

National Statement for the 16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16),

The Philippine forestry sector has been actively involved in addressing the impacts of the pandemic. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, used the mechanized and modernized forest nursery facilities for agricultural production to ensure food security during community quarantine. A total of 3.2 million vegetable seedlings were produced and distributed to LGUs, communities, and people's organizations affected by the pandemic.

The forestry sector also donated a total of 272,000 board feet of confiscated lumber to government agencies and institutions for the construction of covid-19 quarantine facilities and quarters.

We have updated the national forest protection program for 2021 to 2025, to emphasize the significance of improving forest cover in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

On march 21st this year, as we pave the road to recovery and restoration,

coordination, and synergies in works related to ecosystem restoration among relevant united nations entities.

With this, please be assured of the firm commitment of the Philippines to the United Nations in achieving the targets of the UN strategic plan for forests.

Thank you very much.