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RAPPLER

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By: Iya Gozum

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Developed nations may have achieved their overdue promise of \$100 billion to help poorer countries cope with climate change in 2022, the OECD said on Thursday, November 16, an estimate that may muster some political goodwill on the eve of the COP28 climate summit.

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By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

United Nations Special Rapporteur Dr. Ian Fry on Wednesday said the Philippines has “very good” policies and legislation on climate change yet there is more to be done.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

'Frozen library' of ancient ice tells tales of climate's past

By: Camille Bas-Wohlert, Agence France-Presse

How was the air breathed by Caesar, the Prophet Mohammed or Christopher Columbus? A giant freezer in Copenhagen holds the answers, storing blocks of ice with atmospheric tales thousands of years old.

The Ice Core Archive, housing 25 kilometers (15 miles) of ice collected primarily from Greenland, is helping scientists understand changes in the climate.

"What we have in this archive is prehistoric climate change, a record of man's activities in the last 10,000 years," glaciology professor Jorgen Peder Steffensen of the University of Copenhagen told AFP.

Blocks of ice have been his passion for 43 years -- and it was while drilling into Greenland's ice sheet that he met his wife Dorthe Dahl-Jensen, also a top expert in the field of paleoclimatology.

Steffensen has since 1991 managed the repository, one of the biggest in the world, with 40,000 blocks of ice stacked on long rows of shelves in large boxes.

The frozen samples are unique, made up of compressed snow and not frozen water.

"All the airspace between the snowflakes is trapped as bubbles inside (and) the air inside these bubbles is the same age as the ice," Steffensen explained.

The repository's antechamber is similar to a library's reading room: this is where scientists can examine the ice they have withdrawn from the main "library", or storage room.

But they must be quick: the temperature in the antechamber is kept at -18 degrees Celsius (-0.4F) -- decidedly balmy compared to the -30C (-22F) in the storage room.

Here, Steffensen removes a block of ice from a box. Its air bubbles are visible to the naked eye: it's snow that fell during the winter of year zero.

"So we have the Christmas stuff, the real Christmas snow," says Steffensen with a big grin, his head covered in a warm winter bonnet with furry ear flaps.

Bedrock

A team of researchers brought the first ice cores to Denmark in the 1960s from Camp Century, a secret US military base on Greenland.

The most recent ones date from this summer, when scientists hit the bedrock on eastern Greenland at a depth of 2.6 kilometers, gathering the oldest ice possible.

Those samples contain extracts from 120,000 years ago, during the most recent interglacial period when air temperatures in Greenland were 5C higher than today.

"The globe has easily been much warmer than it is today. But that's before humans were there," Steffensen said.

This recently acquired ice should help scientists' understanding of rising sea levels, which can only be partly explained by the shrinking ice cap.

Another part of the explanation comes from ice streams, fast-moving ice on the ice sheet that is melting at an alarming rate.

"If we understand the ice streams better, we can get a better idea of how much the contribution will be (to rising sea levels) from Greenland and Antarctica in the future," Steffensen said.

He hopes they'll be able to predict the sea level rise in 100 years with a margin of error of 15 centimetres -- a big improvement over today's 70 centimeters.

'Treasure'

Ice cores are the only way of determining the state of the atmosphere prior to man-made pollution.

"With ice cores we have mapped out how greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane vary over time," Steffensen said.

"And we can also see the impact of the burning of fossil fuels in modern times."

This project is separate from the Ice Memory foundation, which has collected ice cores from 20 sites worldwide to preserve them for future researchers at the French-Italian Concordia research station in Antarctica, before they disappear forever due to climate change.

"Storing Greenland's ice memory is very good," said the head of the foundation, Jerome Chappellaz.

But, he noted, the storage of samples in an industrial freezer is susceptible to technical glitches, funding woes, attacks, or even wars.

In 2017, a freezer that broke down at the University of Alberta in Canada exposed 13 percent of its precious samples thousands of years old to undesirably warm temperatures.

At Concordia Station, the average annual temperature is -55C, providing optimal storage conditions for centuries to come.

"They have a treasure," said Chappellaz, appealing to the Danes to join Concordia's project.

"We must protect this treasure and, as far as possible, ensure that it joins mankind's world heritage."

BBC

Climate change: US and China take 'small but important steps'

By: Matt McGrath

The US and China have agreed on measures to tackle climate change but stopped short of committing to end fossil fuels, a joint statement said.

The world's biggest carbon emitters will step up co-operation on methane and support global efforts to triple renewable energy by 2030.

But the document is silent on the use of coal, and the future of fossil energy.

Observers said it was a positive sign ahead of a UN climate summit.

The joint statement comes as the presidents of both countries prepare to meet in California, with climate change representing one of the few areas of potential progress.

For over a year US diplomats have been trying to find a way forward with China after Beijing suspended climate talks after the visit of US Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.

Last week those efforts saw US climate envoy John Kerry meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua, for three days of negotiations that have led to this agreed position.

Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to a global tripling of renewable energy this decade, as previously agreed at this year's G20 meeting in India.

Both also stated that there would be "meaningful absolute power sector emission reductions" by 2030.

However, a reduction in the use of coal isn't mentioned in the document and there's no discussion of the ending of fossil fuels, something that the president of the UN climate conference, known as COP28, has said is a key focus for the meeting.

"It's small but important steps on climate change," said Bernice Lee, a distinguished Fellow at Chatham House and an expert on China.

"But progress on fossil fuels wasn't what I expected to see, as they both have constraints," she told BBC News.

"My suspicion is that it has proven to be too difficult to find the form of language that works for both. But nonetheless, I think it's good that they have a statement that's focused on the things they agree on, which is, obviously, the renewables and methane."

That focus on methane is seen as important for the world as the gas is an extremely potent warming chemical in the short term.

When countries agreed the Global Methane Pledge at COP26 in Glasgow, and aimed to reduce emissions of methane by 30% by 2030, China wasn't among the signatories.

The world's second largest economy doesn't currently count methane as a warming gas in its submissions to the UN.

But according to the statement, the two countries will now include all greenhouse gases including methane in their next round of national climate plans.

"This announcement is a major step because China is the world's largest methane emitter and serious actions to curb this gas is essential for slowing global warming in the near-term," said David Waskow from the World Resources Institute.

The two countries have also said they will jointly host a methane and non-CO2 gas summit at COP28.

The statement will certainly boost the mood of delegates preparing to attend COP28 in Dubai from 30 November.

Amid warnings from scientists that 2023 will be the warmest year on record and with political divisions over Gaza, Ukraine and many other issues, hopes for significant progress at the gathering have been muted.

The fact that even the big divisions between China and the US can be overcome for the sake of the planet is bound to have an impact on others.

"While the two of them can't deliver everything, the US and China coming together to find a way to try and co-operate makes it harder for other countries to hide behind superpower rivalries," said Bernice Lee.

"It certainly sets a better atmosphere for COP28 than there was before."

MANILA BULLETIN

[ABAC to pursue 'online platform' for standardized access to climate data](#)

By: Myrna M. Velasco

As access to comprehensive climate data is still wrought with challenges due to disparate sources and incompatible formats across countries, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is proposing the establishment of an online platform that shall facilitate the sharing of facts, figures and other information in a seamless way.

The propounded digital portal for climate data is part of the Climate Risk Scenarios Project that is being advanced by ABAC, touted as the major private sector ally of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders in promoting trade and investments within the region.

ABAC Philippines Member and Aboitiz Group CEO Sabin Aboitiz primarily reported on the progress of the Climate Risk Scenarios project from the Philippine perspective as well as other countries during the organization's meeting in San Francisco, California ahead of the APEC Leaders' Summit.

The aim of the international private sector advisory body, according to Aboitiz, is "to translate climate awareness into actionable targets."

Apart from addressing gaps and hurdles on climate data sharing, the ABAC also recommended a "standardized playbook" that shall guide member-countries and to "provide support for policy enhancement and a commitment to developing capabilities for climate risk management."

To date, climate datasets are scattered across various platforms – and it often takes lengthy exercise for policymakers, researchers and even corporate decision-makers just deciphering data formats and where to get the most accurate ones that must be given weight in drawing up valuable insights and action items on to addressing the climate crisis.

It was noted that having a 'harmonized playbook' or 'unified ecosystem', in particular, could break down silos as well as bridge gaps not just on accessibility to information, but also on warranted global collaboration on meeting carbon emissions reduction targets as well as on the strategies to achieve them.

A recent report of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulated that the world is still falling behind on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trimming; thus, there is an intensified call for bolder and more aggressive

action plans to be on track with the targeted 1.5 degrees Celsius limit on temperature rise.

At the ABAC meeting, Aboitiz cited “valuable insights gained from research and input of nine pilot economies, with him noting that there have been “similar and unique climate risks identified,” hence, those ought to be prioritized in the design of the online data platform.

“The assessments encompassed various aspects such as data and expertise, methodologies and standards, policies and mandates, and current practices in each economy, revealing gaps and strategies for improvement,” he stressed.

The economies scrutinized in the pilot assessment include developments that had been presented by the National Autonomous University of Mexico's use of climate data and socioeconomic factors to calculate climate change impacts; as well as Thailand's utilization of a climate analytics website for risk information.

Canada, on the other, shared “rapid advancements in risk assessment capabilities; while both Mexico and Philippine central banks assimilated “climate stress testing into their policy requirements.”

The other countries which actively participated in the climate risk assessment discussions include Australia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand – with most of them citing the need to “actively engage in the exchange of perspectives,” as well as collaboration in “constructing climate resilience.”

[Marcos bags climate, internet, energy, pharma deals in US trip](#)

The Philippines has secured five significant sectors with American companies during the sidelines of the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco on Thursday, Nov. 16 (Manila time).

President Marcos, who witnessed the signing of the agreements, said they will play an essential role in promoting the country's climate resiliency, internet connectivity, clean energy, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and healthcare system.

"They all hold a great potential for the Philippines to reshape its landscape of clean energy, healthcare, pharmaceutical manufacturing, internet and satellite technology, and climate technology," he said.

"The partnerships we celebrate today are manifests – that of the unwavering commitment of the United States and the Philippines in terms of collaboration, innovation, and progress. [They] will bring us closer to our vision of a more prosperous and sustainable Philippines," he added.

President Marcos assured private and public partners in the Philippines and the US of the government's commitment to providing the necessary resources to ensure the success of the agreed partnerships.

The first agreement signed was on building a high-resolution weather forecasting system for the Philippines using artificial intelligence (AI) technology. It was signed by Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Maridon Sahagun and ATMO Inc. Founder and CEO Alexander Levy.

ATMO is an AI meteorology company based in California.

A cooperation agreement was also signed to establish and run the Philippines' first dedicated specialty oncology hospital to ensure efficient delivery of services to patients in making cancer care more accessible to Filipinos.

This agreement was signed between Ayala Corporation President and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Ayala Corporation Health CEO and President Paolo Borromeo, Varian Philippines President and Managing Director Heinz-Michael Horst Schmermer, and Advanced Oncology Solutions, Varian Vice President Chuck Lindley.

Lloyd Laboratories' representatives, led by Dr. Lloyd Balajadia, signed an agreement with Difgen Pharmaceuticals LLC representative Mr. Ramandeep Singh Jaj for a

collaboration on the filing of Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDA) and the marketing of jointly developed pharmaceutical products within the United States.

An investment of up to \$20 million will also be undertaken by Lloyd Laboratories for the establishment and operation of the first US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved manufacturing facility in the Philippines, contributing to the advancement of the Philippines' position as a key player in the global pharmaceutical industry.

Ultra Safe Nuclear Cooperation (USNC) representatives, led by its CEO Francesco Venneri, also signed an agreement with MERALCO on the conduct of a pre-feasibility study for the potential deployment of Micro Modular Reactors "to enforce the sustainable energy agenda and provide affordable and dependable access to power, particularly to the underserved and off-grid areas for economic empowerment."

An agreement between ORBITS and ASTRANIt to deploy of the first two internet satellites dedicated to the Philippines was also signed.

The agreement is expected to generate \$400 million worth of investment over the next eight years through the MicroGEO satellites.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, US ink deals on energy, health, Internet satellites, climate tech](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines and the United States (US) on Thursday (Manila time) signed at least five agreements on clean energy, health care, pharmaceutical production, Internet connectivity, and climate technology.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s participation in the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, California.

"It is a good experience always to come and officiate, or shall we say, witness the agreements that we have come with our partners, some government-to-government and some on the private sector," Marcos said after the signing of deals at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in San Francisco.

"They all hold a great potential for the Philippines to reshape its landscape of clean energy, health care, pharmaceutical manufacturing, Internet and satellite technology, and climate technology."

Clean energy

The Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and the Ultra Safe Nuclear Cooperation (USNC) signed a cooperation agreement to undertake a Pre-Feasibility Study on Micro-Modular Reactors (MMRs) to explore clean and sustainable energy options in the country.

Under the agreement, a feasibility study will be conducted for the potential deployment of MMRs in Meralco sites aimed at enforcing the sustainable energy agenda and providing affordable and dependable access to power, particularly to the underserved and off-grid areas, for economic empowerment.

The study would enable Meralco to obtain an estimate of the environmental and social impact, capital expenditure, and operational costs, among others, related to the siting, construction, and operation of one or more MMR energy systems in the Philippines.

The partnership between Meralco and USNC is a "significant step" towards exploring clean and sustainable energy options for the Philippines, Marcos said, adding that it is aligned with the government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to climate change.

First cancer hospital

Ayala Group's AC Health also signed a cooperation agreement with US-based Varian Medical Systems to improve access to quality cancer care in the Philippines by sharing their expertise in establishing and running the Philippines' first dedicated specialty oncology hospital.

The partnership will enable AC Health to establish the Healthway Cancer Care Hospital in the Philippines, which will serve as a network of oncology clinics throughout Metro Manila aimed at providing cancer patients access to comprehensive cancer care using Varian's state-of-the-art and multi-modality cancer care technologies.

Among the signatories were Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala Corp., AC Health chief executive officer (CEO) and president Paolo Borromeo, Varian Philippines president and managing director Heinz-Michael Horst Schmermer, and Varian's Advanced Oncology Solutions vice president Chuck Lindley.

Marcos said the collaboration between AC Health and Varian Medical Systems is a vital stride in the fight against cancer and reflects the Philippines' growing potential as a "leading health care destination in Asia."

In 2023, cancer is the third leading cause of death in the Philippines, with about 141,021 new cancer cases and 86,337 cancer deaths every year.

To boost cancer control efforts and reduce the burden of the disease, the Philippines enacted Republic Act 11215, or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act, in February 2019. As of this month, the Department of Health is set to establish 16 Cancer Care Specialty Centers nationwide.

Local production of medicines

Meanwhile, the Philippine company Lloyd Laboratories and US firm DifGen Pharmaceutical signed a joint venture agreement worth USD20 million to boost the local production of medicines in the Philippines.

The joint venture will cover mutual interest in collaborating on the filing of an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) and the marketing of jointly developed pharmaceutical products within the US.

An investment of up to USD20 million will be undertaken by Lloyd Laboratories for the establishment and operation of the first US Food and Drug Administration's approved

manufacturing facility in the Philippines, contributing to the advancement of the country's position as a key player in the global pharmaceutical industry.

The signatories for Lloyd Laboratories were Dr. Lloyd Balajada, Christopher Bamba, and lawyer Rafael Calinisan, while lawyer Oliver Baclay and Ramandeep Singh Jaj signed for DifGen Pharmaceuticals.

Marcos said the joint venture between Lloyd Laboratories and DifGen Pharmaceuticals is vital in expanding the country's local production and promoting a competitive and robust local pharmaceutical industry.

Internet satellites

An agreement between the Philippines' satellite service provider Orbits and California-based communications satellites operator Astranis for the deployment of the first two Internet satellites to improve connectivity in remote areas in the Philippines was also signed.

The agreement is expected to generate USD400 million worth of investment over the next eight years through the MicroGEO satellites, which will provide Internet service in the unserved and underserved areas of the Philippines, covering up to 10 million users and 30,000 villages.

It is also projected to create more than 10,000 jobs for direct and indirect employees and partners.

During the event, Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez announced the official name of the first satellite as "Agila" to foster the spirit of technological advancements and strengthen international partnerships.

The selection of the name Agila, he said, holds deep significance, embodying the project's unwavering commitment to connecting and empowering the Filipino nation through the expansion of access to the digital world.

Marcos said the partnership between Astranis and Orbit would help bridge the digital divide and foster digital transformation in the Philippines.

Advanced weather forecasting

Leading artificial intelligence (AI) meteorology company Atmo, Inc. also signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

for the establishment of a high-resolution weather forecasting system for the Philippines using AI technology.

The MOA was signed by DOST Undersecretary Maridon Sahagun and Atmo founder and CEO Alexander Levy.

It will be Asia's largest AI-driven weather forecasting program, which is expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the Philippines' resilience.

The MOA on weather forecasting will benefit the Philippines, considering that it is one of the countries most affected by typhoons.

Marcos welcomed the signing of the agreement, saying it would help make the country climate-resilient.

"The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by typhoons, with an annual average of 20 typhoons that bring heavy flooding and cause billions of pesos in damage to infrastructure, to agriculture, and to people's lives. Atmo and the Department of Science and Technology's partnership on an AI-powered weather forecasting system will help the Philippines build its climate resilience," he said.

Based on records, the Philippines experienced 17 typhoons from July 2022 to May 2023.

RAPPLER

[PH, poor countries stand to lose if World Bank hosts climate loss and damage fund – expert](#)

By: Iya Gozum

United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur Ian Fry has expressed “grave reservations” on the recommendation to make the World Bank the host of the climate loss and damage fund that was decades in the making.

Poor and vulnerable countries like the Philippines may be unlikely to receive proper compensation for climate disasters, Fry, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, said in a press conference on Wednesday, November 15,

“I have grave reservations about the World Bank being an administrator of a loss and damage fund for a variety of reasons because the bank is dominated by developed countries in their board,” Fry said.

The World Bank also finances fossil fuel projects, he added.

In a landmark agreement at the 2022 Conference of Parties (COP), rich countries finally agreed to provide climate aid to poorer nations, but the details have yet to be finalized.

The purpose of the loss and damage fund is to assist developing and vulnerable countries to respond to droughts, floods, rising sea levels exacerbated by climate change.

Almost a year later, a special UN committee in its fifth meeting agreed to recommend the World Bank as host of the fund for an interim period of four years.

This recommendation, among other talks held prior to the COP, is expected to be threshed out in Dubai.

Conflicts of interest had often delayed climate negotiation breakthroughs. Fry said that at the 2022 COP, the United States – the biggest shareholder in the World Bank – tried to make contributions to the loss and damage fund voluntary.

With these contexts in mind, “you can’t expect to get a fair decision-making process,” said Fry.

“[I]t’s unlikely that people on the ground will get a proper loss and damage finance if the World Bank administers it,” said Fry.

Delayed better outcome vs ‘quick bad outcome’

Despite climate action being a race against time, Fry said it would be better to delay the conclusion of a loss and damage fund than get a “suboptimal fund” – a view that may not be shared by others.

“I suspect the COP president will try and push this decision through, which is disappointing,” said Fry. “I think we should delay a conclusion and come up with a better outcome than have a quick bad outcome.”

For Robert Borje, vice chair of the Philippines’ Climate Change Commission, it’s not one or the other.

While the loss and damage fund had been a major advocacy for developing nations for the past decades, Borje said the fund remains “reactive.” The other work is improving the country’s climate adaptation measures, such as infrastructure, disaster management, and food security.

“That was never the end,” Borje told reporters in October.

Tensions are expected to arise in relation to a possible unsatisfactory agreement for many parties. Aside from the loss and damage fund, COP 2023 will take stock of the countries’ progress on meeting the goals set in the Paris Agreement.

[Rich countries may have met \\$100 billion climate goal last year – OECD](#)

Developed nations may have achieved their overdue promise of \$100 billion to help poorer countries cope with climate change in 2022, the OECD said on Thursday, November 16, an estimate that may muster some political goodwill on the eve of the COP28 climate summit.

In 2009, developed countries promised that from 2020 they would transfer \$100 billion a year to poorer nations hit by worsening climate change-fuelled disasters. Rich countries had previously signaled the target would not be met until 2023.

The goal is politically symbolic and failure to meet it has stoked mistrust in past climate talks, hampering other deals to tackle climate change as poorer nations argue the world's economic powers are leaving them in the lurch.

The data come two weeks ahead of the United Nations' COP28 climate summit, which starts in Dubai on November 30.

Finance is a sore point in UN climate talks, as developing economies say they cannot adapt to extreme weather or invest in cleaner energy without more support from the rich nations whose historical fossil fuel burning caused climate change.

"Based on preliminary and as yet unverified data, the goal looks likely to have already been met as of 2022," said Mathias Cormann, secretary-general of the organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The \$100 billion is far below poor nations' actual climate investment needs, which by 2025 could total \$1 trillion per year, the OECD said.

"The delivery of the \$100 billion is vitally important," said Tina Stege, climate envoy for the Marshall Islands, a nation vulnerable to rising sea levels.

"From building sea walls to adapt to climate change, to installing renewables, to helping people rebuild their lives and livelihoods if they're forced to move – all of these things cost money," she said.

The OECD confirmed the target was not met in 2021. That year, wealthy nations provided \$89.6 billion, an 8% increase from 2020 levels.

Most of the 2021 money – \$73 billion – was public finance and, of this, more than two thirds was loans.

The OECD warned, however, that this funding – from sources including multilateral development banks and national aid agencies – has so far failed to mobilize substantial private capital, which is needed to cover the climate investment gap.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

[UN expert cites PH efforts on climate change, calls for int'l support](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

United Nations Special Rapporteur Dr. Ian Fry on Wednesday said the Philippines has “very good” policies and legislation on climate change yet there is more to be done.

In a news release, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that Fry’s 10-day official country visit ended with a meeting with representatives from the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS), Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the DFA others.

During the meeting, Fry shared a summary of his preliminary observations as he conducted site visits across the country, including in Manila, Valenzuela City, Leyte and Iloilo City, and discussions with national and local government officials, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

He cited the relevance of the Loss and Damage Fund under the UN Conference of Parties (COP) to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the need to make it meaningful and operational.

In line with this, he underscored the critical role of the international community — particularly developed countries— to provide enhanced climate financing and support to the Philippines and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat climate change.

For his part, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert Borje said international support for loss and damage must be ramped up.

“As details of the loss and damage fund are still being ironed out, Annex 1 Parties as well as carbon majors need to deliver on scaled up means of implementation on climate finance, capacity building and technology development to developing countries as commitments under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as survival of developing nations and the fundamental human right to life are impacted by compliance with these treaty obligations and moral imperative,” he said.

He added developing nations which are least responsible for global warming and climate change take on disproportionate burden of the responsibility.

In terms of gender-related issues, Fry highlighted the country’s good practices in terms of action at the local levels and mainstreaming them — being “more progressive than a lot of other countries.”

He said the work of the Commission on Human Rights on the responsibility of large petroleum companies.

Meanwhile, the government urged Fry to have a more comprehensive appreciation of the Philippine context and engage in a genuine dialogue with the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict with regard to his marks on political and security matters.

PHRCS Undersecretary Severo Catura conveyed the government's willingness to further engage Fry to clarify ongoing complex challenges which he may not have fully appreciated during his short visit.

He said this will ensure a broader perspective that will inform an objective, constructive and complete report.

DFA Assistant Secretary Maria Teresa Almojuela said the Philippines' new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with the UN 2024-2028 makes climate action and resilience a joint strategic priority for activities at the national, local, regional and international levels.

She also brought attention to government efforts for skills upgrading and promoting a just transition to a low carbon economy.

Fry expressed sincere gratitude for the "hospitality and openness" of government authorities and stakeholders throughout his visit.

He said the discussions with the officials and other representatives were "frank and constructive."

His final report will be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2024.

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