



NEWS ROUNDUP

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ABS CBN

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MANILA, 9 March 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joins the nation in celebrating National Women's Month in March, recognizing Filipino women as powerful leaders and innovators driving the country toward a climate-smart and resilient Philippines.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

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[Marcos Jr. appeals to UN member-states to support PH bid in UN Security Council](#)

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NEW YORK — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appealed before the United Nations General Assembly to support the Philippines' bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council, the body tasked with maintaining international peace and security.

"We lodged our candidature, mindful that a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council is not a right of any State, but a privilege earned through consistent, dedicated, meaningful, and concrete partnership, in the service of the United Nations, and so of humanity," Marcos Jr. said in his speech before the Special Plenary Meeting at the UN headquarters on Tuesday, March 10, the last day of his working visit to New York.

Marcos Jr. vowed that the Philippines stands ready "to help calm voices of division, provide a voice of balance; to shun ambition, for service, and always as a voice for principled peace."

"And thus, I stand before you to humbly petition for your support for the Philippines in the elections on the 3rd of June 2026," he said as he concluded his address.

The country has been campaigning for another term on the council since 2013. It previously held one of the elected seats for the 2004–2005 term.

The Philippines is currently competing against Kyrgyzstan for the Asia-Pacific regional spot.

A two-thirds vote from the General Assembly is required to secure the seat.

'TRAGEDIES MUST STOP'

Marcos Jr. also joined the international community's call for restraint and de-escalation in the Middle East and other conflict areas across the globe.

"We call for urgent and much-needed action for peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, the DRC, the Sahel, Yemen, and Myanmar. Their people continue to live in fear and in despair," he said.

"These tragedies need to stop. Innocents must be protected, and their basic needs immediately provided."

The Chief Executive urged all parties to these conflicts and the international community to "address the catastrophic humanitarian situation arising from such conflicts," noting that the "safe, free, and unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid to people in need is not negotiable."

Citing the Global Humanitarian Overview for 2026, Marcos noted that \$23 billion is needed to save 87 million lives.

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

Marcos Jr. also addressed the effects of climate change, calling it the “greatest existential test for all our civilizations.”

“For the Philippines, the climate crisis is not a future risk; it is for us a present reality. It reshapes our coastlines, our communities, and even the Filipino psyche,” he said.

He cited a 2022 survey showing that young people in the Philippines reported the highest vulnerability to climate anxiety.

Marcos noted that in 2025, the country allocated 18 percent of its national budget to climate-related expenditures and offered help to other nations facing similar vulnerabilities through South-South or triangular cooperation and the exchange of technology.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Marcos Jr. affirmed the Philippines’ “resolute commitment to the rule of law and the promotion, protection, and respect of human rights.”

“All our efforts will mean little, nor will they endure, without the rule of law and respect for human rights,” he said.

He emphasized that the Philippines adheres to multilateralism and the UN Charter, abiding by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as a “responsible party.”

“Our faith and commitment to the United Nations has never wavered in the eight decades of our membership... When the UN demands, the Philippines responds,” Marcos Jr. concluded.

GMA NEWS

[What does 'reef-safe' sunscreen mean, and can you buy it in the Philippines?](#)

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With summer approaching, talks of beach trips and sun essentials are rife.

Sunscreen especially is a non-negotiable to protect the skin from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays — especially when you're out there getting sun exposure from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

But protecting your skin from the sun shouldn't be the end of the story. According to a 2022 study published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, some sunscreen ingredients — UV filters found in chemical sunscreens, in particular — may pose risks to corals and other marine life.

With climate change and global warming in full throttle, that's a real concern.

Enter "reef-safe" products. A growing number of local and international brands are promoting "reef-safe" products designed to protect the skin without harming coral reefs.

In a GMA News Online interview, board-certified dermatologist Dr. Bea Chan said the term "reef-safe" generally refers to sunscreens that avoid ingredients believed to damage coral reefs.

"When we say 'reef-safe' sunscreens, we are referring to sunscreens that don't contain oxybenzone, octinoxate, octocrylene, ethylhexyl salicylate, and parabens," Chan said.

These chemicals are among the most commonly linked to coral bleaching and other damage to marine ecosystems.

Dr. Giselle Lazaro, a board-certified dermatologist and medical director of NU.U Asia adds that reef-safe products typically use mineral UV filters rather than chemical ones.

"The term 'reef-safe' typically means that the sunscreen only contains mineral UV-blocking ingredients like zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, rather than chemicals like oxybenzone that harm coral reefs," Lazaro said.

Is there a difference among labels "reef-safe," "reef-friendly, and "ocean-safe"?

As a consumer, you may notice several variations of these labels, but dermatologists say they are often used interchangeably.

Generally, reef-safe and reef-friendly sunscreens are those free from oxybenzone and octinoxate, two ingredients strongly associated with coral bleaching.

Meanwhile, “ocean-safe” is a broader term that refers to products that are biodegradable or designed to minimize harm to marine life.

Says Chan, the "labels aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, it's hard to distinguish them properly."

As such Lazaro recommends reading ingredient lists rather than relying solely on marketing labels.

“Check the 'active ingredients' label on the back of your sunscreen to ensure that the reef-harming chemicals are not included,” Lazaro said.

She also advised avoiding products containing microplastics or nano-sized zinc and titanium particles, which may also affect marine ecosystems.

Do reef-safe sunscreens still protect your skin?

Despite avoiding certain chemicals that are harmful to corals and marine life, dermatologists stress that reef-safe sunscreens can still provide effective sun protection.

“We have the SPF and PA rating scales, which effectively measure how well a sunscreen protects against UVA and UVB,” Chan said.

For complete protection, Lazaro recommends combining sunscreen with other sun-safety measures such as UV-protective clothing, hats, and accessories like umbrellas.

Reef-safe sunscreen is safe for every day use, Chan said, but pregnant or breastfeeding women and infants under six months should consult a dermatologist before using any sunscreen.

Ultimately, dermatologists say the effectiveness of sunscreen, reef-safe or not, depends on proper use.

“It's important to remember proper application every two hours and to reapply after swimming and sweating,” Lazaro said.

Chan echoed the same point, saying that reef-safe sunscreen can be effective at the beach, “unless you don't reapply them.”

Below is a list of reef-safe sunscreen available in the Philippines.

Beach Hut

Sunblock Natural Reef Safe SPF 50 (P689.00)

Belo

Sun expert reef-friendly Sunscreen 50ml (P450)

Belo

Sun expert reef-friendly Sunscreen 50ml (P450)

Human Nature

Natural Mineral Sunscreen SPF 60 100ml (P349.75)

Target Pro

Target Pro Repairing Face Milk Sunscreen SPF50 60g (P1,299)

RTL TODAY

[The rain in Spain was worst in nearly 50 years](#)

Spain endured its wettest January and February in almost half a century, with a string of deadly storms lashing the country, national weather agency AEMET said Thursday.

The Iberian Peninsula is considered a frontline region for climate change, experiencing increasingly long heatwaves that sometimes start before summer, along with more frequent episodes of intense rainfall.

Eleven major storms swept the country from late December to mid-February, bringing heavy rain and strong winds, said AEMET spokesman Ruben del Campo.

“January and February 2026 has been the rainiest in the last 47 years, highlighting the extraordinary nature of these events,” he told reporters.

Grazalema, one of the hardest-hit municipalities in southern Spain, saw more than a full year’s expected rainfall in just a few days during the passage of Storm Leonardo in February.

The intense flooding and risk of landslides prompted the authorities to evacuate the entire town and two people died as a result of the storm.

Del Campo said the severity of Leonardo was “the footprint of climate change”, noting that warmer oceans increase evaporation, while a warmer atmosphere retains more water vapour, resulting in heavier rainfall.

Neighbouring Portugal also experienced its wettest February in 47 years, the Portuguese meteorological agency IPMA reported Tuesday.

This was the eighth consecutive warm or very warm winter in Spain, with temperatures above average, a streak unprecedented in AEMET records, Del Campo said.

He forecast a 50 percent to 70 percent probability that the coming spring will also be warmer than usual.

THE GUARDIAN

[Reaching net zero by 2050 'cheaper for UK than one fossil fuel crisis'](#)

Climate change committee finds move to renewable energy would also bring health, economic and security benefits

Achieving the UK's net zero target by 2050 will cost less than a single oil shock and bring health and economic benefits while insulating the country against future costs, the government's climate advisers have forecast.

Eliminating the UK's reliance on fossil fuels by adopting renewable energy and green technologies, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, would be the best and most cost-effective option for the future economy, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) found.

Doing so would prevent the kind of shock that consumers are experiencing from the Iran war, which has sent the cost of oil and gas soaring to levels not seen since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Reaching net zero would cost about £4bn a year, the CCC found, or close to £100bn by 2050, which was roughly equivalent to the energy-related costs of the fossil fuel shocks that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The findings contradict widespread claims made by rightwing thinktanks and populist politicians including the Reform party that net zero would represent a crippling cost of £9tn to the UK's economy. As well as exaggerating costs, these estimates failed to take into account the cost of paying for the fossil fuels needed for energy if we do not reach net zero.

Nigel Topping, chair of the CCC, said the real costs were not only manageable but offered protection against future fossil fuel supply crunches and against the impacts of the climate crisis. "In light of current world events, it's more important than ever for the UK to move away from being reliant on volatile foreign fossil fuels, to clean, domestic, less wasteful energy," he said.

Ed Miliband, the energy secretary, said: "It is highly significant that the CCC has found that the transition to net zero is cheaper for our national economy than the entire cost of the last gas price crisis, and can protect families from future fossil-fuel price shocks. This is further proof that those who oppose our mission for clean energy would abandon the pursuit of national energy security, lower bills and protecting our children and grandchildren."

Renewable energy is much more efficient than fossil fuels, as well as being more difficult for foreign governments to interrupt. People will also benefit from warmer homes, cleaner air, more

active travel and healthier diets, with less red meat – representing about £2bn to £8bn in savings a year to the NHS and individuals.

Each pound invested in reaching net zero yielded between £2 and £4 in benefits, the CCC found. The saving on avoiding some of the impacts of climate breakdown would be worth as much as £130bn by 2050, according to a report published on Wednesday to supplement its advice to ministers on the seventh carbon budget.

The government is to make its response to the seventh carbon budget, which will run from 2038 to 2042, later this year.

Mike Childs, head of science at Friends of the Earth, said: “The current spike in the cost of gas and oil is a vivid reminder of why we must urgently end our reliance on volatile, costly fossil fuels – not remain hooked on them as some are cynically advocating.

“The CCC analysis shows the switch to clean, green renewables and electric vehicles is not only economically sensible but will make us far better off in the long run, while simultaneously safeguarding our environment.”

The UK is legally bound to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 – the point at which the UK’s carbon output is balanced by the absorption of carbon dioxide from the country’s forests and land and any carbon storage facilities – but both the Conservative party and Reform have pledged to scrap the goal.

Oil soared above \$100 (£75) a barrel on Monday, though it has since fallen slightly, with supply constraints continuing as some production sites in the Middle East have been put on hold and tankers are stranded in the strait of Hormuz.

This is the second major oil price shock in four years, and experts warned that more could be expected in future years as the geopolitical outlook continues to be unstable.

Bob Ward, policy director for the Grantham Institute at the London School of Economics, said: “It is clear there would be substantial and long-lasting savings for the UK if it speeds up the transition to an economy that is largely electrified and powered by clean domestic energy.”

Despite recent rapid rises in the price of gas, the Reform party is said to want to scrap incentives for people to move to cleaner and more efficient heat pumps.

Paul Morozzo, UK climate campaigner at Greenpeace, said: “Reform’s solution ... is to leave us even more exposed to the gas markets that are clobbering businesses and households with higher bills.”

UN NEWS

[Venezuela's repressive State apparatus 'intact' despite leadership change](#)

“The structures that have sustained persecution for years have not been dismantled, nor have State policies been announced to begin that process”, the International Fact-Finding Mission for Venezuela said in a statement released on Wednesday.

The mission was set up to assess alleged human rights violations in Venezuela committed since 2014.

Since Maduro's seizure on 3 January, the Human Rights Council-appointed investigators have received reports of at least 87 new politically motivated detentions, indicating that the practice of silencing dissent persists under the current Government.

“New instances of human rights violations are a sober reminder that the extensive legal and institutional machinery that has facilitated the commission of gross human rights violations and international crimes remain intact,” independent expert María Eloisa Quintero said.

‘No signs’ of change

Government and military officials that had previously been identified by the UN probe as responsible for crimes against humanity continue to hold power. “There are no signs that the current authorities intend to bring those individuals to justice,” said Alex Neve, another expert member.

“Venezuela cannot be said to truly be on the road to human rights reform unless and until that repressive apparatus is dismantled,” Ms. Quintero said.

Prisoner releases

An amnesty law aimed at granting immediate clemency to people jailed for participating in political protests or criticizing public figures was adopted on 20 February and “welcomed” by the UN commission of experts.

The amnesty is aimed at promoting peace, democratic coexistence and national reconciliation in the South American country.

According to international media reports, between Maduro's arrest and early March, some 621 political prisoners have been released.

'Concern' over amnesty law

Nonetheless, a large number of individuals remain detained for political reasons and there is "concern about the lack of transparency with which this process is being carried out," said Ms. Quintero.

The Mission noted that the legislation was adopted without inclusive public consultation, and lacks essential mechanisms for truth, accountability and reparation.

"It is incumbent on the authorities to provide detailed information on the number and identity of prisoners and those released. We call for the immediate release of all remaining political detainees, including dozens of foreign and dual nationals," the Mission urged.

Investigators also expressed concern over the continued mobilization of armed civilian groups, and the ongoing harassment of opposition figures and journalists.

'Crucial moment for victims'

"The international community must maintain its focus on Venezuela to ensure that there is a transition in the country that leads to genuine institutional reform and an end to the culture of fear", the mission said.

With more than 8.7 million Venezuelans, including thousands of refugees, living outside the country today, "this is also a crucial moment for victims," investigators underscored.

"Now more than ever it is necessary to advance this investigative work and identify the patterns, actors, institutions and alleged perpetrators associated with these violations." Ms. Quintero said.

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The dialogue featured several sessions covering key areas of climate and environmental action. Participants explored the partnership of two island nations working as one and discussed science-based localization and resilience building, including opportunities in the blue economy. Other topics also addressed nature and sustainable growth that highlighted the potential of biodiversity credits, as well as mobilizing climate finance to support a just transition.

Meanwhile, the CCC presented updates on the implementation and localization of the Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which underscored the importance of translating national adaptation strategies into concrete actions at the local level. Developed under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, the NAP outlines the country’s long-term roadmap for strengthening climate resilience across key sectors and communities.

“Localization is essential to ensure that the National Adaptation Plan delivers meaningful outcomes for communities on the ground,” said CCC Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio Cuenca on behalf of CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje. “By aligning national priorities with local realities, we can help local governments identify risks, develop practical adaptation solutions, and strengthen resilience in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water, and coastal ecosystems.”

The Commission also highlighted ongoing efforts to support provinces in translating climate risk assessments into locally driven adaptation initiatives and investment-ready projects. Through localized climate analytics and partnerships with national government agencies, development partners, and local institutions, the CCC continues to strengthen risk-informed planning and programming across the country.

“This shows how much we can achieve together; we bring the data and expertise and share the purpose of the table, and today we found that ultimate partnership which is really strong,” UK Ambassador to the Philippines Sarah Hulton said, expressing her appreciation for the strengthened collaboration with the Philippines and highlighting her keen interest in advancing

joint efforts as she wrapped up the discussions. “We remain firmly committed to working with you and to turning today’s agreements into concrete action in the years ahead.”

The dialogue concluded with the signing of the Partnership Statement between the Philippines and UK, reaffirming that climate action is not the responsibility of a single nation but a shared commitment that requires collaboration, partnerships, and coordinated efforts across countries and communities.

[CCC Launches Month-Long Women’s Month Initiatives to Strengthen Gender-Responsive Climate Governance](#)

MANILA, 9 March 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joins the nation in celebrating National Women’s Month in March, recognizing Filipino women as powerful leaders and innovators driving the country toward a climate-smart and resilient Philippines.

The Commission is launching its Gender and Development (GAD) Agenda and Strategic Plan to advance gender-transformative climate governance, and rolling out a month-long set of internal programs and initiatives to strengthen gender inclusivity in the workplace, such as capacity-building through Gender Climate 101, staff wellness support via Serbisyo para kay Juana at Juan, and wearing of purple every Wednesday to advocate for women and gender equality.

Under this year’s subtheme, “Lead like the Babaylans, Filipinas!”, the CCC draws inspiration from the pre-colonial Babaylans who were integral community pillars – healers, spiritual guides, decision-makers, and catalysts for social transformation. Unconfined by society’s limited preconceptions, they led with profound wisdom, unwavering courage, and boundless care.

“Tayo ay may tungkuling gabayan ang pambansang direksyon ng bansa laban sa lumalalang epekto ng pagbabago ng klima. Kailangang tiyakin natin na walang sektor—lalong-lalo na ang kababaihan, mga batang babae, mga katutubo, mga may kapansanan—ang maiiwan,” said CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera, Chair of CCC’s Gender Focal Point System.

The Commission also acknowledged the enduring contributions of women leaders in national climate governance, including that of Senator Loren Legarda, whose work laid the legal and financial foundation for the country’s climate action framework as the principal author of the Climate Change Act of 2009 and the People’s Survival Fund Act, among many landmark laws on climate and environmental action.

The Commission’s commitment to gender-responsive action is reflected in its own structure, where women occupy more than half of all positions in the CCC. These women are actively shaping the strategies and policies that guide climate governance, with expertise in both STEM fields and the social sciences.

“We recognize women not only for their resilience in enduring storms but for their ingenuity in building the systems and strategies that allow our communities to thrive despite them,” said CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

Furthermore, Borje stressed that empowering women is not simply a matter of inclusion but of strategic national investment. “When we invest in Filipino women, we invest in stronger families, more resilient communities, and a more climate-secure Philippines,” he added.

As the Philippines advances towards a climate-smart future, the Climate Change Commissioners emphasize that the nation is strongest when the voices of those most vulnerable are heard and represented. The leadership of Filipinas, they said, is essential for building a climate-resilient and inclusive future—because those who truly understand the struggles on the ground are the ones best positioned to provide real and effective solutions.

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