

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**INTERVENTION OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE APEC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (ABAC) DIALOGUE WITH
ECONOMIC LEADERS
[11 November 2021]**

Excellencies, ABAC Representatives,

I am happy to meet you today.

Let me commend the APEC Business Advisory Council or ABAC for its significant contribution to our pandemic response. Indeed, continued public-private partnership will be crucial to ensuring comprehensive recovery.

We certainly need ABAC's support in helping those affected by the pandemic to rebuild their lives, especially in the context of climate change.

Let me identify key areas where we can collaborate more for an inclusive and sustainable future.

First, improving digitalization and literacy in rural communities. APEC economies must strengthen cooperation in digital infrastructure development, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas.

We must also promote digital literacy to facilitate the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the digital economy. This will help increase the economic productivity of marginalized groups under the new normal.

We must of course first establish the necessary infrastructure for accessible, stable and affordable energy supply in remote communities.

Second, establishing a national Social Protection Floor or SPF. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the limitations of social protection programs in APEC [economies]. These gaps can be addressed through an SPF that guarantees a minimum set of social security benefits for all, in accordance with International Labor Organization standards.

Third, facilitating the transition of developing economies to a low-carbon economy in the face of climate change.

The Philippines reiterates its call for scaled-up, sustainable and predictable support from developed countries. This should be in the form of climate finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity-building.

In the interest of climate justice, we need these interventions to transition to climate-smart development and adapt to and mitigate the worsening effects of climate change.

We welcome ABAC's support and cooperation in advancing these goals.

Thank you.

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