POSITION PAPER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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AGENDA
From Climate Commitments to Climate Security: Establishing a Global Framework for Financing Adaptation, Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Managed Retreat in Vulnerable States

I. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of the Philippines recognises climate change as a serious global challenge that threatens human lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, food security and economic development. As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines is exposed to tropical cyclones, flooding, extreme rainfall and rising sea levels. These hazards make climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure urgent national priorities.

The Philippines believes that climate commitments must translate into practical protection for people and communities. Effective action requires reliable financing, access to appropriate technology, scientific research and close cooperation among national governments, international organisations, local authorities and affected communities.

II. COUNTRY POSITION

The Philippines supports equity, climate justice and international cooperation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Developing countries need accessible financial and technical assistance to strengthen climate resilience while continuing to pursue inclusive and sustainable development.

The Philippines' National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050 provides a long-term framework for addressing climate risks across key areas, including food security, water resources, health, ecosystems, livelihoods, human settlements and infrastructure. The country also recognises that international support is important to implementing ambitious climate action. It therefore advocates climate finance that is predictable, accessible, transparent and responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities.

III. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The Republic of the Philippines encourages UNEP Member States and relevant international partners to advance the following measures:

1. Strengthen international climate finance

Improve access to predictable, transparent and affordable funding for vulnerable developing countries. Financing should support adaptation, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and

recovery from climate-related losses, with application processes that smaller and local institutions can realistically navigate.

2. Build climate-resilient infrastructure

   Support the construction and upgrading of cyclone-resistant schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, drainage systems, safe water supplies and reliable renewable-energy infrastructure. Climate risks should be considered during project design, construction and maintenance.

3. Improve early-warning and preparedness systems

   Expand weather forecasting, accessible public alerts, community education, evacuation planning and emergency communications. Warning systems should reach remote and at-risk communities in languages and formats they can understand and use.

4. Protect agriculture, fisheries and food security

   Promote climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation, sustainable fishing, improved agricultural technology and the protection of coastal ecosystems. These measures can help safeguard food supplies and the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk.

5. Ensure safe and dignified managed retreat

   Where credible scientific evidence shows that severe climate risks cannot reasonably be reduced in place, planned relocation may be considered as a last resort. It must be risk-informed, participatory and rights-based, with safe housing, secure land arrangements, livelihood support, access to essential services and respect for cultural heritage.

6. Expand technology transfer and capacity-building

   Encourage developed countries and international organisations to strengthen access to suitable climate technologies, scientific expertise, training and research partnerships. Support should build local skills and enable communities to maintain solutions over time.

7. Establish transparent monitoring and accountability

   Climate-finance programmes should use clear eligibility criteria, measurable objectives, public reporting and regular independent assessment. Monitoring should check whether funds reach intended communities, reduce vulnerability and deliver lasting benefits.

The Philippines' Position on Climate Security

The Republic of the Philippines considers climate change a serious threat to human security, sustainable development and the well-being of vulnerable communities. The Philippines supports stronger international cooperation to expand access to climate adaptation finance, develop climate-resilient infrastructure, improve early-warning systems and protect ecosystems. Its National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050 and People's Survival Fund demonstrate its commitment to adaptation planning and community resilience. The Philippines calls for fair, accessible and transparent financing, stronger technical cooperation, and voluntary, safe and dignified managed retreat where remaining in high-risk areas is no longer viable. Climate action must protect livelihoods, respect human rights and ensure that vulnerable communities participate in decisions affecting their future.

Core Environmental Issues in the Philippines

- Extreme Climate Vulnerability: Ranked repeatedly near the top of global risk indexes (such as the World Risk Index) due to its location along the typhoon belt and Pacific Ring of Fire, suffering 20–25 typhoons annually.
- Marine & Plastic Pollution: Recognized as a massive global contributor to ocean plastic waste, with hundreds of thousands of tons flowing from rivers (like the Pasig River) directly into marine ecosystems.
- Deforestation & Biodiversity Loss: Forest cover has dropped dramatically over the past century (historically from over 70% down to roughly 20%), driven by illegal logging, agriculture, and mining.
- Transition Mineral Mining: Extensive nickel and transition-metal mining (particularly in regions like Caraga) disrupts indigenous lands, water supplies, and local fishing/farming economies.
- Urban Air & Water Pollution: High rates of vehicular congestion, reliance on fossil fuels, and untreated wastewater threaten major urban hubs like Metro Manila.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Republic of the Philippines believes that climate security depends on collective action, fair and accessible financing, resilient infrastructure and the protection of vulnerable communities. Climate adaptation must be practical, inclusive and supported by the resources and technical capacity needed to turn commitments into measurable progress.

The Philippines calls upon Member States to work constructively through UNEP and other relevant international mechanisms towards a practical, transparent and inclusive framework for climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and responsible relocation where necessary. The delegation stands ready to cooperate on solutions that protect lives, livelihoods and the environment while promoting a safer and more resilient future.

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