



Office of the President of the Philippines

STATEMENT

Telesummit with His Excellency XI JINPING PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 08 April 2022

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte held a telephone summit with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China today.

The leaders took stock of and reviewed Philippines and China ties over the last six years and described the trajectory of relations as one that is positive and created greater space for partnership and cooperation.

Both Presidents recognized that economic and infrastructure cooperation between the two countries intensified and underscored the significant growth of bilateral trade and economic exchange.

Presidents Duterte and Xi agreed to further enhance two-way trade and investments, and continue supporting the *Build, Build, Build* program.

The leaders also stressed the need to open up access to goods and services and work for a balance of trade that would reflect a healthy state of economic partnership.

Both Presidents acknowledged the importance of mutual support in the fight against the COVID-19 virus, including through making vaccines available to nations that most needed them, as crucial to global and regional economic bounce back.

The leaders committed to work even more closely to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to explore constructive ways to jumpstart interaction and exchanges through, among others, mutual recognition of vaccine certificates, streamlining health protocols and resumption of commercial flights.

The leaders stressed the need to exert all efforts to maintain peace, security and stability in the South China Sea by exercising restraint, dissipating tensions and working on a mutually agreeable framework for functional cooperation.

Both leaders acknowledged that even while disputes existed, both sides remained committed to broaden the space for positive engagements which reflected the dynamic and multidimensional relations of the Philippines and China.

President Duterte and President Xi likewise discussed global and regional developments.

Both leaders reaffirmed the centrality of ASEAN and renewed the commitment to bring peace, progress and prosperity in the region. The two Presidents emphasized the importance of continuing discussions and concluding the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea.

President Duterte and President Xi expressed deep concern over developments in other parts of the world, including in Ukraine. The two Presidents renewed the call for a peaceful resolution of the situation through dialogue in accordance with international law.

President Duterte and President Xi also agreed on the need for both the Philippines and China to work closely together to address the impacts of climate change and to ensure that the voice of the developing world will be heard in all relevant climate change fora.

Both leaders considered the elevation of Philippines-China bilateral relations into a *Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation* as a milestone achievement that demonstrated the commitment of the Philippines and China to continue building on the gains of the previous years towards the future.

The telephone conversation was open, warm and positive, and lasted for one hour. It was attended by Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Secretary Robert E.A Borje, Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Deputy Assistant Secretary Myca Magnolia Fischer of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs. **END**