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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

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WASHINGTON - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Tuesday that countries should agree to phase out fuel emissions - not the production of oil, gas and coal - at the upcoming UN climate change negotiations that it will host this December.

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By: Anna Felicia Bajo

LABUAN BAJO - President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said Wednesday that ASEAN member states should unite in encouraging developed countries to fulfill their commitments to the Paris Agreement as developing nations are adversely affected by climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Back int'l law, boost trade, fight climate change: PBBM to ASEAN](#)

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – Upholding international law, promoting trade and investments and addressing climate change must be the priorities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Wednesday.

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By Estelle Shirbon

LONDON - The UK Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that it was too late for Nigerian claimants to sue two Shell (SHEL.L) subsidiaries over a 2011 offshore oil spill they say had a devastating long-term impact on the coastal area where they live.

[Number of internally displaced people hits record due to war, climate change](#)

GENEVA - The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) reached a record 71.1 million worldwide last year due to conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and climate calamities like the monsoon floods in Pakistan, according to data published on Thursday.

VIETNAM PLUS

[Philippine President urges developed countries to fulfil climate commitments](#)

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has called on developed countries to fulfil their long-standing commitments on climate change and vowed that his country will take bold steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies securely and sustainably.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

Gov't seeks \$500-million climate risk loan from WB

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT is eyeing a \$500-million loan from the World Bank (WB) to strengthen its resilience against climate-related disasters.

The Philippines Disaster Risk Management and Climate Development policy loan, which includes an option for a catastrophe deferred drawdown, is expected to be approved by the World Bank board on Sept. 21.

In a document uploaded on its website, the World Bank said the loan aims to strengthen the capacity of the Philippine government in managing disaster and climate risks in the education and health sectors.

The Philippines ranked first globally for having the highest disaster risks, according to the World Risk Index 2022.

Disasters have killed over 10,000 people, affected around 103 million, and caused as much as P409 million in economic losses for the Philippines between 2010 and 2019, the multilateral lender said.

The World Bank said the policy loan focuses specifically on the education and health sectors due to “their high exposure and vulnerability to disasters, climate change, and public health emergencies, and their essential role in human capital accumulation, economic growth, and poverty reduction.”

The loan will fund projects aimed at improving the resilience of school infrastructure, protect learners against natural hazards, enhance emergency preparedness, and promote learning continuity.

One of the targets is to implement disaster and climate contingency plans for 80% of schools in the Greater Manila Area.

It also aims to build disaster and climate-resilient school infrastructure, noting that around 21,018 schools were destroyed by disasters over the last six years.

The World Bank said the loan will also fund projects strengthening health-related infrastructure.

“The target is the development of a multi-year investment plan by the Health department that integrates disaster, climate, and public health emergency resilience

measures in the health facilities with the annual budget submitted to the Department of Budget and Management for endorsement to Congress (2024 to 2026),” it said.

It also seeks to create a more streamlined reporting mechanism for National Government agencies and local government units, with event-based reporting and response initiation reduced from seven days to two days.

“These reforms are vital in ensuring that the country is able to maintain continuity in critical sectors,” it added.

The World Bank was the country’s third-largest source of official development assistance (ODA) as of 2021. World Bank loans and grants represented 24% of total ODA or \$7.66 billion, data from the National Economic and Development Authority showed.

This year, the National Government expects to obtain around \$19.1 billion worth of ODA — \$9.2 billion worth of loans from multilateral development partners and \$9.8 billion in loans from bilateral lenders.

CHANNEL NEWS ASIA (CNA)

[Climate change raising heat risks for workers, experts warn](#)

DOHA: Rising global temperatures are increasing the risk of workers dying or becoming disabled from labouring in extreme heat, an international conference has been told.

The conference, held in Qatar as spring temperatures raced towards 40 degrees Celsius, heard that tens of thousands of workers around the world have died from chronic kidney disease and other illnesses linked with extreme heat over recent decades.

"Science tells us that all countries can do more," the International Labour Organisation's regional chief for Arab countries, Ruba Jaradat, told the Occupational Heat Stress Conference, which focused on climate change and how rising temperatures threaten workers' health.

Last year's World Cup in Qatar drew attention to workers toiling in temperatures that can top 50 degrees Celsius during the summer peak in countries across the Gulf.

Since 2021, Qatar has banned outdoor working between 10am and 3.30pm from Jun 1 to Sep 15.

Its reforms have been praised by the UN labour agency, though some experts say more can be done.

There is no international standard for temperatures for outdoor work, but climate change has forced new scrutiny.

The US administration promised new rules in 2021 after a deadly heatwave and the White House said that "heat is the nation's leading weather-related killer". Nothing has been produced yet, however.

Europe has also seen devastating heat waves. But apart from Qatar, Cyprus is one of the rare countries to have restricted working hours, ordering extra breaks and heat-protective clothing when temperatures rise above 35 degrees Celsius.

Extreme heat and sun radiation unleash heatstroke, kidney, heart and lung diseases and raise cancer rates, according to researchers.

Justin Glaser, head of La Isla Network, an occupational health group, said more than 20,000 sugar workers in Central America had died in a single decade from chronic kidney disease. He pointed to about 25,000 deaths from kidney disease in Sri Lanka.

"People are dying"

Around one billion farm workers and tens of millions in construction and other outdoor industries are on the frontline, the conference was told. But swimming pool lifeguards, gardeners and postal delivery workers also face heat dangers.

Construction workers can be exposed to enough ultraviolet rays over 30 to 40 years to more than double the risk of non-melanoma skin cancer.

Taiwanese researchers warned in a 2020 study that kidney disease from extreme heat "may represent one of the first epidemics due to global warming".

According to ILO forecasts, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa will suffer the most from lost working hours due to extreme heat in the coming years.

India, Bangladesh and their neighbours have huge agricultural populations and large numbers working in informal sectors with no health insurance.

Vidhya Venugopal, an occupational health professor at the Sri Ramachandra Institute in Chennai, highlighted the case of hundreds of thousands of salt farmers in India working in desert-like conditions who suffer high rates of kidney and other diseases.

"They have no cover and they are stood in salt all day long," Venugopal told AFP. In the summer months, about 80 per cent suffer some kind of heat illness.

But millions of workers in India's industrial north are at risk, she said.

India and other poorer countries cannot wait for international standards to be enforced. "People are dying, people are getting the disease. We need to adapt all the practices used by others and tailor it to our own culture."

Health experts say rest, water and shade are needed to ease the deadly risks.

"Owners say no, no, no, we don't want our workers to rest because we will lose productivity. But that has to change," Venugopal said.

Glaser of La Isla Network worked with sugar companies in Central America to improve conditions. Workers on a nine-hour shift cut 4.75 tonnes of sugar cane a day. With better breaks, shade and water, they cut 6.2 tonnes in four hours, he said.

CNN

[What is carbon capture? Some say it will help save the world, for others it's a dangerous distraction](#)

By Laura Paddison, CNN

(CNN) — The window to prevent catastrophic climate change is closing. Concentrations of planet-warming carbon pollution in the air are at their highest level in more than 2 million years – and the world has yet to even hit peak fossil fuel emissions.

The crisis is so urgent that scientists and governments are scrambling to find ways to remove some of this carbon pollution from the air, and to capture what's still being produced by power plants and industrial facilities.

Long considered controversial, these techniques are increasingly landing a starring role in climate policies.

In its 2022 report, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that “all available studies require at least some kind of carbon dioxide removal to reach net zero” – where the world removes as much planet-heating pollution from the atmosphere as it emits.

Even if emissions fall significantly, the world would still need to remove between around 10 to 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year, according to the IPCC.

Very few people claim that carbon capture and removal alone will solve climate change.

“There's no silver bullet here,” said Howard Herzog, Senior Research Engineer in the MIT Energy Initiative, who has studied carbon capture for four decades. But it's “a tool in our portfolio” of options, he told CNN.

Others, however, fear that this is a reckless bet on technology that is expensive, unproven at scale and too far away from full development to provide a meaningful answer to the climate crisis.

And they criticize these technologies as a dangerous distraction from policies to cut down fossil fuel use.

What is carbon capture?

“Carbon capture” is often used as catch-all term for what are actually two sets of technologies – carbon capture and carbon removal. But there are important differences.

Carbon capture reduces the amount of carbon pollution that would otherwise go into the atmosphere by catching it at the source of pollution, then storing it or reusing it.

It works like this: Instead of sending carbon pollution (or “flue gas”) from burning fossil fuels up a smokestack and into the atmosphere, it is trapped and put through a chemical process.

The most common way to do that, said Herzog, is to put the flue gas into contact with a liquid solvent, which pulls the CO₂ out in a process called chemical scrubbing. The CO₂ is then compressed to knock out the water and sent by pipeline, or sometimes by ship, to a location where it can be reused or stored.

For long-term storage, “really the only option is to put it deep underground,” Herzog said. This requires the right geological conditions. Sandstone, a porous rock, is particularly good, he said, and a layer of denser rock on top like shale will stop the carbon seeping through.

The captured carbon can also be reused to make other products, such as chemicals, fuel and cement. But the climate benefit will depend on how long the carbon is trapped. Captured carbon used in carbonated drinks, for example, will just escape right back into the air.

Another way captured carbon has been used, and one which has helped make this technology controversial, is in a process called “enhanced oil recovery.” The carbon is pushed into wells to force out the hard-to-reach remnants of oil – allowing fossil fuel companies to squeeze more from aging oil fields.

What is carbon removal?

Carbon removal refers to a slew of different techniques which aim to remove carbon pollution that is already in the atmosphere and lock it up permanently.

Trees and oceans are natural carbon sinks – they remove more carbon from the atmosphere than they contribute.

“But as more carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere, it is harder for nature to do its job,” Jan Mazurek, senior director of the carbon dioxide removal program at the non-profit ClimateWorks Foundation, told CNN.

So, humans are trying to develop ways of speeding up carbon removal.

Some techniques are low-tech, such as mass tree planting. Others seek to supercharge natural processes, like seeding the oceans with nutrients to increase the growth of carbon-storing marine life, or spreading crushed rock on land to cause chemical reactions that capture carbon from the air.

“Biochar” involves burning wood, leaves and dead plants in a low oxygen environment to produce a form of charcoal, which can be added to soil like a fertilizer to increase crop growth.

Other carbon removal technologies have similarities to parts of carbon capture.

One, called bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, involves planting trees or crops, which take up carbon from the air, and then burning them to produce energy. The carbon pollution created is trapped and stored by injecting it deep underground.

Direct air capture, possibly the most high-profile carbon removal technique, uses machines to suck in air and then extracts the carbon using chemicals. This can then be injected deep underground or reused.

What stage is the technology at?

Many of these technologies are at an early stage, remain prohibitively expensive and are a long way from being big enough to have a significant impact.

Carbon removal technologies may need to be scaled up by a factor of 1,300 by 2050 to meet the Paris Climate Agreement pledge to limit temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, according to a January report led by authors from the University of Oxford – and few countries have plans to do this.

Roughly 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide are currently removed globally every year and only a tiny fraction – 0.1% – comes from technologies such as direct air capture, the report found.

There are 18 direct air capture plants operating globally, all small-scale. Together they remove around 10,000 tons of carbon a year, according to the International Energy Agency.

The Orca plant, run by Swiss company Climeworks in Iceland, claims to be the world's largest, with capacity to remove 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year.

The difficulty is that, while the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising very quickly, it still makes up only about 0.04% of air. That makes removing carbon directly from the air significantly more energy-intensive and expensive than removing it from smokestacks, where carbon concentrations are far higher.

When it comes to carbon capture and storage, there are approximately 35 commercial facilities in operation around the world, according to the International Energy Agency, capturing nearly 50 million tons of carbon a year.

While there are hundreds of these facilities in development, even if all they all start operating, “deployment would remain substantially below what is required in the Net Zero Scenario,” said the IEA on its website.

What are governments doing to scale it up?

The Biden administration has provided incentives for carbon capture and removal under the Inflation Reduction Act, including through tax credits.

In December, the US announced \$3.7 billion to “kick start” a carbon capture and removal industry.

“No matter how fast we decarbonize the nation’s economy, we must tackle the legacy pollution already in our atmosphere to avoid the worst effects of climate change,” US Energy Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm said in a statement at the time.

What’s still holding many of these technologies back is the economics, Herzog said. A coal plant without carbon capture, for example, is always going to be much cheaper to run than one with carbon capture, unless policy changes.

Proposed regulations to cap the amounts of planet-heating pollution from US power plants could help. The new rules wouldn’t mandate carbon capture technology but would incentivize it.

Other countries are doing more, Herzog said. “In Europe, the policies are becoming stronger and forcing industry to react.”

The EU, which already has an emissions trading system putting a price of around \$100 on each ton of carbon pollution, has set a target to store at least 55 million tons of CO₂ annually by 2030.

Why are these technologies controversial?

Every form of carbon removal or capture comes with questions and potential problems.

There are concerns over the amount of land required for mass tree planting or for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and the possibility that could clash with land needed to grow food.

Direct air capture remains very expensive, and despite big industry promises that costs will plummet as the technology develops, there’s a long way to go to see if this is plausible, Herzog said.

This technology also requires huge amounts of clean energy to run, said Holly Buck, Assistant Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University at Buffalo, adding to the demand as the world looks to electrify everything from cars to homes.

“There’s going to be a lot of demand for this new renewable capacity. Policymakers have to be really smart about figuring out where that goes,” she told CNN.

There are also concerns about the impacts of transporting and storing carbon, a key feature of carbon capture and several carbon removal techniques.

Pipelines can leak, potentially contaminating drinking water and causing health problems. More than 40 people needed hospital treatment after a carbon pipeline leaked in Mississippi in 2020.

“The pipeline needs to be built the right way, in the right places and well monitored,” Buck said. “That, I think, is one of the major challenges. It’s addressable, but it requires really good regulation and monitoring.”

Perhaps one of the most persistent criticisms of these technologies is their potential to distract from policies to phase out fossil fuels and instead give polluters a license to keep polluting.

In 2021, hundreds of organizations signed an open letter to President Joe Biden and top lawmakers in Congress, arguing that “technological carbon capture is a dangerous distraction.”

“It is the fossil fuel industry’s excuse for inaction and delay,” Lili Fuhr, Director of the fossil economy program at the Center for International Environmental Law, told CNN.

But others say it cannot be an either-or question.

“We are now, unfortunately, at a point where we can’t leave any option off the table to avert dangerous warming,” Mazurek said.

There are going to be industries, such as cement, that are all but impossible to decarbonize in the near-term, said Herzog. It’s here carbon capture and removal technologies will be needed. “That’s not a distraction,” he said, “That’s a solution where there’s no other solution.”

Still, he added, “the best way to remove CO₂ from the air is not to release it into the air in the first place.”

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[World not ready yet to 'switch off' fossil fuels, COP28 host UAE says](#)

By: Valerie Volcovici, Leah Douglas (Reuters)

WASHINGTON - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Tuesday that countries should agree to phase out fuel emissions - not the production of oil, gas and coal - at the upcoming UN climate change negotiations that it will host this December.

The comments reflect deep divisions between nations over how to combat global warming ahead of the COP28 talks. Some wealthy Western governments and climate-afflicted island nations have been pushing for a phase out of fossil fuels, while resource-rich countries have campaigned to keep drilling.

UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment Mariam Almheiri told Reuters in an interview that phasing out fossil fuels would hurt countries that depend on them for revenue or can not easily replace them with renewable sources.

She favored phasing out fossil fuel emissions using capture and storage technologies while ramping up renewable energy, saying this strategy lets countries fight warming while continuing to produce oil, gas, and coal.

"The renewable space is advancing and accelerating extremely fast but we are nowhere near to be able to say that we can switch off fossil fuels and solely depend on clean and renewable energy," Almheiri said on the sidelines of the Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate conference in Washington.

"We are now in a transition and this transition needs to be just and pragmatic because not all countries have the resources," she added.

The UAE is co-hosting the AIM conference with the United States.

At last year's climate summit in Egypt, over 80 countries including the EU and small island nations agreed to include language in the final outcome calling for a phase down of all fossil fuels. Countries including Saudi Arabia and China urged Egypt not to include that language in the final text.

This month, G7 countries agreed to hasten their phaseout of fossil fuel consumption, although they did not set a firm date.

Almheiri pointed to the UAE's example of relying on new carbon capture technology and renewables to decrease the emissions intensity of the OPEC-member's oil and gas operations.

The UAE has a goal to get 50% of its electricity from renewables by 2050 from the current level of 25%, and could strengthen that goal, she said.

Almheiri added that alongside energy, global food supply will be a major focus of COP28 because it accounts for nearly a third of global emissions.

As with energy, technology and innovation can solve food security problems, Almheiri said, noting that it has helped the UAE, with its parched desert landscape, devise a food security strategy.

Tackling inefficiencies of the global food system can also help address problems like malnutrition, food waste and climate change all at once, she said.

"We are making sure that the food systems dialogue is on center stage along with the energy dialogue at COP28," she said. -- Reuters

Marcos calls on developed countries to fulfill commitments to Paris Agreement

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

LABUAN BAJO - President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said Wednesday that ASEAN member states should unite in encouraging developed countries to fulfill their commitments to the Paris Agreement as developing nations are adversely affected by climate change.

"ASEAN must be united in urging developed countries to fulfill their longstanding commitments to the Paris Agreement," Marcos said during the opening of the plenary session.

"Although developing countries such as the Philippines only account for less than 1% of global emissions, our countries bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change," he added.

Marcos said that developed countries have a moral obligation "to support adaptation and mitigation efforts of the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity building, and climate financing, this to address loss and damage, and to achieve necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale."

He further said the Philippines recognizes that biodiversity can complement and synergize with the ASEAN's initiatives on climate change, which can contribute to efforts towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

"The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is also an intergenerational responsibility that the Philippines is proud to support through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity," he said.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on December 12, 2015.

Meanwhile, Marcos also urged ASEAN to enhance cooperation towards improving the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain to ensure a "cleaner energy future."

"The Philippines will take bold steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies in a secure and sustainable manner," Marcos said.

"Recognizing that a cleaner energy future is anchored on the supply of critical minerals, ASEAN should now start enhancing regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain," he said. — VAL/VBL, GMA Integrated News

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Back int'l law, boost trade, fight climate change: PBBM to ASEAN](#)

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – Upholding international law, promoting trade and investments and addressing climate change must be the priorities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Wednesday.

"In order to harness the potential of our region, I believe that ASEAN must now double its efforts, especially in these following priority areas," Marcos said during the 42nd ASEAN Summit Plenary Session at the Meruorah Komodo Convention Center in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.

"Against the backdrop of complex geopolitical challenges and macroeconomic fragilities, an ASEAN Community that plays a central role in shaping the evolving regional architecture, an ASEAN Community that is dynamic, innovative and integrated for the global economy, and an ASEAN Community that can realize the full potential for its peoples is the indispensable bedrock for a peaceful, stable, and resilient region," he added.

Marcos called on his fellow ASEAN leaders to uphold international law and the international-rules based system to ensure "peace, security, stability and prosperity of our region."

Marcos said the Philippines, as a staunch advocate of the protection of the rights and welfare of migrants, welcomes Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship priority of strengthening regional cooperation to address cross-border crimes.

He lauded Indonesia's efforts to intensify the fight against trafficking in persons caused by the misuse of technology, as well as to mainstream the protection of migrant workers and their families in crises.

Promoting trade

Marcos also urged his fellow ASEAN leaders to boost trade and economic cooperation in the region.

"ASEAN should demonstrate its commitment to the principle of free trade and to the multilateral trading system," he said, noting that the Philippines has already deposited its instrument of ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

RCEP negotiations were formally launched by ASEAN and its six free trade agreement (FTA) partners— Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand — in Cambodia in November 2012 and signed in 2020.

The Philippine Senate ratified the deal in February 2023, making the country the last signatory aside from Myanmar to complete the agreement.

The agreement will enter into force in the Philippines on June 2.

Marcos expressed optimism that RCEP will serve as an "engine of growth" that will help build more resilient supply chains and support the integration of our micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into the global economy.

'Vibrant digital economy'

Marcos likewise asked his counterparts from the ASEAN to forge a "vibrant digital economy," ensuring that the region is "equipped with the digital skills for the future so that no one is left behind in the midst of our world's digital transformation."

He also pushed for the strengthening of cross-border connectivity and the interoperability of digital frameworks.

He made the call, as he depicted ASEAN as a "hub for global economic growth."

Food, energy security

Marcos also stressed the need to ensure that food and energy systems in the region are "resilient," in the face of the supply and price fluctuations triggered by geopolitical instability and conflict, pandemic, climate change, logistic chain disruptions and fuel shortages.

The Philippines, he said, is stepping up its efforts to attain food security in the country.

"The Philippines aims to strengthen food security and production efficiency via the use of new agricultural technologies, upgrading technical and vocational education and training, and adopting climate- and disaster-resilient technologies," Marcos said.

The President added that his administration would also take "bold" steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies "in a secure and sustainable manner."

"Recognizing that a cleaner energy future is anchored on the supply of critical minerals, ASEAN should now start enhancing regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain," he said.

Addressing climate change

Marcos also called on his fellow ASEAN leaders to take a united stand in urging developed countries to fulfill their long-standing commitments to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change.

He lamented that developing nations like the Philippines, which only account for less than 1 percent of global emissions, have to "bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change."

"Developed countries have a moral obligation to support adaptation and mitigation efforts for the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity-building, and climate financing. This, to address loss and damage and to achieve the necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale," Marcos said.

The Philippines also supports the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

"The Philippine recognizes that biodiversity can complement and synergize with ASEAN's initiatives in climate change, contributing to our efforts towards a more sustainable and resilient future," he said.

Aside from the Philippines and Indonesia, other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. (PNA)

[Global, regional cooperation required to tackle climate change](#)

By: Anadolu

ATHENS – Climate change is a global problem that poses a serious threat to people all over the world, particularly to the poor, and requires regional and global cooperation and mechanisms to address this, underlined a prominent Greek climate scientist

While wealthier people obviously have the ability to protect themselves from climate change and its effects such as extreme heat, life will grow harder and harder for the poor people, Kostas Lagouvardos, research director at the National Observatory of Athens, told Anadolu in an exclusive interview.

“To put it simply, when there is an extreme heatwave, those who can afford can turn on their air-conditioners without worrying about the electricity bill. Likewise, if drought leads to higher food prices, the rich would still be able to eat whatever they want,” he said.

Also, climate change is more dangerous for metropolitans where people live in packed districts than rural areas, added Lagouvardos, noting that they are more exposed to the hazardous effects of the extreme heat and floods.

Europe fastest-warming continent

Geographically speaking, he said, the effects of climate change are more visible in Europe.

“According to the data from European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service, Europe has been the fastest-warming continent in the world. Temperatures in Europe have increased by more than twice the global average over the past 30 years,” Lagouvardos said.

While warming is a continent-wide phenomenon, lack of rain and above-average temperature showed its negative consequences particularly in Portugal, Spain, and Italy in the forms of droughts and wildfires in early spring, he noted.

According to Lagouvardos, parts of Türkiye and Greece experienced below-average temperatures in an opposite warming trend that took the continent under its influence.

“Specifically, the temperatures in most parts of Crete island of Greece and central Anatolia in Türkiye remained below-average, which is exceptional in the European context,” he said.

When asked about the warnings by some experts that the western part of Türkiye and Greece can experience extremely hot weather this summer with temperatures

up to 50 Celcius, he said there is no sufficient scientific data or proof to support such claims.

“We, however, should be ready for the worst scenario,” said Lagouvardos.

New mechanisms, cooperation

Calling for global cooperation and the mechanisms to address the issue, he said: “What needs to be done globally is reducing carbon emission, the biggest cause of climate change. To this end, the transformation to green energy should be further accelerated. Also important is to build mechanisms that would facilitate this transformation and enforce universal rules.”

As to the regional efforts, Türkiye and Greece can join forces to combat climate change, he asserted.

“I cannot say what kind of initiatives and policies politicians can devise, but I, as a scientist, would like close cooperation with my Turkish colleagues. We can exchange relevant data and findings of surveys and co-develop projects, among other things. The climate change issue presents us, neighbors, a very good opportunity to work together,” Lagouvardos concluded. (Anadolu)

REUTERS

[Shell wins UK Supreme Court case on 2011 oil spill off Nigerian coast](#)

By Estelle Shirbon

LONDON, May 10 (Reuters) - The UK Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that it was too late for Nigerian claimants to sue two Shell (SHEL.L) subsidiaries over a 2011 offshore oil spill they say had a devastating long-term impact on the coastal area where they live.

The case was one of a series of legal battles Shell has been fighting in London courts against residents of Nigeria's oil-producing Niger Delta, a region blighted by pollution, conflict and corruption related to the oil and gas industry.

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The action stemmed from the leakage of an estimated 40,000 barrels of crude oil on Dec. 20, 2011, during the loading of an oil tanker at Shell's giant Bonga oil field, 120 km off the coast of the delta.

A group of 27,800 individuals and 457 communities have been trying to sue Shell, saying the resulting oil slick polluted their lands and waterways, damaging farming, fishing, drinking water, mangrove forests and religious shrines.

But a panel of five Supreme Court justices unanimously upheld rulings by two lower courts that found they had brought their case after the expiry of a six-year legal deadline for taking action.

The claimants' lawyers had argued that the ongoing consequences of the pollution represented a "continuing nuisance", a type of civil tort, which would have meant the deadline did not apply.

"The Supreme Court rejects the claimants' submission. There was no continuing nuisance in this case," said justice Andrew Burrows, delivering the ruling.

Shell had disputed the claimants' allegations, saying the Bonga spill did not impact the shoreline. The court did not rule on the disputed facts as it was seeking only to decide the legal point about nuisance.

Just two Nigerian citizens were appellants in the Supreme Court case, but the ruling will also apply to the thousands of other claimants.

Shell said the Supreme Court ruling had brought to an end all legal claims in English courts related to the spill.

"While the 2011 Bonga spill was highly regrettable, it was swiftly contained and cleaned up offshore," a Shell spokesperson said.

A lawyer for the Nigerian appellants did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

The Supreme Court has previously ruled against Shell in another case involving pollution in the Niger Delta. In February 2021, it allowed a group of 42,500 farmers and fishermen from the Ogale and Bille communities to sue Shell over spills, and that case is currently going through the High Court.

In a separate case, Shell agreed in 2015 after a protracted legal battle in London to pay out 55 million pounds (\$70 million) to the delta's Bodo community in compensation for two spills.

(\$1 = 0.7923 pounds)

[Number of internally displaced people hits record due to war, climate change](#)

GENEVA, May 11 (Reuters) - The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) reached a record 71.1 million worldwide last year due to conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and climate calamities like the monsoon floods in Pakistan, according to data published on Thursday.

The Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) said that figure represented a 20% increase since 2021, with an unprecedented number of people fleeing in search of safety and shelter.

IDMC said that nearly three-quarters of the world's displaced people live in 10 countries, including Syria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ukraine and Sudan, due to conflicts that prompted significant displacement in 2022.

The war in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements last year, according to IDMC.

"Conflict and violence triggered 28.3 million internal displacements worldwide, a figure three times higher than the annual average over the past decade," it said.

The bulk of displacements last year - 32.6 million - was due to disasters including floods, droughts and landslides.

"Conflict and disasters combined last year to aggravate people's pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, triggering displacement on a scale never seen before," said Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, which set up IDMC in 1998.

"The war in Ukraine also fuelled a global food security crisis that hit the internally displaced hardest. This perfect storm has undermined years of progress made in reducing global hunger and malnutrition."

Philippine President urges developed countries to fulfil climate commitments

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has called on developed countries to fulfil their long-standing commitments on climate change and vowed that his country will take bold steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies securely and sustainably.

Kuala Lumpur (VNA) - Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has called on developed countries to fulfil their long-standing commitments on climate change and vowed that his country will take bold steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies securely and sustainably.

Addressing the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo town of Indonesia, he held that developed countries have a moral obligation to support adaptation and mitigation efforts of the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity building, and climate financing to address loss and damage, and to achieve necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale, according to a statement published by his Presidential Communications Office.

Although developing countries like the Philippines only account for less than 1% of global emissions, these countries bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change, he pointed out.

Marcos also called for solidarity among the ASEAN members.

The Philippine President recommended that recognising a cleaner energy future is anchored on the supply of critical minerals, ASEAN should now start enhancing regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain./.

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