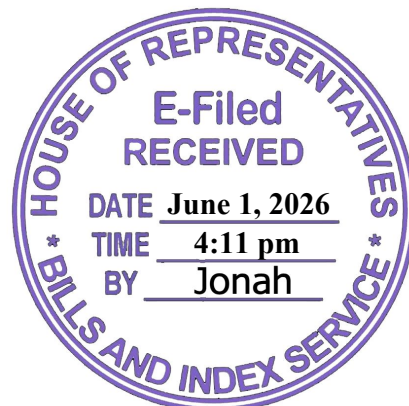




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1074

**Introduced by Deputy Speaker David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez and
Representative Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez**

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE EMERGENCY, WELCOMING THE ADVISORY
OPINIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE
OBLIGATIONS OF STATES IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WELCOMING
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/80/L.65, AND
URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO INTEGRATE SAID ADVISORY
OPINIONS INTO PHILIPPINE CLIMATE POLICY, DOMESTIC LEGISLATION,
AND INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS**

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology, a right the Supreme Court recognized in *Oposa v. Factoran, Jr.*, (G.R. No. 101083, 30 July 1993), as self-executory and enforceable on behalf of present and future generations, a principle since reinforced in *Resident Marine Mammals of the Protected Seascape Tañon Strait v. Reyes*, (G.R. No. 180771, 21 April 2015); *Metropolitan Manila Development Authority v. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay* (G.R. Nos. 171947-48, 18 December 2008); *West Tower Condominium Corporation v. First Philippine Industrial Corporation* (G.R. No. 194239, 16 June 2015); and *Segovia v. Climate Change Commission*, (G.R. No. 211010, 7 March 2017);

WHEREAS, Sections 2 and 7, Article II of the 1987 Constitution adopt the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and affirm the State's policy of pursuing an independent foreign policy grounded in national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interest; and Republic Act No. 9729

(Climate Change Act of 2009), as amended by Republic Act No. 10174 (People's Survival Fund Act of 2012), and Republic Act No. 12019 (Loss and Damage Fund Board Act of 2024) constitute the foundational domestic legal architecture for the Philippines' climate response;

WHEREAS, the Philippines contributes a mere 0.5 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as of 2021, a figure rising but still minimal relative to historical emitters, and serves as a net carbon sink in its forestry sector; yet it ranks **first** in the 2024 World Risk Index among 193 countries for disaster risk and climate vulnerability — a position it has held since 2011; it suffers an average of twenty tropical cyclones entering its area of responsibility annually, with eight to nine making landfall; coastal communities face sea-level rise in Manila Bay recorded at fifteen millimeters per year between 1960 and 2012, far exceeding the global average; approximately 4.4 million Filipinos were newly displaced by disasters in 2020 alone per the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; and 61.2 percent of heat-related deaths in the country in the period 1991–2008 are attributable to human-induced climate change — an unconscionable injustice for a nation that did not create the crisis it suffers;

WHEREAS, on 21 May 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) rendered its Advisory Opinion on *Climate Change and International Law* (Case No. 31, *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*), holding that anthropogenic GHG emissions constitute pollution of the marine environment within the meaning of UNCLOS, and that all States parties have legally binding obligations under Part XII of UNCLOS, including Articles 192, 194, 207, 212, 213, and 222, to take measures as far-reaching and efficacious as possible to prevent, reduce, and control marine pollution from GHG emissions, applying a stringent standard of due diligence calibrated to capabilities but permitting neither undue delay nor general exemption;

WHEREAS, on 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rendered its Advisory Opinion on the *Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change* (General List No. 187), unanimously holding that the climate change treaties, including the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, set forth binding obligations for States parties to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic GHG emissions; customary international law independently requires all States to prevent significant harm to the environment from GHG emissions and to cooperate in good faith; States parties to the Paris Agreement have an obligation to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive and progressive nationally determined contributions which, when taken together, are capable of achieving the temperature goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; obligations under customary international law pertaining to the protection of the climate system are *erga omnes* in character, while corresponding obligations under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement are *erga omnes partes*; and States that, by their acts and omissions, have caused significant harm to the climate

system bear obligations of cessation, guarantees of non-repetition, and full reparation to injured States in the form of restitution, compensation, and satisfaction, provided that the general conditions of State responsibility are met, including that a sufficiently direct and certain causal nexus can be shown between the wrongful act and the injury;

WHEREAS, the ICJ further held that adverse effects of climate change significantly impair the enjoyment of human rights recognized under international law, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and that the protection of the environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of all human rights, findings that resonate directly with, and powerfully reinforce, the constitutional and statutory framework of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines was a leading and active participant in the ICJ Advisory Opinion proceedings, submitting a Written Statement, Written Comment, and Written Replies, and appearing through oral submissions before the Court through the Office of the Solicitor General, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Philippine diplomatic delegations, advancing the position that climate obligations arise under both treaty law and customary international law, and that acts and omissions causing anthropogenic GHG emissions constitute internationally wrongful acts entailing State responsibility;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines co-sponsored UN General Assembly Resolution A/80/L.65 which was adopted on 20 May 2026 by the United Nations General Assembly with an overwhelming vote of 141 in favor, 8 against, and 28 abstentions, operationalizing the ICJ Advisory Opinion, welcoming its findings, and calling upon all States to implement their climate obligations in accordance with the Court's authoritative legal framework — constituting the international community's endorsement, in operative terms, of the legal architecture the Court established;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

(1) Recognizes and welcomes the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change* (23 July 2025) and the Advisory Opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on *Climate Change and International Law* (21 May 2024) as authoritative pronouncements on international law binding upon all States, including the Republic of the Philippines, and commends the active and principled participation of the Philippine government in these ICJ proceedings;

(2) Expresses the sense of the Chamber that climate obligations arising under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, UNCLOS, customary international law, and international human rights law

constitute binding international legal commitments of the Republic of the Philippines that are consistent with Article II, Sections 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and other relevant provisions of the 1987 Constitution, not merely aspirational policy positions, and that compliance is a matter of national honor, legal duty, and intergenerational justice;

(3) Declares that climate change is, at its core, a multi-dimensional developmental, ecological, human rights and intergenerational justice issue that threatens the right to life, the right to health, the right to food and water security, and the constitutional right of every Filipino, present and future, to a balanced and healthful ecology, and calls upon all branches of government to treat every climate decision as a decision about human rights and to center the most vulnerable Filipinos in all climate action;

(4) Urges the Executive Department, acting through the President, the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Finance, the Office of the Solicitor General and all relevant agencies, to:

(a) Reflect the ICJ and ITLOS Advisory Opinions into the official legal position of the Republic of the Philippines governing climate policy formulation, rule-making, program implementation, and domestic and international legal strategy, consistent with the Incorporation Clause of the 1987 Constitution;

(b) Strengthen and progressively enhance the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) pursuant to the provisions of the Paris Agreement and in a manner that ensures compliance with the standard of due diligence explained by the ICJ and the obligation that NDCs, in the aggregate, be capable of limiting global warming to 1.5°C;

(c) Assert the Philippines' rights as an injured and specially affected developing State that is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in all multilateral climate negotiations, including under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, and in the context of accessing finance, technology transfer and other means of implementation thereunder, such as through the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), and other funds, in light of the framework of State responsibility, cessation, and reparation established by the ICJ Advisory Opinion;

(d) Invoke the *erga omnes* character of climate obligations in international negotiations to support collective enforcement mechanisms and resist efforts to dilute or circumvent established legal duties;

(e) Integrate the ITLOS and ICJ Advisory Opinions into UNCLOS-based advocacy, particularly in asserting the Philippines' maritime entitlements and the protection of its exclusive economic zone, coral reef systems, and marine biodiversity; and

(f) Promote and recall UNGA Resolution A/80/L.65 in all international fora and lead efforts within ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific to build political will for the domestic operationalization of the ICJ Advisory Opinion;

(5) Directs the relevant House Committees, including those on Climate Change, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, and Justice, to conduct comprehensive hearings on the domestic implications of the ICJ and ITLOS Advisory Opinions, review existing legislation in light of their holdings, and consider measures that codify the Philippines' climate obligations as judicially cognizable rights and duties; and

(6) Calls upon the Supreme Court of the Philippines to consider guidelines and annotations to the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases incorporating the ICJ and ITLOS Advisory Opinions, to ensure that the Philippine judiciary is equipped to apply these holdings in domestic environmental and climate proceedings.

Resolved, further, That copies of this Resolution be furnished the Office of the President, the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the Solicitor General, the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and all other relevant agencies for their immediate consideration and action.

Adopted,


HON. DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ
Second District, Quezon


HON. MA. CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ
ALONÁ Party List