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Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd urged developed economies to extend financial and technical support to countries most vulnerable to the destructive effects of climate change.

In his message during the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate, Dominguez also called on all citizens around the world to do their part in addressing climate change.

The Finance chief said the Philippines' high greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) target set in its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement was meant as a challenge for the country and the rest of the world to do more in the global effort to fight climate change.

The Philippines' NDC has set a 75-percent GHG emission reduction and avoidance by 2030, or higher than the 70-percent GHG cut it provisionally indicated in 2015 in keeping with the Paris Agreement.

Of the Philippines' 75-percent target, 72.29 percent is "conditional" or contingent upon the support of climate finance, technologies and capacity development, which shall be provided by developed countries, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement.

The remaining 2.71 percent is "unconditional" or shall be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

"Within the framework of the Paris Agreement, the advanced economies committed to assist the developing countries through financing arrangements, investments and technology transfers. We look forward to seeing these commitments materialize," Dominguez said.

"We cannot simply sound the alarm. We need a call to arms. Each person, each community and each country must do what needs to be done to reverse the destructive course we, ourselves, inflicted on our own planet," he added.

Dominguez said the Philippine government is now exploring a financing mechanism to enable it to improve the generating capacity of its Agus-Pulangi hydropower plant in Mindanao and acquire all coal-fired power plants in the region to repurpose them.

He said the proposal aims to shift most of Mindanao's energy requirements to hydropower, which will eventually spur more investments from companies seeking to expand their operations in areas powered by clean energy.

Dominguez said that although the Philippines accounts for only 0.3 percent of the world's carbon emissions, it wants to become a world leader in drastically reducing greenhouse gases, as it is among the countries most vulnerable to the devastating effects of the climate crisis.

"Climate change presents the planet with an existential threat. We must do what is necessary. There are painful choices to be made. We must prepare our people to make them," Dominguez

said.

He said the Philippines is pushing the congressional passage of a law banning single-use plastics to ensure that every Filipino will do his or her part on a daily basis in helping save the world's environment.

"Behavioral change, as one of the solutions to the climate emergency, must come first within ourselves and in our homes," he said.