

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

SENATE

Resolution No. 303

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION
CREATING AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO
MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE COUNTRY'S COMPLIANCE WITH
INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS, climate change is a global concern caused by the variation in the earth's climate or in regional climates over time, either due to processes internal to the earth, or external forces including variations in its orbit around the sun, volcanic eruptions, and atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and, more recently, by human activities which elevated levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that, under a range of expected emission trends, temperatures will rise between 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century;

WHEREAS, climate change poses serious threats to the world especially to fragile ecosystems like the Philippines;

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, 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 (UNFCC) 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 agenda for implementing the Kyoto Protocol has shifted from straightforward reduction of discharge of greenhouse gases to increasing the capacity of state parties to comply with their treaty obligation of meeting their emission reduction targets ;

WHEREAS, the primordial objective of the UNFCC and the Kyoto Protocol is the stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent

dangerous interference with the climate system by setting emission reduction targets for Annex 1 parties;

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;

WHEREAS, there is a need to explore potential projects that will qualify under the CDM and encourage participation of different sectors of the economy therein;

WHEREAS, Section 14, Rule X of the Rules of the Senate provides that "Whenever necessary, special committees shall be organized, the membership and jurisdiction of which shall be determined by the Senate President": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That an Oversight Committee on Climate Change be created to monitor and oversee the country's compliance with international commitments addressing global warming to be composed of five (5) members to be appointed by the Senate President;

Resolved, further, That to attain its objectives, the Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) to closely monitor and review all activities undertaken pursuant to international commitments on climate change in particular, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol;
- b) to prescribe and adopt guidelines that will govern its work;
- c) to conduct hearings, investigations, receive testimonies and reports relevant to its mandate;
- d) to summon by *subpoena ad testificandum* any witness to testify before it, or require by *subpoena duces tecum* to produce documents, books, records and other papers as may be necessary in the performance of its functions;

- e) to secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of Government any assistance as may be needed including technical information, preparation and production of reports and submission of recommendations and plans as it may require;
- f) to recommend the passage of legislative measures pursuant to its findings;
- g) to organize its staff, hire and appoint its employees and personnel to approve the budget for the work of the committee and all disbursements therefrom including compensation of personnel; and
- h) generally, to exercise such other acts necessary and appropriate to carry out its purposes;

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

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator