



Republic of the Philippines
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AUG 24 2017

H.E. DR. EDGAR GUTIÉRREZ-ESPELETA
Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica
President of the UN Environment Assembly
UN Environment Program Secretariat of Governing Bodies
United Nations Ave., Gigiri
Nairobi, Kenya
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Dear President Gutierrez-Espeleta:

Consistent with the recent appeal of the UN Secretary General for coherence to avoid dispersion of funding, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Philippines, hereby endorses the attached proposed UNEA resolution to synchronize the objectives and activities of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/ Protocols (MEA/Ps), prepared by Dr. Ramon J.P. Paje, Vice-President for Asia-Pacific, UNEA. The proposed resolution, together with the other submissions from UN Member States, shall be included in the major agenda of the Asia-Pacific Summit of Environment Ministers in Bangkok on September 4-9, 2017, where the Philippines is expected to chair the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

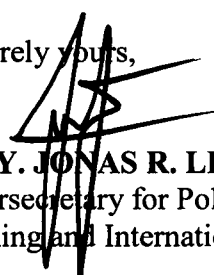
The rationale of the proposed resolution is that the coherence of objectives and activities, particularly the cycle of meetings of Conference of Parties (COPs)/Governing Bodies of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols, will not only reduce costs but also promote the efficient implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and significantly improve the participation of member states, particularly developing countries, like the Philippines, which need to efficiently utilize funding for international conferences.

Efficiently coordinated and synchronized objectives and activities of MEA/Ps will avoid duplication of programs and activities especially at the regional and national levels. It will also reduce the need for international travels for ministers and their staff, thus giving more time and emphasis to national program implementation.

We believe that the UNEA, being the world's highest level decision-making body for the environment, is in the best position to initiate the proposed synchronization. Hence, we look forward to the favourable consideration of the said proposed resolution.

Thank you and best regards!

Sincerely yours,


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary for Policy,
Planning and International Affairs

cc:
Jorge Laguna Celis
Secretary of Governing Bodies, UN Environment
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United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme

August 22, 2017

HON. ROY A. CIMATU

Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
Diliman Quezon City

Dear **Secretary Cimatu**,

Consistent with the recent appeal of the UN Secretary General for coherence to avoid dispersion of funding, attached is a proposed UNEA resolution to synchronize the objectives and activities of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/ Protocols (MEA/Ps).

The coherence of objectives and activities, particularly the cycle of meetings of Conference of Parties (COPs)/Governing Bodies of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols, will not only reduce costs but also promote the efficient implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and significantly improve the participation of member states, particularly developing countries, like the Philippines, which need to efficiently utilize funding for international conferences.

Efficiently coordinated and synchronized objectives and activities of MEA/Ps will avoid duplication of programs and activities especially in the Regional and National levels. It will also reduce the need for international travels for ministers and staff, thus giving more time and emphasis to national program implementation.

The UNEA, being the world's highest level decision-making body for the environment, is in the best position to initiate the proposed synchronization.

Finally, the submission of this resolution will demonstrate not only the adeptness of the Philippines in handling its Multilateral Environmental Agreements but also its strong concern for efficient and effective utilization of financial resources of the United Nations and Member States.

This proposed resolution, together with the other submissions from other Member States, will comprise the major agenda of the Asia-Pacific Summit of Environment Ministers in Bangkok on September 4-9, 2017, where Philippines is expected to chair the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

Thank you and best regards!

Very truly yours,

RAMON J.P. PAJE
Vice President for Asia-Pacific
United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE SYNCHRONIZATION OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES (COP)/ GOVERNING BODIES, OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS FOR EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE AGENDA 2030 AND FOR COST REDUCTION AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF UN MEMBER STATES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed resolution to synchronize the objectives and activities of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols (MEA/Ps) is consistent with the recent appeal of the UN Secretary General for coherence to avoid dispersion of funding.

The coherence of objectives and activities, particularly the cycle of meetings of COPs/Governing Bodies, of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols, will not only reduce costs but also promote the efficient implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and significantly improve the participation of member states, particularly developing countries which need to efficiently utilize funding for international conferences.

Efficiently coordinated and synchronized objectives and activities of MEA/Ps will avoid duplication of programs and activities, especially at the Regional and National Levels. It will also reduce the need for international travels for environment ministers and staff, thus giving more time and emphasis to national program implementation.

The UNEA, being the world's highest level decision-making body for the environment, is in the best position to initiate the proposed synchronization.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE SYNCHRONIZATION OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES (COP)/ GOVERNING BODIES, OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS FOR EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE AGENDA 2030 AND FOR COST REDUCTION AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF UN MEMBER STATES

WHEREAS, The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest level decision-making body on the environment which has universal membership of all 193 UN Member States and the full involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector;

WHEREAS, the UNEA is mandated to: set the global environmental agenda; provide an overarching policy to address emerging environmental challenges; undertake policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences; and foster partnership for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization;

WHEREAS, the Secretary General, in his remarks to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York last July 17, 2017, urged that "funding needs to be in line with the objectives of coherence and the objectives of accountability. . . instead of the dispersion of funding".

WHEREAS, in line with Agenda 2030, there is a need for coherence of objectives and synchronization of activities of multilateral environmental agreements and protocols, especially in the conduct of meetings of Conferences of Parties(COPs)/Governing Bodies, for cost reduction, efficient participation of Member States, and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the UN System; and

WHEREAS, synchronizing meetings of COPs/Governing Bodies and other important conferences of multilateral environmental agreements and protocols with those of UNEA, which has universal membership of all UN Member States, will optimize the presence and participation of Environment Ministers and facilitate negotiations, decisions and timely actions on key environmental issues.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED; that the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), through the President, initiate the synchronization of objectives and activities of all Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols, including the conduct of meetings of Conferences of Parties (COPs)/Governing Bodies, for efficient implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and for cost reduction and effective participation of all UN Member States. The UNEA through the UNEP shall:

- a) Invite and convene all heads of the governing bodies of all Multilateral Environmental Agreements to discuss and agree to the synchronization efforts and

define the timeline and deliverables, particularly the cycles of meetings of governing bodies/COPs;

- b) Calculate the possible savings and other benefits that this synchronization effort will generate to the United Nations, in particular and the Member States, in general;
- c) Urge the UN Secretary General to enjoin the UN Member States to support the synchronization efforts; and
- d) Dedicate staff and funding support for the synchronization efforts.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNEA, through the President, shall recommend to the governing bodies of MEA/Ps that, within the margins of the biennial meetings of UNEA, whenever possible, convene the COPs for interested MEA/Ps to reduce costs and optimize the participation of Environment Ministers or their representatives.

Likewise, the UNEP Executive Director is hereby enjoined to periodically report the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the UNEA.