

The Philippine government's 2025 VNR frames progress around People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships. However, the prevailing neoliberal agenda deepens the gap between government narratives and grassroots realities.

On People: Discrimination persists, worsening poverty. Gender-based violence and systemic neglect of LGBTQIA+ rights persists. The SOGIESC Equality Bill and Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill remain pending. Women's unpaid care work remains unrecognised. There is no genuine universal social protection.

On Planet: Absent a national industrialization plan, unabated resource extraction, private sector-led energy transition, fossil fuel expansion, large-scale mining and quarrying, and reclamation intensify climate vulnerability and displace whole communities of indigenous peoples, farmers, fisherfolks and the urban poor.

On Prosperity: Despite growth claims, millions remain poor. The PHP 475 average daily minimum wage is way below the PHP 1,217 national living wage. The most important sectors for job creation and economic progress are at their smallest shares of the economy in 75 years. The *Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act* ignores core issues: lack of decent, regular, unionised jobs, the country's overreliance on foreign investments and overseas remittance, and underdeveloped agriculture and manufacturing industries.

Peace remains elusive, impunity prevails amid rampant militarisation, red-tagging, rights violations including killings and enforced disappearance of rights defenders and journalists; and, incarceration on trumped up charges. There are now 819 political prisoners. Counterinsurgency programs like the NTF-ELCAC and anti-terrorism laws institutionalised criminalisation of dissent, attacks CSOs development work, further shrinking civic spaces—depriving communities their right to development and access to critical humanitarian support during crises.

Under **Partnership**, we question the private-sector dominated, Stakeholders' Chamber that underrepresents marginalized groups. Profit-oriented public-private partnerships are prioritized while community-led solutions are ignored, even red-tagged.

We call on the Philippine government to move beyond profit-driven policies and band-aid solutions. Progress must be rooted in rights-based governance and people-led development. Filipino people over profit!