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SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 158

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Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCING EMISSIONS
FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD)
PROGRAMMES TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 estimated emissions from deforestation in the 1990s to be at 5.8 GtCO₂/year. It also noted that reducing and/or preventing deforestation and preventing the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere is the mitigation option with the largest and most immediate carbon stock impact in the short term per hectare and per year globally.

WHEREAS, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process recognized the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in developing countries and the need to take action to reduce such emissions. After numerous consultations and dialogues, the UN-REDD Programme was created. UN-REDD is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries.

WHEREAS, REDD is a mechanism to create an incentive for developing countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources by reducing deforestation and forest degradation, in order to contribute to the global fight against climate change.

WHEREAS, REDD++ are strategies that go beyond deforestation and forest degradation and include the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in reducing emissions.

WHEREAS, the Philippines is currently one of the 18 partner countries to the REDD Programme and is shortlisted to be a pilot country, which shall then have access to technical and financial support from the REDD Programme for the design and implementation of their national REDD/REDD++ strategies.

WHEREAS, there have been fears that the REDD and REDD++ Programmes, if implemented in the Philippines, will result in the exclusion of indigenous peoples (IPs) from decision-making, undermine their sustainable forest management IP systems, and lead to violations of IP forest rights as well as their right to free prior and informed consent, among others.

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution, enshrines the rights of our indigenous brothers and sisters in numerous provisions, such as: Article II, Section 22 which provides that, "the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development;" Article XII, Section 5, which also provides that, "The State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being; and Article XIV, Section 17, which affirms that, "The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies."

WHEREAS, the country is a signatory to a number of international treaties and conventions that mandate the recognition of Indigenous Peoples Rights to their land and to their right to free, prior and informed consent, to wit: Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Cultural Communities to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implications of the implementation of the REDD and REDD++ Programmes in the Philippines to our Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Cultural Communities.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator