or not working at all. There are many barriers to accessibility that hamper their meaningful participation in social and economic development. The onset of disability may prevent school attendance, decent employment, increased spending, and lower income which worsen poverty.

It is the right of PWD and households with disabilities to live with dignity and in well-being. This means providing increased access to education and training, housing, healthcare, transportation, better facilities, government services, and decision-making processes. In addition, the inclusion of PWD should be mainstreamed in all aspects of society to raise awareness and it is necessary to guarantee that they are benefiting from existing government policies, programs, projects, and initiatives.

F. Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples (IP) believe that everyone comes from the land and everything that spouts from it has a purpose. Thus, the protection and preservation of the environment should be ingrained in people's values. This immediately underlines the importance of land for the IP. During the workshop, particular emphasis was put on conducting Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). It is the government's duty to consult with the IP before carrying out projects that might affect the IP's land, territories, and resources, which directly affect their culture, identity, and traditional livelihood.



Robie Halip of TebTebba speaks up about the exclusion of the Indigenous Peoples and the violation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Many groups of IP have history, customs, traditions, and practices that are otherwise unknown or undocumented. Besides being culturally-insensitive, it would be a violation of the IP's rights to land, culture, livelihood, and participation and FPIC should the government continue to implement infrastructure projects without their consent. IP are invisible in the data and there is no target of intervention for the poorer groups. Furthermore, the IP only have one representative in BARMM who is under the party line's command and cannot stand for the IPs' rights and voices. There are good policies that exist but the essence of mandatory representation is lost because the politician's cronies are in position instead of the representative that the IP have selected. There are long and expensive legal processes, while the IP rely primarily on their traditional justice systems.

G. Muslim Issues



Jolly Lais shares the few of the many issues that the Muslims face today.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) is another experiment to address historical injustice or inequality. In one way, these mechanisms are great. Instead of helping Mindanao develop and equipping Mindanaoans with the ability to work, the influx of migrants since the colonial era and historical injustices have sprouted. It is autonomous but not a fiscal economy. Twenty-nine years of ARMM have passed yet there is still no fiscal economy. The region has lagged behind. President Duterte will appoint 80 persons for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. The Supreme Court has questions and BOL is reportedly against

the law. There is also law that curtails the rights of the workers to work. This is a challenge that needs to be addressed and included in the agenda. However big or small, the advocacy in the region should continue. War should not be against the Filipinos, but a war against inequality and poverty.

H. Disaggregated Data

A recurring recommendation all throughout the workshop was the need for quality and reliable disaggregated data that considers age, gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, education, geographic location, migratory status, and other relevant factors. An improved collection, analysis, and dissemination of disaggregated data will allow for better-targeted programs, policies, and investments that will understand and respond to the needs of those who are furthest behind.

Data disaggregation will help pinpoint the needs of those of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, children, IP, and PWD, among others. What's more, it may help identify the deficiencies in government performance, improve the delivery of public goods and services, and increase transparency. The community's capacity to gather data with disaggregated format should be built and enhanced so it will not be as expensive. Systematic data collection will be formulated by experts and taught to the community level.

V. The Way Forward: Doable Next Steps Towards the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Taking into account the perspectives, lessons, and experiences gained during the consultation workshop, it was clear that, in order to keep the momentum around the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs strong, Social Watch Philippines (SWP) and other organizations in the country have to reaffirm their commitments in working toward the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) that will be held in July 2019 in New York under the auspices of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

SWP and other organizations present during the consultation workshop recognize the role of partnership in amplifying the voices of the civil society and ensuring the inclusion of their insights and recommendations in the dialogue. In this regard, the organizations have agreed to craft an alternative report that is intended as input towards the 2019 HLPF in which the SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17 will be reviewed in depth. A thematic approach was employed in the writing of SWP's previous alternative report to showcase the interlinkages of the SDGs. It was suggested that the same approach be used for the alternative report in which one organization can lead the writing of a section on one SDG as well as the organization of smaller consultations to discuss the making of a trigger paper. The following table shows the organization/s that will focus on the corresponding SDG and contribute to the CSO report.

SDG	Organization
1. No poverty – End poverty in all its forms everywhere	CRC Coalition, SP cluster, ABI Health, SWP
2. Zero hunger – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	CRC Coalition, SP cluster, ABI Health, SWP
3. Good health and well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	WomanHealth, ABI Health
4. Quality education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning and opportunities	E-Net Philippines, Tebtebba, FOLPMI, PPFI, SWP Youth
5. Gender equality – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	WomanHealth, CRC Coalition, Girls Advocacy Alliance
6. Clean water and sanitation – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Tebtebba, KIN, FOLPMI, Life Haven, WomanHealth, ABI Health
7. Affordable and clean energy – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Tebtebba, KIN, FOLPMI, Life Haven, WomanHealth, ABI Health
8. Decent work and economic growth – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	PhilSen, ISEA, SWP, PSLink, Voice of the Free, CMA, ENet Philippines, FTA, Tebtebba, Save the Children Philippines, SWP Youth
10. Reduced inequalities – Reduce inequality within and among countries	All organizations invited, SWP Youth; Lead writer – SWP
13. Climate Action – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Tebtebba, KIN, FOLPMI, Life Haven
14. Life below water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Tebtebba, KIN, FOLPMI, Life Haven

15. Life on land – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Tebtebba, KIN, FOLPMI, Life Haven
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Save the Children Philippines, World Vision, CRC, Plan International, KIN, PPFI, Voice of the Free, Tebtebba, Jolly, Life Haven
17. Partnerships for the goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	SWP, FDC, ENet Philippines

The Philippine government's timeline on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) shows that the conduct of consultation workshops in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, as well as the identification of the remaining gaps and further consultation with stakeholders will be held on March 2019. From March to April 2019, small group discussions will be organized by SWP and other organizations. Before the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development takes place on March 27 to 29, SWP plans to submit inputs and key points on March 13 and schedule a meeting or a roundtable discussion on March 15. At the Regional Forum, there will be a parallel CSO Forum held from March 24 to 26. The government will be incorporating inputs from the Regional Forum to the draft in April 2019. Drafts for the CSO report will be submitted to SWP by April 30. The government Consultation of the VNR report will be held on May 2019, so SWP intends to hold a final meeting on May 22 in preparation for the HLPF which will be held from July 9 to 16.

The Regional Forum on Infrastructure Financing for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the regional counterpart of the HLPF, will be held from March 7 to 8. A co-convenor mentioned that there will be a roundtable discussion with space for civil society participation, and proposed that inputs and bold recommendations be sought out in preparation for the engagement with the members states during the regional forum.



Social Watch Philippines Secretariat Coordinator Janet Carandang invites organizations to contribute to the writing of the CSO Alternative Report that will serve as input towards the 2019 HLPF.

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to take a meta-card and write specific strategies that will target the executive and legislative branches. These strategies can be used as prompts for the organizations as they collaborate and advocate for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and provide inputs on how to achieve the SDGs. It was strongly recommended to prioritize coming up with key points and recommendations that will be put forward in the VNR and the alternative report before creating a formal platform for CSOs to establish stronger partnerships and networks. One of the many advantages of a formal platform is the unification of the CSOs' voices, carrying with them a so-called 'meny of policy asks.'

There are several opportunities for CSO participation and partnerships, such as the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM), a platform that tracks the implementation, progress, and accountability of the SDGs. Likewise, there are spaces for individual organizations or Philippine platforms to participate in. National Statistician Lisa Bersales, chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, offers free PSA-led trainings on data gathering and mapping. This will allow CSOs to improve data collection capacities and even integrate the data on the ground into the national statistics. PSA will review the SDG targets and indicators that the country is monitoring. There may well be a chance to include targets and indicators that have been excluded, such as SDG 16.2 that focuses on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture, and all sorts of violence on children.

Across all of their efforts to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, SWP and other organizations will pay particular focus on the inclusion and accessibility of the most marginalized, vulnerable, and disadvantaged groups in order to achieve the SDGs and guarantee a more sustainable future for all.

Appendix I: Program Flow

Towards Coherent Policies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Philippines: Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Inputs to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019

February 7-8, 2019
Hive Hotel and Convention Place

Day 1, February 7, 2019		
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration	
9:05 – 9:15 am	Ecumenical Prayer and National Anthem	
9:15 – 9:20 am	Opening Remarks	ISAGANI R. SERRANO President, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement Convenor, Social Watch Philippines
9:20 - 9:45 am	Introduction and Program Flow	RENE R. RAYA Convenor, Social Watch Philippines LUZ R. ANIGAN Social Watch Philippines
9:45 – 11:00 am	Session 1 - Increasing concentration of wealth and economic power as obstacles to sustainable development and what to do about it? (SDG 8, part of SDG 10)	MA. VICTORIA R. RAQUIZA Convenor, Social Watch Philippines RENE OFRENEO President, Freedom from Debt Coalition PABLITO VILLEGAS Convenor, One Organic Movement

11:00 am – 12:52 pm	Reactions/Open Forum	<p>BENJAMIN BERNANDINO, Life Haven, Inc.</p> <p>MARIE LISA DACANAY, Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)</p> <p>ROLAND PACIS, Voice of the Free</p> <p>JILLIAN ROQUE, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLink)</p> <p>ELLENE SANA, Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)</p> <p>JOLLY LAIS</p> <p>ROBIE HALIP, TebTebba</p> <p>JOHN ANGELO TEINSIN, PUP Speak</p> <p>MAGNOLIA ESCOBEDO, CRC Coalition</p> <p>CAMILLE MADIZ, Plan International</p> <p>ARTHUR LETIM, Calamba Associations for Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>OLIE LUCAS, Unang Hakbang Foundation</p> <p>JESSICA CANTOS, Social Watch Philippines</p>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Parallel Sessions	
	<p>Session 2 - Are climate justice battles being fought and won? Keeping score (SDG 13)</p>	<p>ROBERTO VERZOLA Executive Director, Center for Renewable Electricity Strategies (CREST)</p> <p>RENATO REDENTOR CONSTANTINO Executive Director, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC)</p>
	Reactions/Open Forum	PABLITO VILLEGAS , One Organic Movement
	<p>Session 3 - Debt, trade, aid, foreign investment (SDG 17)</p>	<p>JESSICA CANTOS Co-Convenor, Social Watch Philippines</p> <p>RENE OFRENEO President, Freedom from Debt Coalition</p>

	Reactions/Open Forum	
	Session 4 - Social Policies: Education, Health, Social Protection	MITZI CHAN Advocacy and Campaign Officer, Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E-Net Philippines) RAMON PEDRO PATERNO Convenor, Universal Health Care Study Group, UP Manila BENJAMIN BERNANDINO Secretary General, Life Haven
	Reaction/Open Forum	BECKY BARRIOS , Panaghiusa Alang Sa Kaugalingnan Ug Kalingkawasan, Inc. (PASAKK) MERCEDES FABROS , WomanHealth Philippines OLIVIA LUCAS , Unang Hakbang Foundation
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Wrap-up of first day	
Day 2, February 8, 2019		
9:08 - 9:15 am	Introduction	JESSICA CANTOS , Social Watch Philippines
9:15 – 10:05 am	Session 5 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)	ALEX BRILLANTES , National College of Public Administration & Governance, UP Diliman NYMIA SIMBULAN Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UP Manila
10:05 – 10:30	Reactions/Open Forum	RONALDO AMBANGAN , KAMAL REYLENNE DELA PAZ , Save the Children Philippines LES CARANAY , Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)

		MAGNOLIA ESCOBEDO , CRC Coalition JOLLY LAIS
11:35 – 12:00	Reporting on Parallel Sessions	
12:00 – 1:00	Wrap-up and closing	
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	

Appendix II: Opening Remarks by Isagani R. Serrano

SDG in three years of DU30

ISAGANI R. SERRANO

President, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
Convenor, Social Watch Philippines

With a huge mandate to back it up, the government of President Duterte (PRRD or DU30) set off on a long-term goal of ending poverty by 2040, not 2030, and building a fairer, prosperous, stable and peaceful society through inclusive economic growth that minds environmental limits.

Three years down the road, DU30 appears on track with its 7-8 percent annual economic growth target because of its massive ‘build, build, build’ infrastructure program accounting for 5.4 percent of GDP in 2017. This has been the biggest net regional transfer across all post-Marcos regimes and augurs well for regional development and reducing inequality at least by geography, if not by class. This is especially true for Mindanao and the areas covered by the Bangsa Moro Organic Law.

The negative impact of this massive infrastructure program, specifically conversion to other land uses of already diminishing farmlands, is still to be determined. But one emerging impact has been the movement of the rural poor from agriculture to the construction industry and the disruption of agricultural value chain development initiatives of small producers that have been neglected by the state for a long time. All told, spending in agriculture, where most of the poorest derive their livelihood is disappointing for a country wishing to achieve green industrialization. One could also foresee that the fossil-intensive infrastructure and power programs and projects could reverse modest gains achieved in environmental protection and rehabilitation.

Spending on the social sector was 8.5 percent of GDP. Top priority is yet to be given to light infrastructures, like rural roads, water and sanitation, and home electricity, which impact more directly

on the lives of the poor and excluded. There is no firm indication as yet whether and how the promised poverty reduction from 21.6 percent to 14 percent by 2022 will be achieved on a year to year basis. Remittances from overseas Filipinos—a record-setting \$28.1 billion in 2017, a 4.3 percent increase from \$26.9 billion in 2016---keep the economy going mainly by financing family consumption and, potentially, the growth of the local economy.

The regime that started off on a high note of social consensus is now being threatened by creeping polarization. This is due in part to an abrasive yet popular style of leadership that’s unforgiving to opposition and bearing streaks of Marcosian authoritarianism. Underlying such polarization is the continuing high inequality that allows a tiny group of 16 billionaire-families and their political allies across the political spectrum, which accounts for less than 1 percent of the population--so much power and wealth at the expense of so many.

No less than a consensus around a national development strategy founded on inclusive, green agro-industrialization at the regional level with strong local institutions committed to provide basic economic and social services to the poorest will leave no one behind.

Social Watch has made its statement on how the Philippines could finally end poverty and achieve sustainable development through its Spotlight Report three years ago. We wanted to change everything—from a proposed vision of prosperity without growth, to changing the strategy and indicators. We know it’s not easy.

What we want to see in our assessments and proposals in this CSO consultation is how much of our recommendations have been addressed and how much incremental improvements have been achieved. Many good things are happening within society as a whole. But we really need to engage government more, not only to make a “whole government approach,” but a “whole of society approach” to work towards bringing us closer to our dream of fairness in a fragile world.

Appendix III: List of Workshop Participants

Social Watch Philippines

Alce Quitalig
Christian Payumo
Dhel Pulanco
Eli San Fernando
Erlinda Caponse
Janet Carandang
Jessica Cantos
Lea Maño
Lottie Salarda
Luz Anigan

Marivic Raquiza
Rene Raya
Ressie Benozza
Rose Ann Batuigas
Rosheic Sims

AKKABOPZ

Evangeline Rodriguez

Aksyon Klima

Frances JC Dela Cruz

Alyansa Agrikultura

Omi Royandoyan

Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)

Thea Soriano

Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E-Net Philippines)

Eleanor Jose

Flora Arellano

Ivaine Cruz

Mitzi Chan

Proserfina Guariña

Sabrina Sosi

Calamba Associations for Persons with Disabilities

Anna Espina

Arthur Letim

Catholics for Reproductive Health

Mercy Mangaliman

Luz Frances Chua

Ana Ebo

Center for Health Initiatives & Management of Ecosystems (CHIMES)

Ramon Padilla

Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)

Ellene Sana

Erumanen Ne Menuvu / KAMAL

Ronaldo Ambangan

Ez Fahra

Rommez Yamzon

Center for Renewable Electricity Strategies (CREST)

Roberto Versola

CRC Coalition

Magnolia Eva Escobedo

Fair Trade Alliance

Maria Dolores Mendoza

Freedom from Debt Coalition

Rene Ofreneo

Foundation of Our Lady of Peace

Lily Dueñas

Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)

Les Caranay

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)

Renato Redentor Constantino

Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)

Catherine Tiongson

Lisa Dacanay

Kalipunan ng mga Sektor sa Caloocan (KASECA)

Ma. Teresita Mangaliman

Corazon Siya

Kitanglad Integrated NGOs (KIN)

Maria Easterluna Canoy

Noemi Parreño

Life, Inc.

Arnel Caranto

Life Haven, Inc.

Benjamin Bernardino

Roldan Escribano

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)

Joniso Fradejas

MRRD NECC

Agnie Anire

National College of Public Administration and Governance - UP Diliman

Alex Brilliantes

National PTA Philippines

Robert Castillo

Willy Rodriguez

One Organic Movement

Pablito Villegas

Panaghiusa Alang Sa Kaugalingnan Ug Kalingkawasan, Inc. (PASAKK)

Becky Barrios

Partnership for Clean Air, Inc.

Julieta Manlapaz

Pinagsamang Samahan ng Magulang (PINASAMA)

Cristy Balleras

Andrea Menguina

Plan International

Camille Madiz

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

Dante Bismonte

Philippine Social Enterprise Network (PhilSen)

Gomer Padong

PINATI

Veneranda Mateo

Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLink)

Jillian Roque

PUP Speak

John Angelo Tiemsin

Vichelle Yumuya

Joanna Saavedra

Samahang Kabuhayan ng Mapulang Lupa

Gloria Madayag

Samahang Sikat Kabataan

Pose Laya

Save the Children

Olivia Burgos

Reylenne Dela Paz

TebTebba

Bernice See

Robie Halip

Tanungan Alihid

Unang Hakbang Foundation

Olivia Lucas

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Lyndon Pajaro

Universal Health Care Study Group

Ramon Pedro Paterno

University of the Philippines-Manila

Nymia Simbulan

University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College

Amyjoan Exconde

WomanHealth Philippines

Fe Manapat

Mercedes Fabros

World Vision

Marc Joseph Alejo

Voice of the Free

Roland Pacis

Villegas Organic and Hobby Farms

Susan Villegas