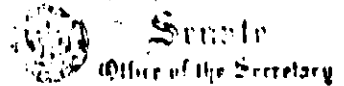


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session



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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1700

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING MS. MARGARETA WAHLSTRÖM, THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, FOR HER INVALUABLE ROLE IN MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS AND SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, as a nation highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events, the Philippines has been at the forefront of a global call for effective advocates for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and management in national policy, and for dedicated leaders in building capacities of national and local governments, communities and citizens all over the world to manage existing disaster risks and build resilience against natural hazards;

WHEREAS, Ms. Margareta Wahlström was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as his Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in November 2008;

WHEREAS, in her capacity as head of the UNISDR, she served as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction efforts and providing institutional support for the implementation of the 10-year plan called the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 which aimed to build resilience of communities against natural hazards, and its successor, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which sets priorities for action and clear actionable targets for reducing disaster risk and disaster losses;

WHEREAS, Ms. Wahström has remained consistent in advocating for disaster risk reduction and management policies to reduce losses for countries which are vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change impacts, particularly in the Philippines where her engagement with parliamentarian champions supported the strong legislative framework embodied in the Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act 9729) and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act 10121) which she has often cited as model legislation;

WHEREAS, during her period of leadership at the UNISDR, more than 170 Philippine provinces, cities and municipalities became engaged in the 'Making Cities Resilient' campaign, which paved the way for the municipality of San Francisco in Camotes Islands, Cebu to be recognized globally as a leader in disaster risk reduction through the 2011 UNISDR Sasakawa Award, and making known worldwide the exceptional work by champion local governments such as the promotion of 'zero casualty' in Albay Province and the swift and resilient shift to recovery of Cebu province after Typhoon Haiyan;

WHEREAS, her advocacy on topics such as safe schools and hospitals engaged the Department of Education and local governments on school safety assessment, disaster risk reduction in education and preparedness in schools;

WHEREAS, her engagement with the private sector resulted in the launch in the Philippines of the Risk Sensitive Societies (ARISE) with now more than 20 companies as members sharing best practices on improving business continuity planning, public and private partnerships for pre-disaster planning, and disaster risk education for the private sector;

WHEREAS, she has systematically engaged with communities at risk with particular focus given to a different group each year since 2008 - starting with children and youth, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and indigenous people, resulting in a stronger voice for these groups from the Philippines in various global fora and policy making processes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY resolved to recognize and commend Ms. Margareta Wahlström, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, for her invaluable role in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in international development frameworks and supporting the implementation of key disaster risk reduction and management programs in the Philippines;

Approved,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator