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ABS CBN

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By: Raphael Bosano

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THE MANILA TIMES

[Opinion] How PH chose to sideline climate security
By: Dan Steinbock

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From waste to worth: Circular economy for climate resilience
By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

Every day, mountains of waste move from our homes to our rivers and into our seas. What begins as convenience — plastic packaging, sachets and food wrappers — ends up choking waterways, flooding cities and contaminating the ecosystems that feed and protect us. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines generates around 61,000 metric tons of solid waste daily, much of it plastic.

THE MANILA TIMES

France, EU back Philippines' push for climate and disaster resilience

The Philippines' drive to strengthen its climate and disaster resilience frameworks received a major boost from international partners as foreign agencies underscored the importance of global cooperation in tackling climate risks.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

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In the warm humid streets of Belém, just a few kilometers away from the meeting rooms and plenary halls where climate negotiators pondered on draft statements, Filipino civil society groups joined a global call demanding an end to the world's dependence on fossil fuels. The issue, for them, is not abstract but one that is the root of the disasters reshaping daily life back home.

At the midpoint of the UN Climate Conference, organizations such as Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, Alyansa Tigil Mina, Laudato Si Movement, and the Asia People's Movement on Debt and Development marched through the commercial stretch of Mercado de São Brás, calling out the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters for the damage they have inflicted on vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

"Dapat pagbayaran nila ang kanilang krimen pagdating sa kalikasan," labor leader and climate advocate Luke Espiritu declared, his voice rising above the crowd.

(They should pay for their crimes against the environment.)

The recent back-to-back typhoons that battered the Philippines, he said, is why Filipinos must demand climate justice with great urgency.

"Dapat ito'y maging parte na ng political demands ng Pilipino as a people. Tayo ang naapektuhan ng baha," he stressed.

(Climate justice should now be part of the political demands of the Filipino people. We are the ones affected by flooding.)

But he is quick to admit that the biggest hurdle may be right at home. The weak political will and corruption in the country undermines efforts to improve the country's defenses, particularly allegations of misused funds meant for flood control projects. In a continuously warming world, every peso misplaced is a vulnerability exposed.

PROTEST IS BACK?

The Belém rally marked the return of mass demonstrations during the climate talks. The last one was held at COP26 in Glasgow.

Since then, host countries had repeatedly prohibited large demonstrations.

What made the demonstration even more striking was the colorful and vibrant, theatrical display staged by artists. Women dressed in mourning were followed by symbolic coffins — a funeral procession for fossil fuels.

Joao Talocchi of the Clean Energy Alliance in Latin America said the effigies and elaborate costumes was meant to signal the end of an old, destructive era and the birth of one powered by clean energy.

Under the harsh Amazonian sun, he said braving the heat was nothing compared to what communities across the global south endure daily.
“We’re fighting for life. From the Philippines, to Indonesia, to Brazil, to Colombia, to Chile and Africa — everyone is suffering because we depend on fossil fuels.”

'COP OF TRUTH'

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has called COP30 the “COP of truth,” a moment when countries must be honest about the scale of action needed. For Talocchi, that truth is uncomfortable.
“There is no way to deal with the climate crisis if we keep adding fossil fuel to the atmosphere.

He insists negotiators must now deliver what science has repeated for years.

“What the negotiators need to do is negotiate on a road map. The next 20 years, fossil fuel needs to be gone. But they need to be gone in a way that protects the workers, the people that still depend on fossil fuels. We have the time to plan, but we don’t have the time to waste.”

As protesters endure the heat, at the COP venue, consultations among governments continue in well lit and air-conditioned dependent room. It remains clear for the average Filipino just exactly how these take place and how they fare in the grand scheme of things
The second week of the climate talks begin next week. The negotiations will inevitably reveal whether or not world leaders are listening, or simply letting the noise drown out the sectors and people they came to protect.

AL JAZEERA

[Opinion] ASEAN can't let Trump's America set the pace on climate action

By: Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad

America's renewed scepticism, and even hostility under Donald Trump's second administration, does not for one moment alter the fact that climate change is real.

Neither does it negate the reality that the Global South — including the almost 700 million-strong Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), virtually all of which are tropical countries — is on the front line of the climate crisis.
Typhoons Tino and Uwan, which recently struck our region, especially the Philippines, are the latest proof of this and a reminder of the urgent need for climate justice.

What the Global South needs from summits like COP30 has been stated time and time again. It really boils down to four things.

The developed world needs to listen

On the one hand, developed countries need to listen to developing and less developed countries on how climate change should be addressed.
A rigid approach to the various facets of climate action, including technology, energy transition and biodiversity conservation, will ultimately frustrate the sincere, proactive measures that many Global South countries, including Malaysia and several of its ASEAN partners, are taking towards these goals.

More flexibility on the part of the Global North would go a long way towards ensuring that the war against climate change is won.

This is not an attempt to water down or deflect anything. The right to live in a sustainable environment is arguably a fundamental human right.

Israel's devastating war in Gaza has also resulted in widespread ecocide that Western nations have remained strangely silent on, but whose ramifications — not only for the Middle East but for the wider world — will last for decades.

There should therefore be no doubt that sustainability and human rights go together. Supporting the former, especially in ASEAN and the Global South, is a means of upholding the latter.

Developed countries should bring their chequebooks

At the risk of putting things crudely, money talks. The various climate finance commitments — especially those for vulnerable nations — must not only be fulfilled, but also increased.
Projections from the United Nations Global Policy Model estimate that developing countries will need around $1.1 trillion in climate finance by 2025 and some $1.8 trillion by 2030.

The chair of the COP30 UN Climate Change Conference, Brazil, has rightly said that it hopes the meeting in Belem will be remembered as “the COP of Adaptation Implementation”. This is astute because, while I do not share the view that it is too late to act, it should be painfully clear that climate action can no longer be about setting lofty goals. Rather, the time has come to deliver.

The Global South can lead on climate change

Admittedly, the absence of the United States — as the world’s superpower and largest economy — looms over the COP and any international efforts to protect the environment. But the absence of the US is not a reason to retreat from climate action, or any other international cause; rather, it is an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

Although it would be nice to have the US involved, the world can act without America. As has been widely reported, China’s carbon dioxide emissions have either flatlined or fallen over the past 18 months.

Moreover, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), proposed by Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, is an important part of the solution.

With the World Bank as its trustee and interim host, the TFFF seeks to support lasting conservation strategies and protect crucial tropical ecosystems through global, public and private partnerships.

With a medium-term goal of achieving a $125bn fund, the TFFF Launch Declaration has been endorsed by 53 countries and 19 sovereign wealth funds. Among them are 34 tropical forest countries, covering 90 percent of the tropical forests in developing nations.

It has been reported that Norway, Brazil, Indonesia, Portugal, France and the Netherlands have already made financial commitments. So far, $5.5bn has been announced — an encouraging, albeit modest, start to what will be a long journey.

Nevertheless, the TFFF shows that the Global South has the potential to build initiatives of its own, including on existential global challenges such as climate change.

Again, this is something the Global North must support. It arguably owes a “debt” to tropical countries for the huge carbon sinks they provide.

This must be achieved not through prescriptive policies, but through equitable, transparent climate reparations to ensure that the burden of conserving irreplaceable biodiversity does not come at the cost of education, jobs or dignity for the people of these countries.

ASEAN must do its part

The tropical countries — including those in ASEAN — cannot shirk their responsibilities, either.

It was disappointing that climate change did not feature more prominently during the recent 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, which was chaired by Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, despite the 2025 chairmanship's theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability."

To be fair, the Chair's Statement commendably noted that the regional bloc had "adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change" at COP30 and "welcomed the ASEAN Pavilion", as well as "looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (ACCSAP) to further advance climate action in the region".

The ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment was also adopted during the summit in Kuala Lumpur, following several years of diplomacy among member states.

We must also not forget that the ASEAN Summit saw the historic accession of Timor-Leste to our ranks and progress on the ASEAN Power Grid.

These are all commendable achievements, but they still fall short of the proactive posture the developing world often urges the developed world to take. We must do as much — if not more — than we expect of others.

Some may argue that ASEAN lacks the financial capacity to act alone. But 2025 summits have shown that it has the credibility and influence to connect disparate blocs — including China, the BRICS coalition of economies, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the European Union, Africa and Latin America.

How far does the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change go in recognising that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lists Southeast Asian countries among those that will be hardest hit by climate change?

Without action, words remain just words. This leaves ASEAN — which has a proud record of neutrality — vulnerable to accusations of pandering to Trump (who, as we know, was briefly present at the summit) even in the face of climate-related disasters affecting our people.

What ASEAN — and indeed the rest of the Global South — needs is bold, decisive multilateral action in partnership with like-minded regions.
The urgency that ASEAN demonstrates in defending its geopolitical agency and advancing economic integration must now manifest in stronger, more vocal climate leadership.

DAILY TRIBUNE

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activity, which runs alongside COP 30, highlights the critical role of exchanges in raising capital to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

COP30 is the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"PSE recognizes sustainable finance as a powerful tool for change. By directing capital into renewable energy, green infrastructure, and low-carbon technologies, we can help build an economy that not only withstands foreseeable disasters relating to climate, but also seizes the opportunities presented by the country's Nationally Determined Contributions in keeping with the Paris Agreement. With PST employees joined SEC Chairman Atty. Francis Ed. Lim, PSE President and CEO Ramon 5. Monzon, and PSE PSE's recent acquisition of the fixed income exchange this year, we Management Officers in the Ring the Bell for Climate program are now in a better position to promote sustainable finance and develop a more efficient market where equity and debt financing drive sustainable investments in the Philippine market. Thus, we invite more Philippine companies to take the leap and issue equities and bonds to fund your green initiatives," said PSE President and CEO Ramon S. Monzon in his welcome remarks during the bell ringing program.

In his keynote message, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Atty. Francis Ed. Lim said, "At the SEC, we are doing our part. With our partners in the Financial Sector Forum - the BSP, Insurance Commission, and PDIC - we launched the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines, defining what truly counts as green. We've issued frameworks for green and sustainability-linked bonds, and through the Philippine Green Equity Guidelines the first in ASEAN we've shown that sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand."

MANILA BULLETIN

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Organizers with booming sound systems on trucks with raised platforms directed protesters from a wide range of environmental and social movements. Marisol Garcia, a Kichwa woman from Peru marching at the head of one group, said protesters are there to put pressure on world leaders to make "more humanized decisions."

The demonstrators walked about 4 kilometers (about 2.5 miles) on a route that took them near the main venue for the talks, known as COP30. Protesters earlier this week twice disrupted the talks by surrounding the venue, including an incident Tuesday where two security guards suffered minor injuries.

A full day of sessions was planned at the venue, including talks on how to move forward with $300 billion a year in annual climate financial aid that rich countries agreed last year to give to poor nations to help wean themselves off fossil fuels, adapt to a nastier, warmer world and compensate for extreme weather damage.

Many of the protesters reveled in the freedom to demonstrate more openly than at recent climate talks held in more authoritarian countries, including Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Thousands of people joined in a procession that sprawled across most of the march's route.

Youth leader Ana Heloisa Alves, 27, said it was the biggest climate march she has been part of. "This is incredible," she said. "You can't ignore all these people."

Alves was at the march to fight for the Tapajos River, which the Brazilian government wants to develop commercially. "The river is for the people," her group's signs read.

Pablo Neri, coordinator in the Brazilian state of Para for the Movimento dos Trabajadores Rurais Sem Terra, an organization for rural workers, said organizers of the talks should involve more people to reflect a climate movement that is shifting toward popular participation.

The United States, where President Donald Trump has ridiculed climate change as a scam and withdrawn from the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement that sought to limit Earth's warming, is skipping the talks.

Demonstrator Flavio Pinto, of Para state, took aim at the U.S. Wearing a brown suit and an oversized American flag top hat, he shifted his weight back and forth on stilts and fanned himself with fake hundred-dollar bills with Trump's face on them. "Imperialism produces wars and environmental crises," his sign read.

Vitoria Balbina, a regional coordinator for the Interstate Movement of Coconut Breakers of Babaçu, marched with a group of mostly women wearing domed hats made with fronds of the Babaçu palm. They were calling for more access to the trees on private property that provide not only their livelihoods but also a deep cultural significance. She said marching is not only about fighting and resistance on a climate and environment front, but also about "a way of life."

The marchers formed a sea of red, white and green flags as they progressed up a hill. A crowd of onlookers gathered outside a corner supermarket to watch them approach, leaning over a railing and taking cellphone photos. "Beautiful," said a man passing by, carrying grocery bags.
The climate talks are scheduled to run through Friday. Analysts and some participants have said they don't expect any major new agreements to emerge from the talks, but are hoping for progress on some past promises, including money to help poor countries adapt to climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Dan Steinbock

In climate risk rankings, the Philippines is ground zero. Yet, given the choice to redefine the notion of security in 2022, it chose to sideline it.

The World Risk Index 2025 indicates the disaster risk for 193 countries, or over 99 percent of the global population. The Philippines is once again at the top of the Index; way ahead of other disaster-prone countries, including India, Indonesia, Colombia, Mexico and Myanmar.
Thanks to its great geographic fragmentation and extraordinarily high exposure to weather-related extremes, the Philippine risk profile is characterized by a variety of natural hazards, with river and coastal flooding playing a particularly central role.

Even before the recent typhoons, the findings showed that the country's exposure is particularly high in regions with flat topography, high population density and inadequate drainage infrastructure.

Floods are among the most severe hazards of our time — with devastating consequences for people, infrastructure and ecosystems. Climate change is exacerbating this threat. And when extreme weather events are on the rise, vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt. In the Philippines, where half of the population defines itself as poor, the implications are severe.

Furthermore, uncontrolled urbanization, industrial agriculture as a driver of soil degradation, and inadequate preventive measures further increase the vulnerability of many regions — not to mention pervasive corruption.

The Philippines is a textbook case of what happens when disaster risk is amplified.

Increasing GDP losses are coming

Climate change poses major risks for development in the Philippines, with temperature increases, changing rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels that hamper economic activities, damage infrastructure, and induce deep social disruptions. Just one example: According to the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria), sea level in Metro Manila has risen by an average of 8.4 millimeters a year from 1901 until 2022, almost three times the global average of 3.4 mm/year in the same period.

Projections made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggest that temperatures in the Philippines will continue to increase by about 1-2 C by the end of the 21st century, depending on the climate scenario. (I believe that these estimates may actually prove conservative because the IPCC modeling downplays feedback effects. The climate impact is likely to hit harder, earlier and broader than expected.)
According to the World Bank's 2022 Philippines report, annual losses from typhoons are estimated to reach 1.2 percent of the GDP and as much as 4.6 percent of GDP in extreme cases like Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013. After all, variability and intensity of rainfall are likely to increase. And extreme events will become stronger and more frequent.

The economic damage in the Philippines could reach up to 7.6 percent of GDP by 2030 and 13.6 percent of GDP by 2040. While climate change effects will vary across and within regions, all sectors will be affected.

The truth

And yet, even today, the scarce economic resources in the Philippines are too often misallocated (rearmament drive instead of interstate diplomacy), mismanaged (neoliberalism instead of human security) and misplaced (corruption instead of people's welfare).

As the World Bank warned in 2022, "policy inaction would impose substantial economic and human costs, especially for the poor."

Could the government have opted for an alternative policy approach that would have tackled the devastating climate losses? Yes. But that approach was deliberately killed — ironically, in the name of national security.

The promise of human security

From the standpoint of disaster risk and extreme climate, one of the most inspiring appointments after the election of 2022 was that of Clarita Carlos to serve as President Marcos Jr.'s national security adviser. She was the first female and the first civilian to lead the institution.

Upon assuming office, Carlos, a highly regarded political scientist, planned to undertake a "human security" approach that focuses more on the daily lives of the Filipinos. It was the right idea at the right time and in the right place.

Historically, this broader view of human security builds on the 1994 Human Development Report by the UN Development Program, which equated it "with people rather than territories and with development rather than arms."

Accordingly, threats to human security may be classified into economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. This approach would encourage the government to focus its strengths on its greatest enemy: the risk of climate disaster.

But what about the South China Sea tensions? During Carlos' reign, the Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to international law and the rule of law in interstate relations. In territorial maritime disputes, Manila would defend its views by being at the forefront of diplomatic efforts aiming at Asean-China Code of Conduct for the South China Sea.

The objective was to ensure peace and stability in the region while focusing on economic development that had made Asia the global growth engine. That, in turn, is vital to garner the resources to fight the climate disaster risks in the coming decades.

Yet, that's when the government made its u-turn.

Ignoring the climate focus

In mid-January 2023, Carlos resigned after the president relayed to her "some information" that she could not disclose in public "because it is a delicate national security issue."

As she acknowledged two weeks later, she had been opposed by the military since day one. In contrast to Carlos, the military saw as the prime security issue "the perceived external threat beyond our shores."
Barely a day after Carlos' interview, President Marcos granted the US wider access to military bases. Soon thereafter, the Duterte-Marcos alliance fell apart, mudslinging superseded politics as usual, former president Duterte was deported to The Hague, Asean unity was undermined, geopolitical tensions soared and Filipinos' livelihoods were ignored.

The longer it will take to embrace a human security approach, the heavier will be the penalties of disaster risks and extreme weather as the Philippines continues its descent into the ground zero of extreme climate.

But that course is not inevitable. It, too, could be reversed. After all, climate risk is not just a political matter. In the Philippines, it is an existential issue.

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

From waste to worth: Circular economy for climate resilience
By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

Every day, mountains of waste move from our homes to our rivers and into our seas. What begins as convenience — plastic packaging, sachets and food wrappers — ends up choking waterways, flooding cities and contaminating the ecosystems that feed and protect us. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines generates around 61,000 metric tons of solid waste daily, much of it plastic.

The problem is visible along our coasts. In Manila Bay, a Marine Litter Monitoring Study conducted across 10 coastal sites recorded about 12 million pieces of litter, roughly 90 percent plastic, mostly single-use sachets, food wrappers, and flexible packaging materials. These are not abstract numbers — they are daily reminders of how a culture of disposability threatens the foundations of sustainability.

The economic cost is equally alarming. The World Bank (2021) estimates that the lost value of recyclable plastics in the Philippines ranges between P45.8 billion and P52.5 billion annually — resources that could have financed livelihood projects, strengthened local waste recovery systems, or supported climate adaptation efforts in vulnerable communities.

A 2023 study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) further shows that about 85 percent of recyclable plastics never enter formal recovery systems. In short, what we discard as waste could have been reinvested in resilience.

Plastic pollution is not just an environmental or hygiene issue — it is both an economic and a climate challenge. Mismanaged waste clogs drainage systems, worsens flooding, contaminates soil and fisheries, and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions when dumped or burned. It also disrupts the carbon-absorbing capacity of our oceans and coastal ecosystems, which serve as vital buffers against climate change.

Uncollected and improperly disposed plastic waste heightens climate risks in the very communities already most exposed to typhoons, droughts and rising sea levels. What we waste today becomes part of the crisis we must manage tomorrow.

The way forward lies in a circular economy — a system that keeps materials in use for as long as possible, designing out waste and pollution while regenerating natural systems. In this model, products are built to last longer, to be reused, repaired, or recycled. Materials are recovered rather than discarded, making our economic system regenerative instead of extractive.

This shift is not only about protecting the environment — it is also about protecting livelihoods and enhancing our collective climate resilience.

According to the Circularity Gap Report 2023, circular strategies can reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by up to 39 percent. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report similarly underscores that industrial efficiency, resource recovery, and circular material flows are essential to both mitigation and adaptation

The Philippines already has a strong policy foundation for this transformation. The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001 (Republic Act 9003) mandates segregation, recycling and responsible disposal. The Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 (Republic Act 11898) requires large companies to take responsibility for the life cycle of their plastic packaging, turning accountability into an opportunity for innovation and greener production.

These laws are reinforced by our Philippine Development Plan (2023–2028), which positions the circular economy as a national development strategy, and by our National Adaptation Plan (2023–2050) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) — which recognize that reducing waste and transforming production systems are vital to achieving the country's 75 percent greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030.

But even the best policies require shared commitment. Building a circular economy is a whole-of-nation effort — no single sector, company or community can do it alone. Partnerships among government agencies, local governments, the private sector, civil society, and the informal waste sector must translate laws into local action.

Recognizing waste pickers or basureros as environmental frontliners is critical. They are at the heart of material recovery, yet often excluded from formal systems. Strengthening their cooperatives, providing incentives, and integrating them into municipal waste management can help close the loop between policy and practice. Private sector collaboration — through improved packaging design, expanded recovery networks and product innovation — can also drive scalable change.

One urgent area for innovation is the sachet economy. The World Bank (2021) estimates that Filipinos use about 163 million sachets every day, or around 59 billion annually. Sachets made consumer goods affordable but also created an enormous waste problem. Practical community-based solutions — refill stations at the barangay level, discounts for reusable containers, and incentives for returning packaging through sari-sari stores — can reduce plastic waste without burdening consumers who rely on low-cost options.

Digital tools can further enhance efficiency by tracking waste flows, linking collectors to buyers of recyclables, and monitoring compliance with extended producer responsibility. Such innovations not only reduce emissions and improve collection but also empower local communities to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

Circularity must now become a core climate strategy. It strengthens adaptive capacity by reducing disaster risks like flooding, enhances livelihoods through green jobs, and cuts emissions across the production and consumption chain. It makes climate action tangible — where every bottle reused, every product redesigned, and every community engaged contributes to a stronger, more resilient Philippines.

What we throw away defines who we are as a nation. When waste becomes resource, we turn vulnerability into value and crisis into opportunity. Circularity is not about perfection — it is about direction. It is about reimagining progress: from consumption to conservation, from waste to worth.

The choices we make today — what we produce, what we consume, and what we recover — will determine the legacy we leave behind. A circular Philippines is not only cleaner and more prosperous; it is also more resilient to the climate challenges we face. That is the future we must build — by choice, by design, and by shared responsibility.

THE MANILA TIMES

France, EU back Philippines' push for climate and disaster resilience

The Philippines' drive to strengthen its climate and disaster resilience frameworks received a major boost from international partners as foreign agencies underscored the importance of global cooperation in tackling climate risks.

On Oct. 29, the government convened the "Resilience Agenda: National Policy Dialogue on Climate and Disaster Resilience" in Pasay City, bringing together national and local leaders, development partners, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and technical experts.

The event was organized by the Department of Finance and the Department of the Interior and Local Government under the Disaster Risk Reduction Enhancement at the Local Level – Technical Assistance Project (DRREALL-TA). It was supported by Expertise France and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with funding from the European Union, signaling strong international commitment to the Philippines' climate agenda.

"Climate change is a top important issue. The EU is committed to assisting partner countries to mitigate emissions and adapt to the negative effects of climate change. This is also an important element in EU-Philippines cooperation," EU Ambassador Massimo Santoro said.

French Ambassador Marie Fontanel highlighted the shared responsibility in building resilience.

"For France and for the European Union, we collectively invest in partnerships based on shared principles, accountability, and learning. Our programs integrate gender balance, data-driven planning, and inclusive solutions — all key to sustainable resilience," she said.

DILG Undersecretary Marlo Iringan urged participants to turn dialogue into action.

"Dialogues are acts of cooperation, of commitment, and of hope. But we must also remember that dialogue must always lead to collective action," he said.

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