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S E N A T E

P.S. RES. No. 45

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE COUNTRY'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

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

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a State-Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), having ratified the same on 2 August 1994, and thereby adopts the ultimate objective of the Convention which is the stabilization of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system which 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, Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009 declares that the State shall cooperate with the global community in the resolution of climate change issues, including disaster risk reduction, and establishes the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as the independent and sole policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the programs and projects related to climate change;

WHEREAS, The Philippines submitted on 1 October 2015 its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC where the country manifested to undertake a 70% reduction in GHG emissions from its 2000 levels by 2030 entirely conditional on external support;

WHEREAS, on 22 April 2016, the Philippines signed the Paris Agreement, which establishes a global warming goal of below 2°C from pre-industrial averages and requests, upon ratification, for a definite voluntary pledge on emission reduction as the signatory country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC);

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed the Instrument of Accession to the Paris Agreement on 28 February 2017, which was unanimously concurred by the Senate on 14 March 2017, thereby completing the ratification process;

WHEREAS, the Instrument of Accession was accepted by the UNFCCC on 23 March 2017, and it officially entered into force on 22 April 2017;

WHEREAS, the Philippines on 15 April 2021 communicated its updated NDC to the UNFCC. It "commits to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional, representing the country's ambition for GHG mitigation for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy."

WHEREAS, there is a need for Congress to examine (1) the efforts of various government agencies in arriving at their respective sectoral NDCs and their specific adaptation and mitigation strategies, and (2) the status of the country's GHG emissions in relation to the NDC with the end in view of ensuring compliance with the Paris Agreement;

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the Philippines' greenhouse gas emissions and Nationally Determined Contribution.

Adopted,

VIN GATCHALIAN