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09 December 2020

MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : The Undersecretary
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
River Basins Control Office
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service



The Executive Director
National Water Resources Board

FROM : The Assistant Secretary
Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

This pertains to an invitation dated 07 December 2020, received 09 December 2020, from Rep Edgar M. Chatto, Chairperson, Committee on Climate Change, House of Representatives, and Greenpeace Country Director Lea Guerrero, inviting DENR to an online forum-workshop dubbed "**HOW WILL THE DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORK?**" on 10 December 2020 (Thursday) at 8:30 am to 12:00 nn., to be one of the Reactors in the event

Kindly inform this Office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and ZOOM details will be given once you confirm


JOANA A. LAGUNDA, D.M., D.P.A.


MEMO NO. 2020 - 651



GREENPEACE

INVITATION

"HOW WILL THE DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORK?"

An Online Policy Forum-Workshop

Thursday, 10 December 2020 | 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN

07 December 2020

HON. ROY A. CIMATU

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue

Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Sec. Cimatú,

Warmest greetings from the Committee on Climate Change of the Philippine House of Representatives, and Greenpeace Philippines! We hope you are well despite the challenges that we are currently faced with.

The House Committee on Climate Change chaired by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto, together with Greenpeace Philippines, is holding an online forum-workshop dubbed, "HOW WILL THE DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORK?" on Thursday, 10 December 2020, 8:30 AM to 12:00 NN, Manila time (GMT +8).

This event will bring together experts, policymakers, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe, church, and youth groups to discuss issues and concerns about House Resolution 1377 - Declaration of Climate and Environmental Emergency, co-authored by Reps. Chatto and Loren Legarda, and to surface concrete action and ways forward.

In line with this, we would like to invite you or your representative to be one of the Reactors in this event.

Please refer to the attached Concept Note for more information. We will give you the zoom details once you confirm.

Your participation is crucial, thus, we look forward to seeing you at this event.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,


Rep. Edgar Chatto

Chairperson

House Committee on Climate Change

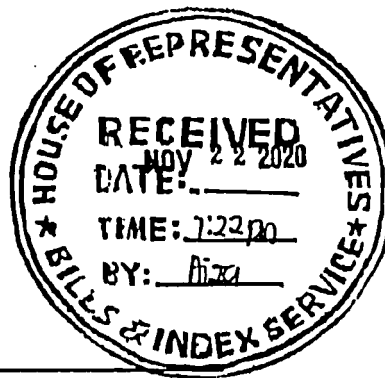

Lea Guerrero

Country Director

Greenpeace Philippines

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 606

Submitted by the Committee on Climate Change on NOV 22 2020

Re: House Resolution No. 1377

Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 724 and 761

Sponsors: Representatives Edgar M. Chatto and Loren B. Legarda

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Climate Change to which were referred House Resolution No. 724 introduced by Rep. Loren B. Legarda, entitled:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT LAWS IN LIGHT OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

and House Resolution No. 761, introduced by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto, entitled:

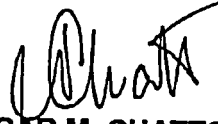
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 1377 entitled:

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT LAWS

be adopted in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 724 and 761 with Reps. Edgar M. Chatto, Loren B. Legarda, Raul Del Mar, Yasser Allonto Balindong, Elisa "Olga" Kho, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, and Romeo S. Momo Sr. as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



EDGAR M. CHATTO
Chairman
Committee on Climate Change

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1377

Introduced by Reps. Edgar M. Chatto, Loren B. Legarda, Raul Del Mar, Yasser Allonto Balindong, Elisa "Olga" Kho, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Eufemia "Ka Femla" C. Cullamat, and Romeo S. Momo Sr.

RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY, AND CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT LAWS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides 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, in pursuit of the said constitutional mandate, various laws on environmental and climate action, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act and its amendatory law creating the People's Survival Fund, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, Green Jobs Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, have been passed, the effective implementation of which are vital to the country's sustainable growth and development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act, as amended, declares it a State policy "to systematically integrate the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government";

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the same law mandates all relevant government agencies and local government units to "allocate from their annual appropriations adequate funds for the formulation, development and implementation, including training, capacity building and direct intervention, of their respective climate change programs and plans";

WHEREAS, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code emphasizes the significant role played by local government units (LGUs) in the maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to ensure that sufficient consultations have been undertaken and appropriate clearances have been secured in relation to the planning and implementation of any project or program that may cause pollution, climatic change,

depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of crop land, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11465, or the 2020 General Appropriations Act, mandates all agencies of the government "to plan and implement programs and projects, taking into consideration measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, based on climate and disaster risk assessments";

WHEREAS, 197 countries, including the Philippines, are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose ultimate objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system" and "should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner";

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Philippines acceded to the Paris Agreement, a major climate treaty within the UNFCCC which aims to enhance the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change and to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius (2°C) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C);

WHEREAS, as a state Party to the Paris Agreement, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will communicate to the UNFCCC by 2020 its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which will present a paradigm shift toward low carbon development and should be attuned to the country's socio-economic development goals;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the world's leading scientific body assessing the science related to climate change - has released a three-part series of Special Reports that highlight the urgency of climate action, namely:

1) Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5°C (October 2018), which cites that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C;

2) Special Report on Climate Change and Land (August 2019), which cites that global warming has resulted in an increased frequency and intensity and duration of heat-related events, including heat waves, droughts, and precipitation events; and

3) Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (September 2019), which cites that human communities in close connection with coastal environments, small islands, polar areas, and high mountains are particularly exposed to ocean and cryosphere change, such as sea level rise, extreme sea level, and shrinking cryosphere;

WHEREAS, reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change are critical policy objectives, given the findings of the 5th IPCC Assessment Report that climate change will result in the creation of another kind of socially-displaced group called the "new poor" between now and 2100, which phenomenon is expected to jeopardize sustainable development. The Global Commission on Adaptation Flagship Report: "Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience" found that climate change impacts are becoming an increasingly urgent reality, which could push more than 100 million people within developing countries below the poverty line by 2030;

WHEREAS, the 5th IPCC Assessment Report found that the increased risk of disease outbreaks is one indirect effect of climate change, noting that local changes in temperature and rainfall have altered the distribution of some disease vectors;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2019 reported that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, significantly altered by multiple human drivers, with the great majority of indicators of ecosystems and biodiversity showing rapid decline;

WHEREAS, the 2020 Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum cites that failure to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change as the top concern of the Forum's network of business leaders, NGOs, academe and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS, a global campaign to declare a "Climate Emergency" started as early as 2003, in recognition of the intensifying complications brought about by global warming and climate change, and of the corresponding needs and implications to accelerate actions, including investments and mobilization of resources. The key elements of the campaign include building of public awareness as acknowledgement of the threats of such emergency, the declaration of a climate emergency by governments to trigger societal actions, and a demand for mobilization at a sufficient scale and speed, considering the urgency of implementation of such actions;

WHEREAS, there is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under a climate emergency and that failure to reduce global GHG emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment, and global economy;

WHEREAS, the 2017 Philippine Climate Change Assessment Report states that terrestrial ecosystems in the country have been radically altered due to anthropogenic causes resulting in the ecosystems' reduced ability to provide life-sustaining services. Climate change will exacerbate the degraded condition of ecosystems in the country;

WHEREAS, the massive loss and damage of the Philippines from climate-related disasters in recent years shows that climate change is a clear and present threat to the country's national security and its efforts to reduce poverty and to pursue sustainable development;

WHEREAS, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020, the Philippines is the second most affected country by climate change in 2018, and fourth most affected country from 1999 to 2018, a two-decade analysis reporting annual average losses of USD3.118 billion or 0.57% of the country's GDP;

WHEREAS, energy, industrial processes, agriculture, and waste generation sectors are the four biggest contributors of GHG emission. The use of coal and fuel oil for electricity generation contributed 41.8%, or almost half of the total GHG emissions in the country in 2010 and is growing annually by 3.7 percent. Transport ranked second with 35% of the total emissions. The agriculture sector, particularly livestock farming and rice cultivation, produces methane (CH₄) that is more potent as heat-trapping gas;

WHEREAS, Filipino climate scientists from the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) have recently issued a Resolution calling on the Philippine Government to declare a "climate emergency", shifting from the use of the term "climate change" to further underscore the need for immediate action against this human-induced phenomenon. The NPTE is composed of leading experts in different fields such as climate, biodiversity, meteorology, oceanography and health. Further, the NPTE provides technical assistance and advises the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on concerns related to climate science;

WHEREAS, in its Resolution entitled, "Declaration of a Climate Emergency and the Immediate Need to Consolidate Government Data to Generate a Nationwide Climate Risk Assessment", the NPTE manifests that 2020 marks an unprecedented level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) with at least 410 parts per million (ppm), a 17% increase since 1990 exactly thirty (30)

years ago when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) met for the very first time to discuss the Framework for Negotiations on Greenhouse Gas Emissions;

WHEREAS, the NPTE said that various data sets — which contain information on natural hazards, levels and extent of exposure, and inherent vulnerabilities must be gathered in a single platform that can be analyzed for the purpose of producing baseline climate risk assessments at a city/municipality scale. These data may be sourced from various government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, the NPTE Resolution also recommended that the CCC be the lead agency to gather, integrate and analyse data sets from national government agencies, and to assemble a team of geographic information system (GIS) specialists, remote sensing image analysts, and data scientists to assist it;

WHEREAS, having a climate risk assessment will contribute to national and local development and investment planning, and will help identify the cities and municipalities that are most at risk to the deepening climate emergency so local governments will be guided on which adaptation measures are best for their communities;

WHEREAS, Greenpeace Southeast Asia has warned that the Philippines has been in a state of climate emergency for decades now, has called on the Philippine government to formally acknowledge this emergency situation, and act with the utmost urgency and defend the interests of its people in the face of climate injustice;

WHEREAS, as of 2019, forty one (41) economies, including twenty eight (28) European Union member states have signed a climate emergency declaration;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, the City of Bacolod, the Municipality of Tolosa in Leyte and the City of Cebu have all made Climate Emergency Declarations in their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, in declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it. The decision stresses the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming;

WHEREAS, the effective and faithful implementation of environmental and climate laws will aid the Philippines in achieving its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the era of a global climate emergency;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of the environmental, climate, and disaster risk reduction laws which will redound to the benefit of the next generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives declare a climate and environmental emergency, ensuring enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government;

Towards this end the House of Representatives shall:

- 1) encourage that climate urgency be placed at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level;
- 2) encourage local governments to issue Climate Change Declarations within their respective jurisdictions;

- 3) call on the Climate Change Commission to spearhead the collection and consolidation of relevant data with national government agencies as well as local government units, in collaboration with the National Panel of Technical Experts, to come up with a climate risk assessment of the country, to produce baseline studies that consider future scenarios and impacts of climate change, to perform sustainable development and resilient investment planning, programming and financing at the national, sectoral, and local levels;
- 4) call on the major carbon emitters, locally and abroad, to take responsibility for climate change and to reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy;
- 5) call on local governments to adopt a "No to Coal" or "No to New Coal Policy" within their respective jurisdictions;
- 6) call on local industries and local government units to pursue renewable and sustainable energy sources;
- 7) in the exercise of its oversight functions, conduct an audit of relevant national government agencies and local government units in relation to their compliance to existing environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction and management and appropriation laws, and international agreements in light of the climate and environmental emergency with the end in view of ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of these laws and warranting the accountability of government officials, private entities and other involved stakeholders;
- 8) enjoin national government agencies to promote convergence of efforts toward strengthening data science, technology development, and research for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the establishment of a national integrated risk information system and a national loss and damage registry, to support science-based policy formulation and risk governance at national and sub-national levels;

RESOLVED THAT, Congress mobilize government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units towards the effective implementation of environmental climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management laws in the light of global climate and environmental emergency.

RESOLVED FINALLY THAT, copies of this Resolution be furnished immediately to all local government units, national government agencies and instrumentalities, and other concerned institutions.

Adopted,

How will the Declaration of Climate Emergency Work?

A forum-cum-workshop on HR 1377 and other Climate Emergency Policy Agenda
10 December 2020| 8:30 AM to 12:00 NN (GMT + 8) | Live on FB via Zoom

Background and Rationale:

The House of Representatives has recently adopted House Resolution 1377, Declaring Climate and Environmental Emergency. The Resolution is authored by the House Committee on Climate Change Chairperson Rep. Edgar Chatto and Rep. Loren Legarda. Among the salient provisions shall call on the major carbon emitters, locally and abroad, to take responsibility for climate change and reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy.

On the other hand, House Resolution 535 seeks a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-nation policy response to anticipate, halt, reduce, reverse, address, and adapt the impacts, consequences, and causes of natural disasters. HR 535, titled "Declaring a Disaster and Climate Emergency," is authored by Representative Joey Salceda. Rep. Salceda argues that by declaring a climate emergency, the Philippines can leverage its position as an emerging market and a potent labor source for new industrialization to pursue an official foreign policy of international climate justice.

Meanwhile, the Call for the Declaration of Climate Emergency has gained a lot of support from various groups, including environmental organizations, labor, and youth groups, amid COVID-19 and the spate of typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses.

Even Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on the Climate Change Commission to sustain President Rodrigo Duterte's call for climate justice before the international community. He said that the country continues to bear the devastating impact of global warming even though it remains among the world's lowest greenhouse gas emitters.

Last 25 November, Senate President Vicente Sotto III, House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, and Rep. Edgar Chatto met with fellow lawmakers from the 48-member-nation Climate Vulnerable Forum to call for more ambitious climate action globally. Speaker Velasco said in this forum that the Philippine Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) will show the world the country's resolve to pursue carbon development, as well as the support the country needs from developed countries in terms of climate finance, capacity building, and technology transfer in the context of climate justice and in accordance with the Paris Agreement. He further said the increasingly violent typhoons, hurricanes, and floods caused by climate change are becoming the new normal all over the world, and the Philippines has been the unfortunate receiving end of the worst of them.

Earlier in October this year, the Department of Energy declared a moratorium on endorsements for new coal power plants, which can be one step to ensure the country's rapid transition to renewable energy. This announcement is a strong signal to coal investors and financial institutions that fossil fuels are losing propositions. Major players in both distribution and energy generation must yield to this policy shift, redirect all their investments, and commit to ambitious and timebound renewable energy targets.

Ordinary citizens may ask, what good will these declarations of climate emergency and call for climate justice from the halls of Congress and government agencies do to us? They are concerned about how the Declaration might benefit the country and the most vulnerable communities.

Given this backdrop and Human Rights Consciousness Week (December 4 to December 10) the House Committee on Climate Change and Greenpeace Philippines will hold a forum-cum-workshop to discuss the salient features in the resolutions, get the reactions from concerned agencies, and understand the next steps to expedite the concrete translation of these resolutions into climate action in the context of human rights' harm posed by climate change.

Target audience and activity design:

This policy forum-cum-workshop will be participated in by non-government organizations, civil society groups, women, youth, and labor organizations, including the media.

This activity will be divided into two parts; first part would be the inputs and reactions from the panel, while part 2 is a workshop to surface concrete plans of action, ways forward, and possible areas of collaboration among the various stakeholders.

Part 1 of the activity will be aired live on Facebook while Part 2 will be done offline.

Indicative Program

Part 1: Presentations and Reactions

8:00 – 8:30 AM - Standby/waiting time/Video presentations while waiting for Pax

8:30 – 8:40 AM - Opening

Opening Video

Climate emergency as told by young Filipinos

Welcome Message

Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho

Vice Chairperson, Committee on Climate Change, House of Representatives

Overview of the Activity

Lea Guerrero

Country Director Director, Greenpeace Philippines

8:40 – 9:30 AM - Presentations

How Communities Suffer from the Impacts of Climate Change

Mr. Bill Bontigao

President, Bicol University Science Alliance Club

Climate Science and the Carbon Majors

Peter C. Frumhoff, PhD

Director of Science and Policy, Chief Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists

Climate Justice and Corporate Legal Accountability

Carroll Muffett

President and CEO, Center for International Environmental Law

Human Rights and the Call for Climate Justice In the Philippines
Naderev Sano
Executive Director, Greenpeace Southeast Asia

9:30 - 10:30 AM - Reactions

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Climate Change Commission
Department of Finance
Hon. Edgar Chatto, Chairperson, House Committee on Climate Change
Hon. Lord Allan Velasco, Speaker of the House of Representatives

10:30 – 11:00 AM - Open Forum/Photo Ops with Speakers

Part 2: Workshop

Participants will be randomly selected into groups (ideally 6-8 pax per group). They will be assigned to breakout rooms where there will be facilitators and documentors. They will be given 20 minutes each breakout session to discuss: 3 minutes warm up, 15 mins discussion, 2 minutes wrap up. The groups will be asked to discuss on:

11:00 – 11:20 AM - Break out 1

- What is, in your view, the significance of the Climate Emergency Declaration?
- Building on the Declaration and the inputs from experts, what are some of the potential strategies can various stakeholders do as groups? Together?

11:20 – 11:40 NN - Break out 2

- What potential roles do you see for yourself, your affiliated organizations, and/or other allied and actors in designing and implementing possible strategies/tactics to translate this Resolution into concrete climate action?
- How might we work together?

11:40 – 12:00 NN - Plenary Presentation and closing