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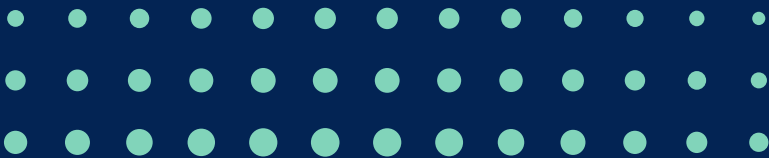
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources



# OPENING PLENARY SPEECH

**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I**  
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs

Circular Economy Forum 2025  
17 June 2025, ADB Headquarters, Manila  
Theme: Advancing Circular Economy for a Sustainable Future





“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract — **sustainable development** — and turn it into a reality for all the world’s people.”

*-Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, March 2001*



# PHILIPPINES: A NATION ON THE RISE

The Philippines is a nation on the rise, with vibrant cities and growing industries driving economic progress. Yet this growth comes with escalating resource consumption and waste generation: millions of tons of plastic waste, construction debris, food waste, and other materials, much of which ends up in landfills, waterways, or the ocean.



# LINEAR ECONOMY



# CIRCULAR ECONOMY



# CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE ASEAN REGION



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## Resilient Economy

Shaping a circular economy that is resilient to climate change and resource constraints will minimize costs and risks over the long-term, ultimately benefiting ASEAN.

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## Resource Efficiency

ASEAN's commitment to circular economy-based policies and innovations to attain resource efficiency will boost industries' competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets, both regional and global.

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## Sustainable Growth

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria represent a powerful movement towards aligning profit with sustainability. ASEAN is poised to take charge of this global shift by establishing itself as a hub for circular innovations and directing significant investments towards circular initiatives.

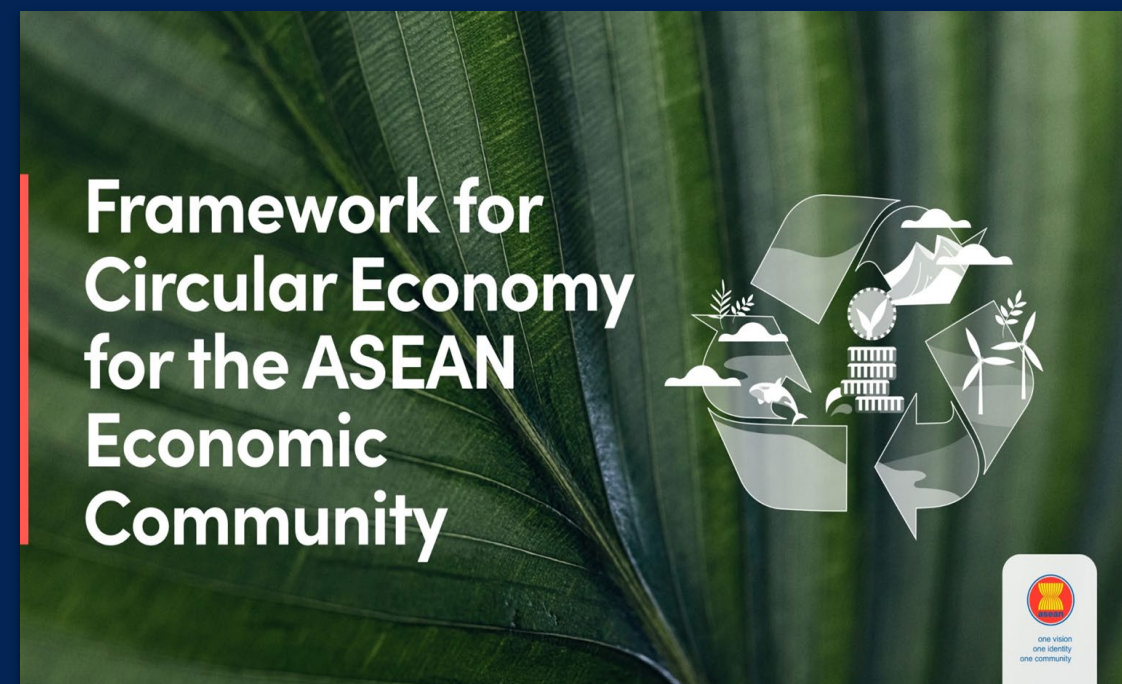
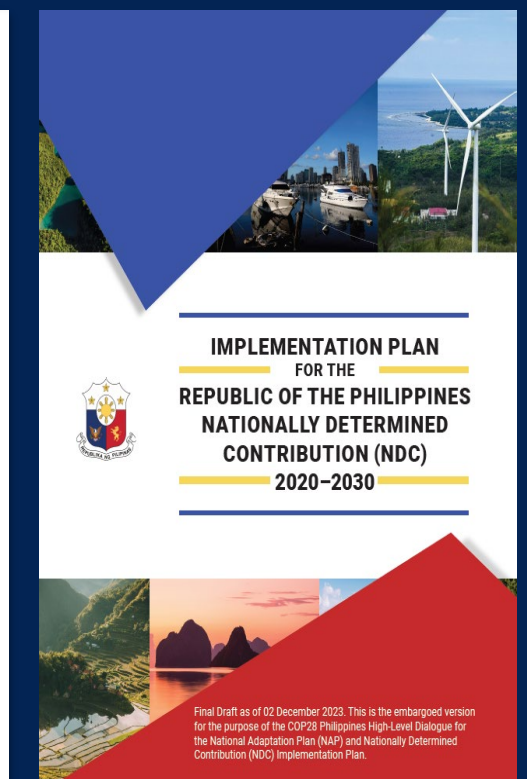
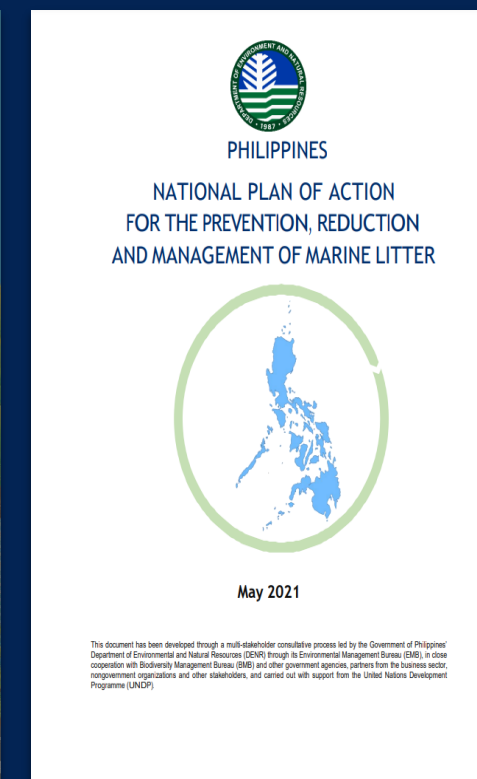
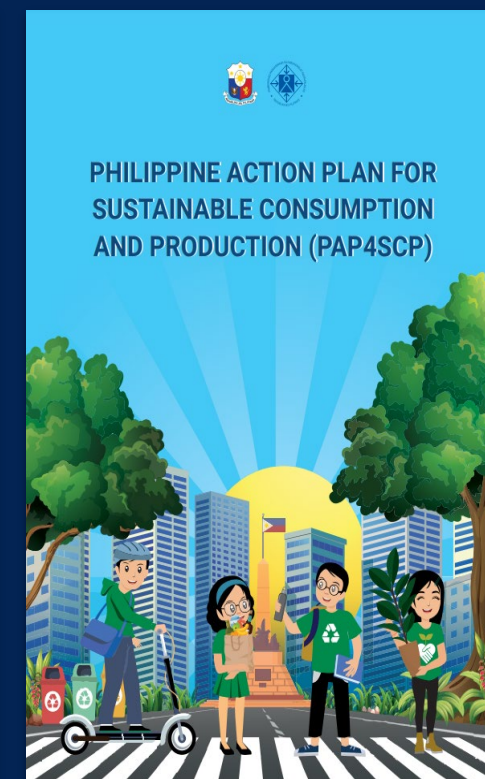
# ➤➤➤➤ GLOBAL UN PLASTICS TREATY



**The Philippines is actively engaged in the negotiations for the global plastics treaty, as this represents our commitment to ending plastic pollution by driving actions across the plastics life cycle, promoting innovation, and transitioning to circular systems.**



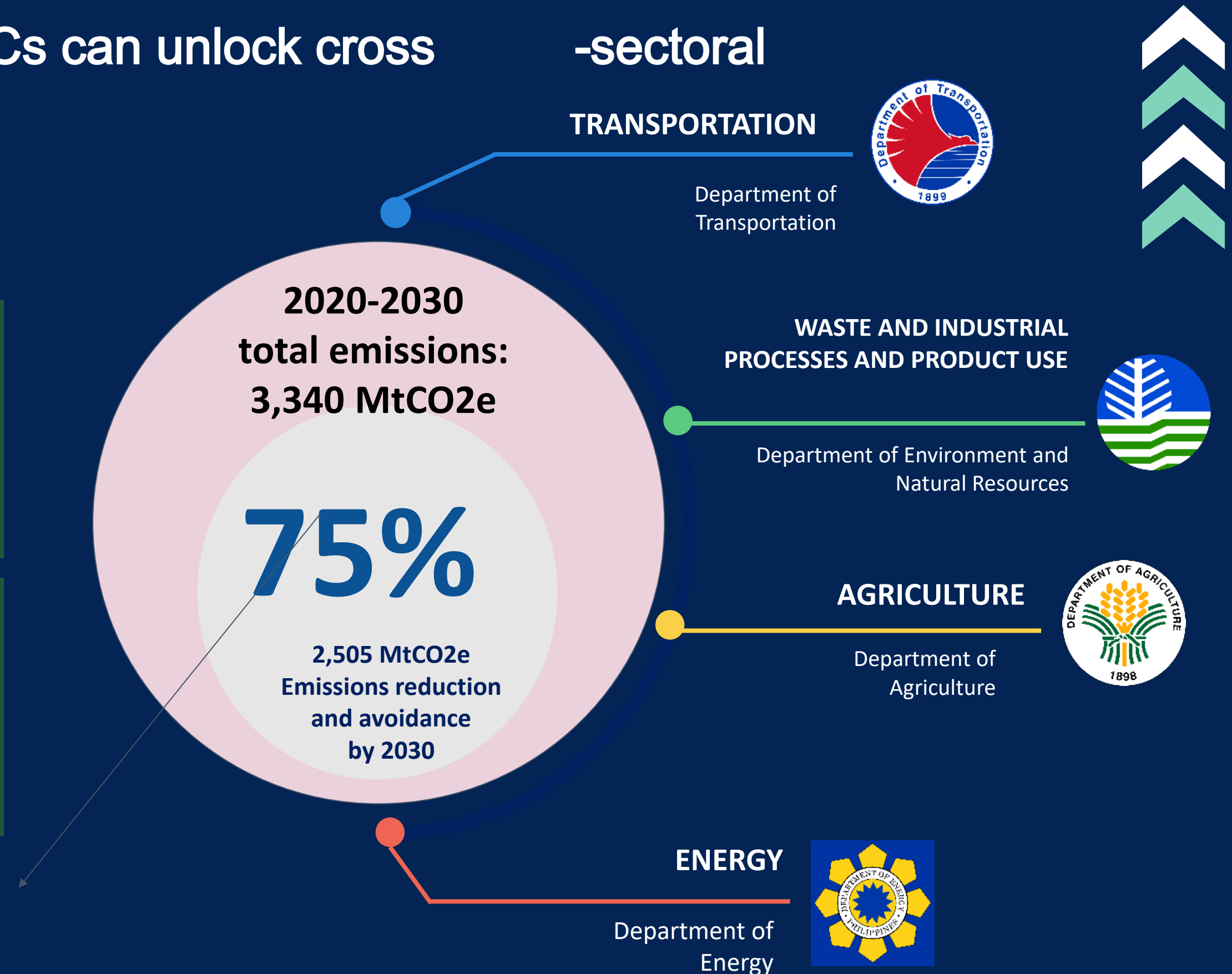
# CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE PHILIPPINES



# Integrating circular economy in NDCs can unlock cross climate solutions beyond waste

The Nationally Determined Contributions outlines priority policies and measures (PAMs) to reduce or avoid emissions in the five sectors

DENR is designated as lead for the Waste and Industrial Processes and Products Use (IPPU) sectors



2.71% (Unconditional using own resources)

72.29% (Conditional upon support received from developed countries)

# EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2022



## Obligated enterprises (OEs)

refer to product producers that are required to implement an EPR program under this Act

171



## Collectives (16)

establishes & implements an EPR program for and only among its members exclusively

78



## Producer Responsibility Organizations (10 PROs)

establishes a common platform for EPR programs for its members, but open to affiliates or public

442



## Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

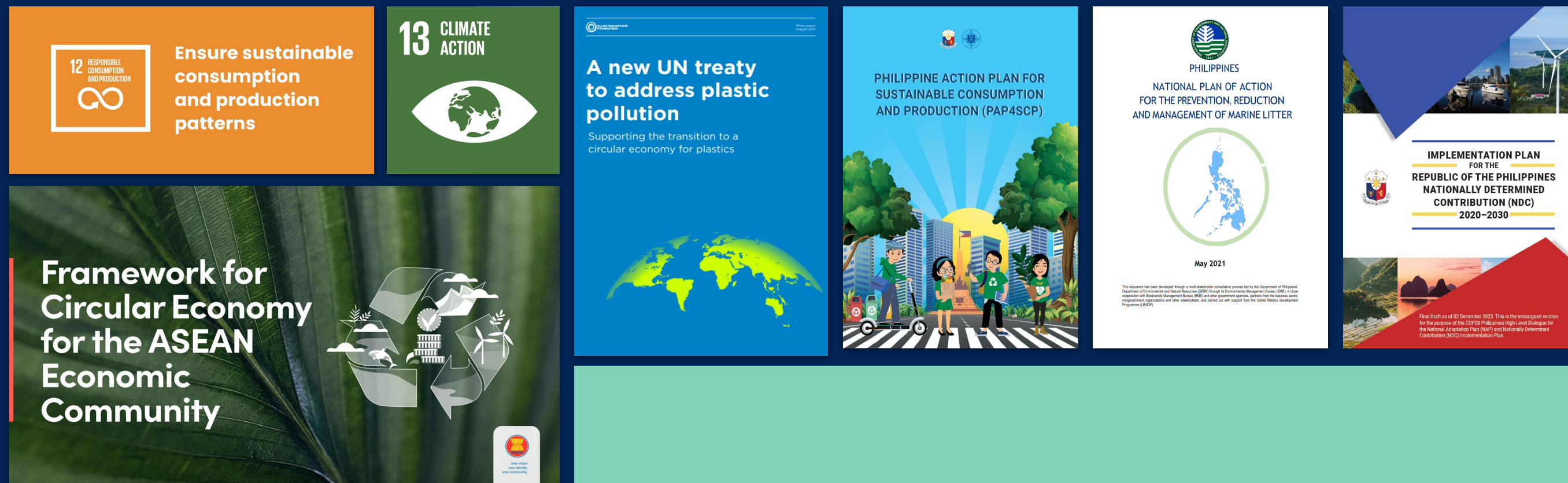
MSMEs which exceed total value of assets of all enterprises carrying the same brand, label or trademark for medium enterprises as prescribed by RA 9501

300

Total as of June 16, 2025

991

# PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



01



**Materials Recovery Facilities**

02



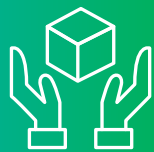
**Advanced Recycling Technologies**

03



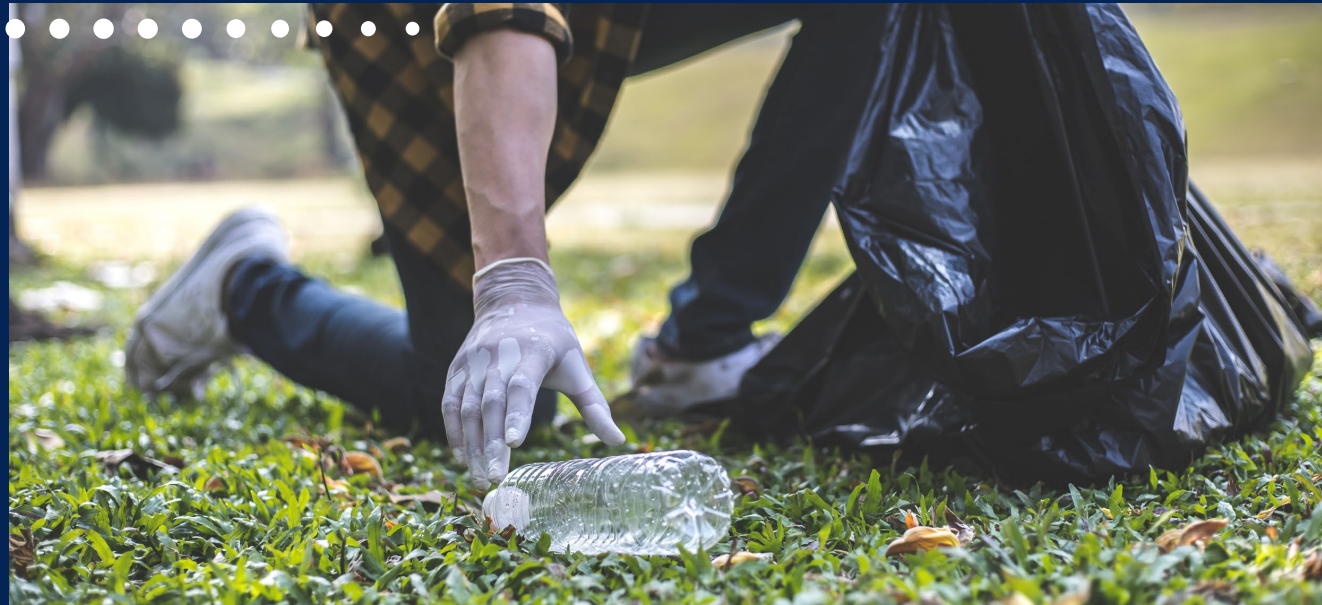
**Reverse Logistics Networks**

04



**Green Industrial Parks**





# WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Plastic waste management solutions include lowering plastic consumption, encouraging recycling, and creating eco-friendly alternatives to reduce environmental damage. We must accelerate the adoption of the mechanisms, which may include the following:

Digital Platforms for Tracking Materials

Smart Packaging and Eco-design Standards

Waste-to-energy Technologies

Circular Business Models





# INVESTING IN POUR PEOPLE



- Training in circular design and remanufacturing;
- Support for informal waste workers to transition to formal employment; and
- Public awareness campaigns to drive behavioral change.



# CIRCULAR ECONOMY : ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

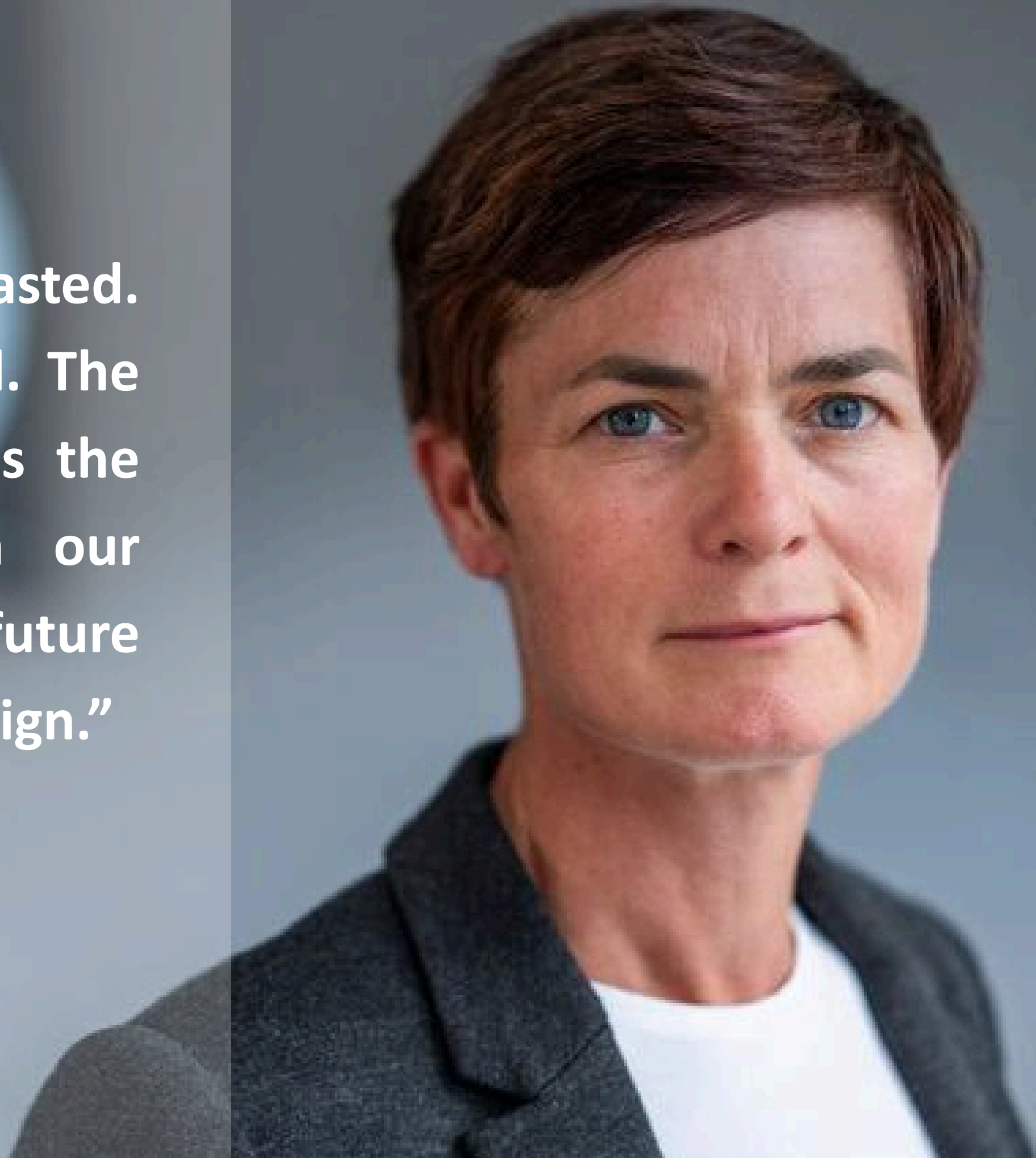
**By 2030, it could generate US\$4.5 trillion globally. For the Philippines, it promises millions of green jobs, resilient supply chains, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.**

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“In nature, nothing is wasted. Everything is transformed. The circular economy gives us the opportunity to redesign our systems and create a future that is regenerative by design.”

*-Ellen MacArthur, Founder, Ellen MacArthur Foundation*



We can show that sustainable growth and  
environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

We can transform today's linear challenges into  
tomorrow's circular opportunities.

Let us move forward—*TOGETHER*.





# THANK YOU!



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