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AUG 25 2017

H.E. DR. EDGAR GUTIÉRREZ-ESPELETA
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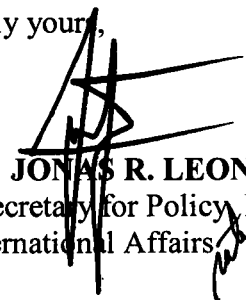
Dear President Gutiérrez-Espeleta:

This refers to my letter of 24 August 2017 regarding the attached proposed draft UNEA resolution to synchronize the objectives and activities of Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Protocols (MEA/Ps). We would like to confirm that the draft resolution is a submission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Philippines for consideration of the UN Environment Assembly.

We hope that the UN Environment Assembly will favorably consider the said proposed draft resolution, since it will enable UN Member States to improve their participation in meetings of Conference of Parties (COPs)/Governing Bodies and other activities related to the MEA/Ps.

Thank you and warm regards.

Sincerely yours,


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
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cc:
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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.