



Senate

Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'17 JAN 16 P3:36

SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 261

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PHILIPPINE RATIFICATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHEN ITS CAPACITY TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9729 otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009 establishes the Climate Change Commission as an independent and sole policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the programs and projects related to climate change;

WHEREAS, Section 9 of the same law provides that the Climate Change Commission is tasked to mainstream climate change in synergy with disaster risk reduction into the national, sectoral and local development plans;

WHEREAS, the Philippines submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on 1 October 2015 as part of its commitments to ensuring the conclusion of a "universal, equitable, and ambitious" international climate agreement for the post-2020 period during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris this year;

WHEREAS, the 19th and 20th Sessions of the UNFCCC in Warsaw, Poland and Lima, Peru, respectively called on all nations to submit their individual plans for reducing emissions after 2020 with the objective of limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

WHEREAS, a synthesis report by the UNFCCC secretariat based on the 161 INDCs from 189 countries submitted as of 4 April 2016, concludes that the

implementation of the communicated INDCs, while leading to significantly lower global emission levels than in pre-INDC trajectories do not fall within the scope of 2°C scenarios by 2025 and 2030, and therefore, the Philippines, when it ratifies the Agreement, must join other vulnerable countries in expressing our concern that the current emission obligations are inadequate to prevent global temperature increase of 1.5°C above pre-Industrial levels and as a consequence, will have severe implications for our national interest;

WHEREAS, given its status of being the country with the third highest vulnerability to weather-related extreme events based on a 2013 World Bank study and following its membership and presidency of the Climate Vulnerability Forum—a South-South cooperation platform involving 48 countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet, the Philippines must lead by example among developing countries and submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat, when it ratifies the Agreement, a “nationally determined contribution” (NDC) that is ambitious but fair, based on “common but differentiated responsibilities”, and in the light of different national circumstances, pursuant to Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement and in line with the established UNFCCC principle that places greater responsibility for emission reduction on developed countries;

WHEREAS, the same study finds that even as the Philippines remains a minor contributor to global warming, its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are projected to quadruple in the energy sector and double in the transport sector by 2030 due to urbanization and motorization;

WHEREAS, mitigation activities aimed at emissions reduction, such as renewable energy for power generation, energy efficiency in energy intensive industries, adoption of transport fuel economy and emission standards, and waste management, have significant “co-benefits” or impacts that directly contribute to sustainable development due to positive health benefits from improved air quality, income and job generation, and energy security, which consequently lowers or may even offset the economic cost of implementing these mitigation actions;

WHEREAS, with the conclusion of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, and the UN Summit adopting the post-2015 development agenda on sustainable development goals in September 2015, the Paris Agreement provides a unique opportunity to build momentum and rally global action in the pursuit of a disaster-resilient and climate-adaptive sustainable growth path for the global economy;

WHEREAS, on 4 November 2016, the Paris Agreement entered into force thirty days after 5 October 2016—the date at which at least 55 parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55% of the total greenhouse gas emissions deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession;

WHEREAS, during COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco which served as the first meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, the Philippines attended only as an observer and not as an active participant in the negotiating process for the reason that it had not ratified the Treaty;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, the Philippines, as a developing country that is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, stands to benefit from financial resources that developed countries are mandated to provide to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, the amount of which is set at a minimum of US\$ 100 billion through 2025 and to be increased thereafter;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Philippines highlight its commitment to the pursuit of climate justice and equitable growth for all nations worldwide through ratification of said Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to express the sense of the Senate that Philippine ratification of the Paris Agreement will be beneficial for the country's progress and sustainable development and strengthen its capacity to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change;

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator