

# Align govt recovery plans to 2030 devt goals – Legarda

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Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda urged colleagues in government and policymakers to align the country's recovery plans from the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic to the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure a "better" post-pandemic scenario.

"While the country is focused on looking [for] efficient ways to put a stop on the still rising Covid-19 cases and providing aid to our fellow Filipinos who were severely affected by the disease, building back better should be the country's way forward to veer away its people from other equally threatening challenge that is climate change," she said.

Legarda cited the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) titled "Building Back Better: A Sustainable, Resilient Recovery After Covid-19," which recommends that "for the economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis to be durable and resilient, a return to business as usual and environmentally destructive investment patterns and activities must be avoided."

Among the key dimensions cited in the OECD report in assessing recovery packages were the alignment with long-term emission reduction goals, factoring in resilience to climate impacts, slowing biodiversity loss and increasing circularity of supply chains.

"In practice, well-designed recovery policies can cover several of these dimensions at once such as catalyzing the shift towards accessibility-based mobility systems and investing in low-carbon and decentralized electricity systems," Legarda said.

She also stressed that the SDGs, as a framework adopted by all UN member-states, must aid policymakers and local leaders in balancing social goals such as public health protection and inequality reduction, and economic goals, such as the promotion of decent work for all and poverty alleviation.

“In these challenging times that the government is compelled to do more, all leaders must undertake a more people-centered approach to decision making with policies that highlight the SDGs, and are implemented through an inclusive budget benefitting more vulnerable sectors, to ensure that no one is left behind,” she said.

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