

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND PRIORITIZATION OF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMS TO REDUCE CLIMATE RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES, IN AID OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit anthropogenic global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C”, and increase national and local capacities to adapt to adverse climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, the manifestations of the climate crisis have worsened despite the adoption of the Paris Agreement due to the continued increase of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and gas, a trend that not even the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic was able to permanently reverse;

WHEREAS, on October 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an intergovernmental entity under the United Nations, revealed in its Sixth Assessment Report that global warming is likely to exceed 1.5°C, a level considered by many experts as a “point of no return” when climate change impacts may become irreversible, before 2040 unless global GHG emissions are drastically reduced;

WHEREAS, the Philippines incurred PHP506.1 billion worth of loss and damage from 2010 to 2020 due to the climate crisis, a clear indicator of its status as one of the nations at highest risk to its impacts despite ironically being a minor emitter of GHGs, with the possibility of increased climate risks and vulnerabilities and higher loss and damage in the following decades without drastic solutions;

WHEREAS, Pope Francis through his encyclical “Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home” and other communications, has effectively declared a global “climate emergency”, highlighting that the gravest effects of brought about by this crisis are being disproportionately endured by the poorest and most vulnerable sectors including but not limited to women, youth, indigenous peoples, farmers, and fisherfolk, which is “a brutal act of injustice toward the poor and future generations”;

WHEREAS, the [insert LGU] recognizes that the climate crisis is also a development issue that necessitates an emergency mobilization of manpower and resources to reduce GHG emissions across all economic sectors, and to implement measures to protect all peoples and species from adverse extreme impacts, with the recognition of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment as now declared by the United Nations;

WHEREAS, a just transition is a framework that enables a fair shift from an extractive economy dependent on fossil fuels to an ecologically-sustainable economy which is equitable and just for all peoples, while allowing economic sectors such as agriculture, waste, industry, transport, forestry and land use, and energy transform into climate-smart, low-emissions models

conducive to attaining sustainable development, as defined under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national and local development plans;

WHEREAS, climate justice is the anchor of all solutions at the global, national, and local scales, which calls for peoples-centered, human rights-based approaches to addressing climate change impacts and fully integrates the needs, priorities, interests, and rights of the most vulnerable sectors in aid of their respective pursuit of development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines voluntarily pledged in its Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC to reduce its GHG emissions by 75% during the current decade 2020-2030 relative to a scenario without mitigation actions, a goal that requires a “whole-of-nation” approach and the full cooperation of all local governments and stakeholders to achieve;

WHEREAS, the urgency of addressing the climate crisis has been recognized on a national level under House Resolution No. 1377, which declares a climate and environmental emergency to ensure “enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government”, an example that local governments must follow;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City/Municipal Council of [insert city or municipality] in regular session assembled:

1. Declares a climate emergency and commits to implement urgent, effective, just, and sustainable solutions, by mobilizing available resources, allocating funds for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, with a focus on strengthening ecosystems and biodiversity protection, and enacting local measures and policies to reduce GHG emissions within our jurisdiction by 2030, scale up adaptation and resilience strategies to reduce, if not eliminate climate risks and vulnerabilities;
2. Supports and calls for an end to our nation’s dependence on fossil fuels, including coal and gas, and avoid other false solutions that create new climate risks and worsens existing economic and social vulnerabilities within our jurisdiction;
3. Commits to implement a just transition to pursue further promotion and development of renewable energy, and transform local socioeconomic sectors towards low-emissions models that adequately respond to the needs and priorities of our constituents, in aid of the pursuit of sustainable development;
4. Commits adequate resources in educating and capacitating our constituents about the climate emergency, its associated impacts and solutions, and consolidating our communities’ concerns and local climate actions through an inclusive, participatory, and rights-based approach;
5. Commits to review and evaluate our local climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and programs, especially the Local Climate Change Action Plan, update them to respond to local impacts associate with the climate emergency, and align our other local development and investment plans with the climate imperative; and
6. Calls for scaling up of national and global measures to support local communities to avert or minimize climate-related loss and damage in an accessible and just manner,

including the establishment of a loss and damage finance mechanism under the jurisdiction of the UNFCCC;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to request [insert corresponding office] to furnish copies of this Resolution to the Office of the Mayor, [insert name of local Environment and Natural Resource Office], Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office, the Climate Change Commission, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines for their information and guidance.

ADOPTED: [insert date]

Signed,

[insert LGU official]

[insert designation]

[insert LGU]

ATTESTED:

[insert LGU official]

[insert designation]

[insert LGU]