

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Senate

Manila City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 156

RESOLUTION CREATING A STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE THEREBY  
AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

WHEREAS, climate change, an alteration of the world's climate due to human activity, such as fossil fuel burning, clearing forests and other practices that increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods, is an issue of global proportion;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming is unequivocal as atmosphere and ocean temperatures are higher than they have been at any other time during the past five centuries;

WHEREAS, the IPCC predicts the global average surface warming to increase by 1.1 -6.4° C, the sea level to rise between 18 and 59 cm, hot extremes, heat waves and heavy precipitation events to be more frequent and tropical cyclones to become more intense, among other projections;

WHEREAS, the urgency for climate change mitigation and adaptation is highlighted by predictions that billions of people will face shortages of water and food and greater risks to health and life as a result of climate change;

WHEREAS, while impacts of the climate crisis are global in nature, developing countries such as the Philippines are

particularly vulnerable because they have fewer financial and technological resources to adapt;

WHEREAS, due to its archipelagic nature and its location within the Pacific typhoon belt, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events;

WHEREAS, predicted downstream effects of climate change in the country include poorer agricultural yield, biodiversity loss, declining marine resources, proliferation of disease vectors such as *Aedes* and *Anopheles* mosquito for dengue fever and malaria, severe flooding, water shortages, loss of livelihoods and displacement of communities, among other things;

WHEREAS, climate-related disasters will threaten basic human security, sustainable development and poverty reduction goals and undo decades of development efforts;

WHEREAS, concerted national action is highly and urgently needed to enable the country adapt to the effects of climate change that are already happening and will worsen in the future;

WHEREAS, as a responsible member of the global community and the United Nations, the Philippines became party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol upon ratification by the Senate;

WHEREAS, Congress has already enacted the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in compliance with the Kyoto Protocol and oversight committees were created pursuant to these laws;

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol introduced the Clean Development Mechanism whereby developing countries (Non-annex 1 parties) may participate in global efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by generating Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) through projects like reforestation, use of renewable energy, waste management projects, etc. and selling the same to Annex 1 parties;

WHEREAS, the Clean Development Mechanism is mutually beneficial for developed and developing countries -- enabling the former to meet their emission reduction targets while allowing the latter to profit through the sale of CERs to the former;

WHEREAS, the Philippines stands to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism through the promotion of investment capital which would translate to technology transfer and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to monitor the country's compliance with our international commitments on climate change and thereby, promote sustainable development and

allow our economy to take advantage of and reap considerable gains from the Clean Development Mechanism espoused under the Kyoto Protocol and other carbon markets;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Senate to ensure that adequate responses are crafted and implemented at all levels to guard the country's poverty reduction and development goals against the effects of climate change: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines assembled,* That a Committee on Climate Change be created to be composed of nine (9) members of the Senate.

*Resolved, further,* That to attain the objectives, the Committee shall have the following jurisdiction:

All matters relating to policies, programs, strategies, technologies and other innovations addressing global warming and climate change impacts, including, but not limited to, climate risk management to reduce vulnerability associated with climate-sensitive areas and sectors, all matters related to adaptation and mitigation or control of greenhouse gas emissions to enhance resilience and to promote sustainable development, Philippine compliance with the relevant international agreements and cooperation with other countries.

*Resolved, further,* That the mandate given to the committee under this Resolution shall be without prejudice to the performance of the duties and functions by the existing committees of the Senate.

*Resolved, finally,* That in order to carry out the objectives of this Resolution, an initial sum shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Senate of the Philippines under Fiscal Year 2008 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Adopted,

  
JOAN PONCE ENRIQUEZ  
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on December 17, 2008.

  
EMMA LIRIO-REYES

Secretary of the Senate