Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH
CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1391

Introduced by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO SUBMIT ITS FIRST NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) ON OR BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2020

WHEREAS, 197 countries, including the Philippines, are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose ultimate objective is to achieve “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level 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, under the UNFCCC, the Parties should protect the climate system “on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof”;

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Philippines acceded to the Paris Agreement, a major climate treaty within the UNFCCC which aims to enhance the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change and to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius (2°C) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C);

WHEREAS, the attainment of this global temperature goal is dependent on the successful implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Parties that ratified the accord;

WHEREAS, under the Paris Agreement, all Parties are to communicate their NDCs in 2020 and every five (5) years thereafter. Each Party’s successive NDC will represent a progression beyond the Party’s current NDC. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. The Agreement recognizes that peaking of greenhouse gas emissions will take longer for developing countries;
WHEREAS, in the State Declaration that accompanied the Philippines’ Instrument of Accession to the Paris Agreement signed by the President on 06 March 2017, the Government stated that it will submit its first NDC before 2020. The Declaration emphasized that the accession to the Paris Agreement of the Philippines is for the purpose of supporting the countries national development objectives and priorities such as sustainable industrial development, the eradication of poverty and provision of basic needs, and securing social and climate justice and energy security for all its citizens;

WHEREAS, under Decision 1/CP.21, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that Parties shall submit to the secretariat of the UNFCCC their NDC at least 9 to 12 months in advance of the relevant session. Originally set to take place in November of this year, the COP 26 has been delayed until November 2021 due to the global pandemic;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Climate Change, conducted public hearings on the progress of the development of the Philippines’ NDC and facilitated its finalization by December 2020;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), have finalized the climate change adaptation and mitigation options in the respective sectors of energy, transportation, agriculture, waste, industrial processes and product use, and forestry;

WHEREAS, the NDC will communicate to the world the Philippines’ resolve to pursue low-carbon development, as well as the support we need from developed countries in terms of climate finance, capacity building, and technology transfer in accordance with the Paris Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO EXPRESS the sense of the House of Representatives for the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to submit its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on or before 31 December 2020;

RESOLVED FURTHER, by the House of Representatives that the NDC, in pursuit of climate justice, is anchored on climate change adaptation and minimizing loss and damage from the impacts of climate change to ensure achievement of the country’s sustainable development goals;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the House of Representatives, strongly urge the Executive Department, specifically the CCC, NEDA, DOE, DOTr, DA, DENR, and other agencies concerned, to ensure that the Philippine NDC shall define the country’s greenhouse gas emissions avoidance based on national needs and priorities, circumstances and capacities, and optimal investment opportunities, in light of the global climate emergency.

Adopted,

EDGAR M. CHATTO