



**SUBMISSION OF INPUTS FOR THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN RELATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 50/9 “REPORT ON THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD**

**15 December 2022**



**Introduction**

1. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (hereinafter the “Commission”)[[1]](#footnote-0) submits its written inputs to the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the report being prepared in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 50/9 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”
2. The inputs from the Commission took into consideration local and international reports from government, civil society, the media, and international non-governmental organizations. This submission also utilized the Commission’s own documentation of independent monitoring activities and statements, which were subjected to the internal deliberations of the Commission En Banc.

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***QUESTIONNAIRE***

1. *Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how climate change adversely affects the full realization of the right to food, taking into account discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.*

* Reports from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reveal that more than half of the Philippine population live in rural areas and more than a third of them are poor. Agriculture is the primary source of income for poor rural people, and this is the major source for many of the poorest households.[[2]](#footnote-1) The Special Rapporteur on the right to food has outlined how climate change impacts food availability, accessibility, adequacy and sustainability.[[3]](#footnote-2)
* Poverty and inequality are considered as risk drivers of disaster. In documenting the experiences of women in rural poverty conditions and the after effects of typhoons, a recent study[[4]](#footnote-3) explains that typhoons further aggravate poor households’ situation and that women have gender-specific concerns which are often overlooked resulting in gender-blind programs that assume common needs and circumstances.[[5]](#footnote-4) Following the Commission’s conduct of a national inquiry on climate change, the Commission reported[[6]](#footnote-5) that women from rural areas are more severely affected by climate impacts due to the following reasons:

1. women have fewer assets to fall back on in case of crop failure due to extreme weather events;
2. women are tasked with managing household expenses and often fall into chronic indebtedness to bridge resource gaps; and
3. women prioritize the food needs of male household members and children during food shortages. This often pushes women to migrate overseas to supplement the family income, making them more vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other abuses.[[7]](#footnote-6)

* Climate change “is one of the biggest threats to children’s health and exacerbates health disparities.”[[8]](#footnote-7) Children not only face mortal dangers due to extreme weather events; their right to access basic necessities like water, food and shelter is also disproportionately jeopardized by extreme weather events.[[9]](#footnote-8)

1. *Please describe any specific measure, including public policies, legislation, practices or strategies that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage, that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the right to food. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.*

* In response to the urgency for action on climate change, the Philippines passed Republic Act 9729[[10]](#footnote-9), also known as the Climate Change Act of 2009, anchored on the constitutional provision which states that “it is the policy of the State to afford full protection and the advancement of the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology… to fulfill human needs while maintaining the quality of the natural environment for current and future generations.”
* Section 4 of RA 9729 provides for the establishment of a Climate Change Commission, an independent and autonomous body that has the same status as that of a national government agency. The CCC is under the Office of the President and is the “sole policy-making body of the government which shall be tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans of the government relating to climate change pursuant to the provisions of this Act.”
* Section 14 of RA 9729 Recommends key development investments in climate-sensitive sectors such as water resources, agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine resources, health and infrastructure to ensure the achievement of national sustainable development goals;
* The Department of Agriculture established the Department of Agriculture Systems-wide Climate Change Office (DA-SWCCO)[[11]](#footnote-10), under the Office of Policy and Planning. The office is mandated to oversee the flagship program to address Climate Change called the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA).[[12]](#footnote-11)
* In 2020 the Department of Agriculture created the Interim Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service[[13]](#footnote-12) dedicated to handle all DRRM[[14]](#footnote-13) related concerns in the agriculture and fisheries sector.
* In response to State policies and international commitments, several proposed legislations[[15]](#footnote-14) were filed and currently pending before the respective committee on human rights of both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines that seeks to guarantee everyone’s right to adequate food and provides for a comprehensive framework thereto.
* To ensure the country’s resilience to climate change and to enhance our capability in dealing with the effects of climate change, House Bill Nos. 3055, 5083, 4364 and 6385 to declare a climate change emergency in the country, seeks for the protection, maintenance and conservation of peatlands within private and public lands and proposal to pool efforts from both government and various sectors towards preserving and protecting the environment were pending in the lower house

1. *Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.*

* To respond to the challenges posed by Climate Change, the Department of Agriculture issued a memorandum that mandates the mainstreaming of Climate Change in the DA Programs, Plans and Budget. One of the Key Components of the Memorandum is the National Program on Climate Change in Agriculture hence, the creation of Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture or AMIA.[[16]](#footnote-15)
* The Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (RBMES)[[17]](#footnote-16) aims to monitor progress toward the implementation of the NCCAP[[18]](#footnote-17) across its seven priority areas (with a focus on both climate adaptation and mitigation). Annual monitoring is expected to support priorities and budget setting every year. In addition, the system aims at evaluating the efficiency, effectiveness and impacts of the action plan every three years.

1. *Please identify and share examples of promising practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of the full realization of the right to food in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.*

* One of the priorities of the National Climate Change Action Plan[[19]](#footnote-18) is Food Security. One of the objectives of the action plan is to ensure availability, stability, accessibility, and affordability of safe and healthy food amidst climate change.
* The vulnerability of the food production sector, i.e., agriculture and fisheries, is not well studied in order to provide adaptation measures that are well targeted and site-specific. In general, there is currently a lack of institutional actions for site sensitive adaptation; the reason may be traced back to the lack of scientific information on vulnerability and adaptation technologies.[[20]](#footnote-19)
* Climate Resiliency and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA)[[21]](#footnote-20) was devised because Climate change and variability continue to exert increasing pressure upon the agricultural sector of the Philippines. Therefore it is vital to identify and prioritize at a high, municipal-level resolution and relevant crops that are most vulnerable to climate risk. CRVA aims to Identify which communities in the Philippines are most vulnerable to climate change to ensure that strategic and effective investments can be made.

1. *Please include examples and promising practices and challenges that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that promote the full realization of the right to food.*

* In response to the adverse effects of climate change in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the Philippines launched the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) program in 2014 and allocated US$ 26.4 million to the initiative. The program seeks to enable climate risk-prone agri-fisheries communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods while effectively managing the likely impacts of climate change. AMIA is anchored in a CRA[[22]](#footnote-21) strategic framework to guide decision-making and actions by key stakeholders. The program combines a science-driven knowledge platform with an integrated suite of institutional support services such as accessing climate finance mechanisms. AMIA is being implemented by the DA’s Systems-wide Climate Change Office (SWCCO), in partnership with DA regional field offices (RFOs), state colleges and universities, international organizations, financial institutions, and non-government organizations (NGOs).[[23]](#footnote-22)

1. As the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of the Philippines, the Commission on Human Rights has the mandate vested by the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the Paris Principles to promote and protect the full range of human rights including civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. It has the responsibility to regularly report and monitor human rights situations and violations, and recommend steps in advancing the realization of human rights and dignity of all. The Commission has “A”-status accreditation from the Sub-Committee for Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Report on the Philippines*, *available at*

   [Https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/philippines](https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/philippines), (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Statement by Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food at the 70th session of the General

   Assembly, Third Committee Item 72 (b & c): Human Rights available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2015/10/statement-hilal-elver-special-rapporteur-right-food-70th-session-general> , (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Barrameda T., *Stories Women Tell: Five Rural Women’s Lived Experiences of Survival*

   *and Typhoons, Philippine Journal of Social Development* (2012). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Commission on Human Rights, N*ational Inquiry on Climate Change Report* (2022), *available a*t

   <https://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CHRP-NICC-Report-2022.pdf>, (last accessed Nov. 21,

   2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Id at 58. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *General comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child*

   *to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24)*, CRC/C/GC/15 (17 April 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. National Inquiry on Climate Change Report (2022), supra note 6 at 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. An Act Mainstreaming Climate Change Into Government Policy Formulations, Establishing the Framework Strategy and Program on Climate Change, Creating for this Purpose the Climate Change Commission, and for Other Purposes [Climate Change Act of 2009], Republic Act No. 9729. *available at* <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2009/10/23/republic-act-no-9729/> , (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. Department of Agriculture Systems-wide Climate Change Office (DA-SWCCO), *7 Core Programs*, *available at* <https://amia.da.gov.ph/index.php/da-systems-wide-programs-on-climate-change/>, (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. Department of Agriculture, *Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program*, *available at* <https://amia.da.gov.ph/index.php/about-the-program/>, (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
13. Interim Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service , available at <https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ao06_s2020.pdf>, (last accessed Dec. 15, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
14. Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2010/05/27/republic-act-no-10121/>, (last accessed Dec. 15, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
15. House Bill Nos. 1175, 1277, 1299, 1876, 2303, 2531, 5697,and 6171, Senate Bill Nos. 1438, 497, 337 and 98 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
16. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
17. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, *The Philippines: National Climate Change Action Plan Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System*, published July 2014, available at <https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/download/me/giz2014-factsheet-philippines-ncca-plan.pdf>, (last accessed Nov. 22, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
18. Philippine Climate Change Commission, *National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028* (2016), *available at* <https://climate.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NCCAP-1.pdf> , (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
19. Id [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
20. Id at 7 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
21. Department of Agriculture, *Climate Resiliency and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA*), *available at* <https://amia.da.gov.ph/index.php/climate-resiliency-and-vulnerability-assessment-crva/>, (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
22. Department of Agriculture, *Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Program*, *available at* <https://amia.da.gov.ph/index.php/climate-resilient-agriculture-cra/>, (last accessed Nov. 22, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
23. Department of Agriculture Philippines, *Climate-Resilient Agriculture*

    *in the Philippines*, uploaded 2018, *available at* <https://amia.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/CRA_Profile_Philippines.pdf> at pg 12, (last accessed Nov. 21, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)