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By: Elodie Le Maou

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## **GMA NEWS**

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## **GLOBAL TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] Global solution to climate change needs efforts of all, including the US](#)**

The US will once again pull out of the Paris Agreement, the world's most important effort to tackle climate change. On the first day of his second term, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing the US to withdraw from this pact. For many countries, particularly vulnerable ones, this decision is a sign that the US is retreating from its leadership role in global environmental initiatives. The move reinforces the perception that the US isn't committed to global cooperation on climate change.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**

### **[US Paris Agreement Withdrawal Threatens Global Efforts to Tackle Climate Change](#)**

By: Myrto Tilianaki

United States President Donald Trump announced yesterday the US' withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement, the landmark international treaty aiming to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Bacolod City integrates EPR in plastic waste management](#)**

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

The city government is integrating extended producer responsibility (EPR) in managing plastic waste generated by the consumer market in this highly urbanized city.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[\[Opinion\] Trump's return could harm Philippine climate action](#)**

By: John Leo Algo

The return of Donald Trump to the United States presidency has been met with polarizing reactions worldwide, depending on political leanings. But with this triumph comes a clear loser: global action on the climate crisis, which will still happen regardless of politics. The question is by how much.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

#### **[CCC cites role of info-driven action in addressing climate change](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has emphasized the importance of information-driven climate action in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**[Politics has 'weaponised' science: UN climate chief](#)**

The UN's climate chief on Tuesday said that the science of global warming had been "weaponised" by politics, a day after Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement.

Simon Stiell said that shifting geopolitical events could not change the hard facts that underpin climate change and the disastrous consequences linked to a warming planet.

Last year was the hottest on record, and the combined average temperature of 2023 and 2024 exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius benchmark set under the Paris climate accord for the first time.

Stiell said that support for climate science was "far, far more significant than those few voices that challenge" it.

"The science has actually been weaponised, and again that is reflective of the politics," he told an audience at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

On the first day of his second term as president, Trump announced that the United States would again withdraw from the Paris climate accord endorsed by nearly 200 nations.

Trump, who has expressed scepticism of climate change and global efforts to confront it, did the same thing during his first term but Joe Biden rejoined the pact.

"We've been here before," said Stiell.

But the world was undergoing an "unstoppable" energy transition that attracted \$2 trillion for renewable power in 2024, he said, twice the amount invested in fossil fuels.

"Anyone who steps back from this significant forward momentum creates a vacuum that others will fill and will benefit from," Stiell added.

He said it was critical that these opportunities were better advertised "in a language that resonates with the hearts and minds of ordinary people all over the world".

## BILYONARYO

### [Global green energy push likely to continue despite Trump climate retreat: UN](#)

By: Elodie Le Maou

Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement should not slow the global momentum towards renewable energy investments that the deal created, the UN said Wednesday.

"I believe that many countries will continue moving in the direction of green energy," said Celeste Saulo, head of the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization weather and climate agency.

As he took office on Monday, President Trump announced the US withdrawal from the 2015 Paris accord adopted by 195 parties to curb greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change.

Critics warn that the move undermines global cooperation on reducing fossil fuel use and could weaken other countries' commitments to climate action.

But WMO chief Saulo said in a joint interview with AFP and Reuters she did not believe the US exit would slow what are turning out to be profitable investments in green energy.

The shift towards renewable energy sources "is ongoing and... brings wealth to the countries", she said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos.

"That will not change."

She did not "expect people to move away from investments that are really very profitable and at the same time are green initiatives.

"I think that the move and the momentum that started with the Paris Agreement is there."

– Early warnings –

Trump previously withdrew the United States from the Paris accord in 2017, during his first term, only to see former president Joe Biden re-enter when he took office in 2021.

Monday's announcement, on Trump's first day back in power, signalled that the United States would formally exit in one year, under the accord's rules.

It came as global average temperatures already hit record highs in 2024, while over the past two years they temporarily surpassed a critical 1.5 degrees Celsius warming threshold for the first time.

Asked about Trump's move, Saulo said it was "a decision of a sovereign country, and we need to accept that".

The focus for the WMO now, she said, would be on "continuing the... strong collaboration and engagement of the US" with the agency.

In particular, the work towards establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events should "not be affected", she said.

With extreme weather events on the rise, the UN has said it wants to see every person on Earth protected by early warning systems by 2027 for floods, droughts, heatwaves and storms.

Saulo highlighted the close cooperation between the WMO and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The NOAA'S work was "quite impactful worldwide", she stressed.

"I'm sure that that will continue along the same lines, because they are saving lives," including using climate information to issue early warnings for looming disasters.

"I would say that the United States is one of the countries that uses most climate information for decision making," she said.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **Calasiao turns market waste into eco-friendly fertilizer**

In Calasiao, Pangasinan, vegetable scraps and biodegradable waste from the town's public market are being transformed into soil enhancers in a project aimed at solving the local waste problem while benefiting farmers.

Instead of letting vegetable waste rot, the municipal government collects it and processes it at a closed dumpsite.

The scraps are ground, mixed with sawdust for carbon, and chicken or cow manure for nitrogen.

The mixture is drained for a few hours before being placed in a composting mixer, where it churns for eight hours a day over five to six days.

"Meron pong certain components. Hindi po siya basta ipapasok. Need po ng component [like] carbon, nitrogen proportion para doon natin malalaman kung sa final product is mainit ba yung compost soil na ilalabas or not," Engr. Christine Jade Diaz, Administrative Assistant of the Calasiao Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), said.

The finished compost, described as light and odor-free, is currently undergoing testing to meet the Bureau of Soil standards.

The local government aims to refine the mixture to meet the varying nitrogen needs of different plants.

"May mga certain plant na need ang higher nitrogen, may certain plants na need ng lower nitrogen," Diaz said.

If approved, the composting project could grow into an income-generating facility for the town.

The initiative not only reduces waste but also promotes the natural balance of ecosystems in farmlands.

The local government plans to expand the project as a model for other communities in the country.

## GLOBAL TIMES

### [Global solution to climate change needs efforts of all, including the US](#)

The US will once again pull out of the Paris Agreement, the world's most important effort to tackle climate change. On the first day of his second term, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing the US to withdraw from this pact. For many countries, particularly vulnerable ones, this decision is a sign that the US is retreating from its leadership role in global environmental initiatives. The move reinforces the perception that the US isn't committed to global cooperation on climate change.

When the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement during Trump's first term, the global reaction was one of disappointment, concern and criticism. The announcement of a second withdrawal has also drawn criticism from other Paris signatories and environmental groups as well as statements of continued support by states, cities and other countries for the goals of the agreement. The US' move will weaken multilateral cooperation, hinder efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and jeopardize the credibility of the Paris Agreement. Regarding the impact on the US, Xu Liang, an associate professor at the School of International Relations of Beijing International Studies University, told the Global Times that the withdrawal may boost employment and development in traditional industries in the short term, but it will erode the US' long-term interests.

"First, the internal fight between different groups advocating for clean energy and those supporting traditional energy may intensify. Second, it could push the US into a backward position in industries such as new energy vehicles, especially at a time when clean energy is the trend in global development," Xu said.

The California wildfires provide a compelling argument for the US to remain in the Paris Agreement. The Los Angeles Times reported a few days ago that "An extremely warm summer and fall. An unusually dry winter. Hillsides covered with bone-dry vegetation. And strong Santa Ana winds. In the mix of conditions that have contributed to the most destructive fires in L.A. history, scientists say one significant ingredient is human-caused climate change." These fires are a stark reminder of the immediate risks that climate change poses to vulnerable regions. The US should contribute to global efforts to curb emissions, support adaptation strategies, and help fund initiatives to mitigate such environmental disasters in the future. With extreme weather events becoming more common - the UN weather agency just confirmed 2024 was the hottest year on record, the US has a clear responsibility to be part of the global solution.

Climate change is one of the key areas where the idea of a community with a shared future for mankind should be emphasized. Countries around the world are facing common challenges brought about by climate change, a problem too complex for any single country, no matter how powerful, to tackle alone. All countries, regardless of size, should collectively contribute to the realization of a shared future.



Zhang Tengjun, deputy director of the Department for American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times that climate change remains one of the most active areas of China-US engagement and cooperation in this field affects the stability of China-US relations to a certain extent. It's expected that the US can join forces with China and the rest of the world in combating climate change, rather than backtracking its climate commitments. The US should understand that when the rest of the world suffers from climate change, it won't be spared.

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

### [US Paris Agreement Withdrawal Threatens Global Efforts to Tackle Climate Change](#)

By: Myrto Tilianaki

United States President Donald Trump announced yesterday the US' withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement, the landmark international treaty aiming to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The order, among the first in Trump's second term, will take up to a year to take effect. It comes just weeks after 2024 was declared the hottest year on record globally due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere mainly caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Last year was also the first to see average global temperatures exceed 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels.

Trump previously withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement during his first term, and rolled back over 100 domestic environmental protection rules. Yesterday he announced he would declare a national energy emergency and increase oil and gas production in the United States. Any such ramp-up would be inconsistent with global scientific consensus that for countries to meet Paris Agreement goals there cannot be new fossil fuel projects.

The burning of fossil fuels drives global climate breakdown affecting millions of people around the world and fence-line communities have long borne the brunt of the impacts of fossil fuel production. Last year, Human Rights Watch documented the devastating toll of the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry's environmental pollution in Louisiana's "Cancer Alley." Residents there face elevated rates and risks of maternal, reproductive, and newborn health harms, cancer, and respiratory ailments. These harms are disproportionately borne by the area's Black residents.

To fulfill their human rights obligation to address climate change, all governments should phase out fossil fuels, ensure an equitable transition to renewable energy, and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis.

President Trump may also pull the United States out of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, which serves as the basis for global climate talks. Doing so would effectively exclude the US government from participating in climate negotiations at a time when all countries should be working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

Now more than ever, countries should demonstrate climate leadership domestically and globally. The nearly 200 countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement should re-emphasize their commitment to the treaty's goals and fully engage in global climate talks. They should demonstrate national progress in reducing their emissions and upholding human rights.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Bacolod City integrates EPR in plastic waste management](#)

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

The city government is integrating extended producer responsibility (EPR) in managing plastic waste generated by the consumer market in this highly urbanized city.

As of Wednesday, the Bacolod Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) has been implementing programs such as the “Trash to Cashback” that provides incentives for recyclable items brought to the community drop-off centers and the Tindahan Extra Mile: Balik PET Bottle, which engages sari-sari stores and food stalls as partners in the collection of recyclable materials.

Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said in an interview that instead of banning its use for packaging, there is now a system for retrieving all plastics released in the market.

“That’s what we are adhering to right now, and let’s see how effective it is,” he added.

Under Republic Act 11898 or the EPR Act, large companies called the obliged enterprises are compelled to implement EPR programs, focusing on efficient plastic packaging waste management, reduced plastic production, importation, supply, and usage and promoting plastic neutrality via recovery and diversion methods.

“The reason why we have ‘Trash to Cashback’ and Tindahan Extra Mile, that is already like a compliance to the EPR,” BENRO head Ma. Fe Trespuentes said in an interview.

Benitez asked Trespuentes to gather data on the volume of plastic waste released or generated in the city and how much is being retrieved or recovered.

In October last year, the city government collected at least 8,097.29 kilograms of plastic bottle waste for recycling during the 17-day collection period of the 45th MassKara Festival.

Some 445,455 pieces of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles were gathered in line with the joint campaign of BENRO with Coca-Cola Philippines, Bacolod Yuhum Foundation Inc., and Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies Inc.

Through the EPR Act, which lapsed into law in July 2022, firms with total assets of more than PHP100 million are mandated by law to recover or divert 20 percent of their plastic footprint – or the waste generated after their products have been sold and used by consumers, by end-2023.

They may do this by initiating their own EPR schemes or by tapping a producer responsibility organization that can help firms in recycling, waste recovery, reuse or other initiatives.

## RAPPLER

### [\[Opinion\] Trump's return could harm Philippine climate action](#)

By: John Leo Algo

The return of Donald Trump to the United States presidency has been met with polarizing reactions worldwide, depending on political leanings. But with this triumph comes a clear loser: global action on the climate crisis, which will still happen regardless of politics. The question is by how much.

Yet this has happened before; the rest of the world should have a better idea how to handle these impacts, although it would be nowhere near easy. It would also influence the short-term climate action of the Philippines in more ways than what it appears on the surface.

Higher costs?

An obvious expected impact of another Trump regime is that the push to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would slow down. The US remains the biggest historical polluter and emitted the second-highest GHGs in 2024, trailing only China.

Trump is expected to repeat his policies during his first run (2017-2021), such as promoting the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and weakening fuel efficiency standards for vehicles. He has also signed an executive order to withdraw his country again from the Paris Agreement, while his allies have also suggested leaving the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the treaties that guide the current climate negotiations.

However, the country's emissions did not see a significant increase between 2017 and 2021, partially due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies are also more advanced and economically viable than before, making it more difficult to reverse these trends even within his own country.

Nonetheless, the US' decline in climate pollution is not enough to slow down global warming. Even if current plans of all countries are properly implemented, the world would still warm by 2.6°C, well beyond the global target. Given it currently contributes over 11% of GHG emissions, any pro-fossil fuel decision would mean more extreme impacts to hit the Philippines.

The likely biggest impact of Trump's return to power would be the decrease in funding for climate-related solutions, especially at the global level. This would include the country's contributions to global financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund

and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, whose Board is currently hosted by the Philippines.

As the nation requires finance, technologies, and means for capacity-building from developed countries, the loss of support from the US means it would need to rely more on the likes of the European Union and Japan as well as loans from institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to help address domestic climate impacts.

Through a lack of pollution reductions or lower funding, the ones most likely to suffer are those most vulnerable, such as indigenous peoples, women, and youth. The Philippine government, with inputs from nongovernment stakeholders, must develop an overall strategy on financing adaptation and mitigation actions that accounts for these impacts, which must be finalized before the next negotiations this November in Brazil.

More fake news?

A key issue to monitor during another Trump presidency is disinformation, which is arguably the biggest global risk to sustainable development. Media giants in the US are feeling the right-wing pressure as exemplified by the announcement of Meta ending its fact-checking program in the US under the guise of upholding free expression and easing up censorship.

Branding fact-checking as being politically biased is a dangerous precedent that could lead to even more fake news spreading across social media platforms like Facebook. While Meta's decision only applies to the US for now, it may be a matter of time before it is implemented in big social media markets like the Philippines.

The country has earned a reputation in recent years for being a hotbed of disinformation, with most of the false content related to politics and COVID-19. However, a report published last June showed that fake news related to climate change and environment was actually encountered more frequently by Filipino social media users than the global average.

Forms of said disinformation range from articles outright denying the reality or the human-induced nature of the climate crisis to greenwashing and other misleading statements by corporations. The passage of a landmark bill in Congress, the climate accountability bill, would help prevent these acts from occurring.

More importantly, curbing disinformation is critical to enabling more Filipinos to better understand this crisis and its impacts. This is especially important not only for 2025,

which is poised to be a milestone year for updating climate plans and policies, but also after the previous year that saw the country be exposed to record-setting extreme weather events only months apart.

Even with the changing dynamics of online media, disinformation will remain a problem. With the shift in consuming news and online content moving towards video-based modes and the decline of social media giants like X, false information is also likely to take different forms. In the Philippines alone, the part of the population that can easily distinguish trustworthy and untrustworthy news online is as low as 41%.

It is time for climate communication to become a bigger part of the Philippine agenda. It will take a multisectoral approach to fight disinformation and ensure that decision-making will be fed with accurate information, yet it is exactly what the government, the media, nongovernment organizations, and other stakeholders must undertake.

It cannot be denied that the climate crisis is a political issue. Yet the crisis itself does not care who is in power; it would continue to worsen, especially if the leaders do not care. For 2025 and beyond, the climate action must trump politics and hidden agendas.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [CCC cites role of info-driven action in addressing climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has emphasized the importance of information-driven climate action in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change.

In a news release on Wednesday, the CCC highlighted the recent unveiling of the South-South Collaboration Center of Excellence (COE) on Climate Information Services (CIS) last Jan. 14 at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) central office in Quezon City.

“The COE aims to strengthen transdisciplinary exchange and enhance the availability and accessibility of CIS across key sectors,” it said.

The unveiling, it added, also included the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the ASEAN University Network, formalizing a joint commitment to advancing CIS initiatives across the region.

Supported by GIZ, the South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services (SSCIS) Project aims to use CIS to enhance climate knowledge and improve decision-making for effective adaptation and mitigation planning.

In 2024, high-level stakeholders from the implementing agencies reviewed the SSCIS Project Implementation and Status, emphasizing the CCC's role as the lead implementer of activities as part of the project's Technical Working Group.

In his keynote address, CCC Deputy Executive Director Romell Cuenca lauded the establishment of the Center of Excellence as a vital platform for addressing climate risks.

“This Center embodies our shared vision of transforming data into actionable knowledge that empowers communities and drives evidence-based solutions. Through collaboration and innovation, we can address the impacts of climate change with resilience and foresight,” Cuenca said.

He also emphasized the value of partnerships in building climate-smart solutions, acknowledging the GIZ's contributions.

“The success of the South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services Project showcases the power of partnerships. Leveraging science, research, and global best practices from similarly vulnerable nations, we can craft solutions tailored to our unique needs,” he said.

Cuenca said the CIS serve as guide in understanding risks, anticipating threats, and formulating proactive responses that strengthen resilience at all levels.”

Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte, Deputy Administrator for Research and Development at DOST-PAGASA, emphasized the importance of international collaboration in addressing climate challenges.

"This center stands as a symbol of what we can achieve through shared resources and cooperation, united by a vision of resilience against climate challenges," he stated.

Villafuerte also highlighted the transformative role of science, technology, and innovation in shaping resilient communities and advancing a sustainable future.

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Dr. Renato Solidum Jr. underscored the role of technology and collaboration in building resilient communities.

"At the DOST, together with other agencies, we are working to develop smart and sustainable communities. PAGASA will host the Climate Information Services, making it a hub not only for the country but also for the rest of the world."

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje cited the value of collaboration and science-based strategies in strengthening climate resilience under the President's leadership.

"The SSCIS Project with CCC and the Philippine government underscores the importance of partnerships that work under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s administration. Collaborating with Germany, we demonstrate how a transformative climate agenda gets done through a science-based and data-driven approach. This partnership is key in promoting a whole-of-world approach to significantly enhance the climate resilience of our communities," Borje said.

Mathias Kruse, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Manila, said the SSCIS initiative provides a platform "to equip stakeholders with the tools needed to tackle these challenges."

"Rest assured, Germany remains committed to collaborating with the Philippines and our partners in achieving a sustainable and resilient future," Kruse added.

Meanwhile, Inka Gnittke, Deputy Director of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV), commended the launch of the CIS as a significant milestone.

"The launch of this center marks a significant step forward. With the CIS becoming a center of excellence, we are pleased to have taken a big step forward," Gnittke said.



Nina Alsen, Policy Officer of BMUV, reiterated the need for shared knowledge and collaboration in addressing climate change.

"It is essential to grow our shared knowledge to ensure access to accurate and timely information. This empowers communities to make informed decisions and build resilience against the growing challenges of climate change," Alsen said.

The event also featured a panel discussion titled "Addressing Regional Climate Challenges Through Information Services: In Focus ASEAN."

Thelma Cinco, Project Leader of SSCIS-CIS; Dr. Juan Pulhin, Chairperson of UP Los Baños Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management; Dr. Ma. Estrelita Uy, Director of UP Manila National Institutes of Health; and Dr. Emmanuel Delocado of ASEAN University Network on Ecological Education and Culture, participated in the discussions.

The event, organized by DOST-PAGASA with support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), GIZ, and BMUV, marked a significant milestone in promoting climate resilience in the Philippines and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In achieving the SSCIS project objectives, the CCC remains steadfast in its commitment to building a climate-resilient and sustainable Philippines.

"By facilitating partnerships, championing climate science, and integrating actionable knowledge into policymaking, the CCC continues to pave the way for a more resilient future," according to the news release.

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