COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2020-003

URGING THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION - DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CCAM-DRR) CABINET CLUSTER, THROUGH ITS MEMBER AGENCIES, TO ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY, ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES, AND PROHIBIT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES

WHEREAS, Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Section 2 paragraph (c) of Republic Act No. 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 declares it the policy of the State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall set guidelines and targets for solid waste avoidance and volume reduction through source reduction and waste minimization measures, including composting, recycling, reuse, recovery, green charcoal process, and others, before collection, treatment and disposal in appropriate and environmentally sound solid waste management facilities in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to systematically integrate the concept of climate change and environmental protection in various phases of policy formulation, development planning, and adoption of other development tools and techniques by agencies and instrumentalities of the government;

WHEREAS, single-use plastics symbolize the throwaway culture in modern society that has been proven harmful to the environment and human health for causing pollution of water bodies and harm to marine organisms, blockages in our drainage and waterways, and release of toxic gases when burned;

WHEREAS, the UN Environment report "Single-Use Plastic: A Roadmap for Sustainability"[1] reveals that plastic packaging accounts for about half of the plastic waste in the world, most of which is generated in Asia, further stating that "only nine per cent of the nine billion tonnes of plastic the world has ever produced has been recycled" and "if current consumption patterns and waste management practices continue, then by 2050 there will be around 12 billion tonnes of plastic litter in landfills and the environment";

WHEREAS, the International Energy Agency (IEA) considers plastics as a key driver for petrochemicals, which are defined as components derived from oil and gas that are used in daily products, further stating that petrochemicals are set to account for more than a third of the growth in world oil demand to 2030, and nearly half the growth to 2050, adding nearly 7 million barrels of oil a day by then, and are also poised to consume an additional 56 billion cubic meters of natural gas by 2030, and 83 billion cubic meters by 2050[2];

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[1] United Nations Environment Programme (2018). Single-Use Plastics: A Roadmap for Sustainability. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

[2] "Petrochemicals set to be the largest driver of world oil demand, latest IEA analysis finds," accessed on October 11, 2018. https://www.iea.org/newsroom/news/2018/october/petrochemicals-set-to-be-the-largest-driver-of-world-oil-demand-latest-iea-analy.html

WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has highlighted the need for governments to ensure that waste management systems are well supported to deal with current and future plastic waste, especially with the significant increase in plastic pollution from home deliveries and medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic[3];

WHEREAS, studies on tracking circular economy promotions in Guiyang, China[4] and Austria[5] have revealed a strong nexus between circular economy and energy use, and concluded that circular economy can subsequently contribute to climate change mitigation and fast-track the transition to a low-carbon economy;

WHEREAS, the Philippines was named in 2015 by the Ocean Conservancy as one of the top sources of plastic trash dumped into the seas, with an estimated 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste and half a million metric tons of plastic-waste leakage per year;

WHEREAS, according to the hospital waste and brand audit conducted in selected hospitals in the Philippines and Indonesia by Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Asia, the percentage of plastics in a hospital waste stream is between 49% to a staggering 72%[6];

WHEREAS, on 30 May 2017, the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) approved Resolution No. 25 recognizing the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Roadmap and adopting the technical specifications for the ten (10) common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) and ten (10) non-common-use supplies and equipment (non-CSE) towards mainstreaming green public procurement in government procurement;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President has expressed the necessity of rules and regulations to ban the use of single-use plastics in the country[7];

WHEREAS, on 9 January 2019 the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), issued Resolution no. 2 s. 2019 , reaffirming the commitment of the cluster members to take a proactive role in adopting and implementing concrete actions towards greening systems and processes which can contribute to reducing the country's carbon footprint;

WHEREAS, on 12 February 2020, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) approved Resolution No. 1363 directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to "prepare and implement the banning of the use of unnecessary single-use plastics by national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) and all other government-controlled offices";

WHEREAS, based on NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, the following materials are considered as unnecessary single-use plastics:

1. Plastic cups (lower than 0.2 mm in thickness);
2. Plastic drinking straws;

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[3] Duer, J. (2020). The plastic pandemic is only getting worse during COVID-19. Accessed 5 August 2020 at weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/plastic-waste-management-covid19-ppe/

[4] Fang , *et al.* (2017). Carbon footprints of urban transition: Tracking circular economy promotions in Guiyang, China. Retrieved from: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2017.09.024

[5] Jacobi et al. (2018). Providing an economy-wide monitoring framework for the circular economy in Austria: status quo and challenges. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2018.05.022

[6] Philippine Launch of the Plastics in Healthcare Report, Retrieved from: https://noharm-asia.org/articles/news/asia/press-release-philippine-launch-plastics-healthcare-report 2018.11.22

[7] Press Briefing with Secretary Salvador Panelo on November 7, 2019. Accessed 16 January 2020. *https://pcoo.gov.ph/press-briefing/press-briefing-of-presidential-spokesperson-and-chief-presidential-legal- counsel-secretary-salvador-panelo-124/*

3. Plastic coffee stirrers;
4. Plastic spoons;
5. Plastic forks;
6. Plastic knives; and
7. Plastic labo and thin-filmed sando bags (lower than 15 microns)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCC shall incorporate circular economy in its capacity building initiatives, including in knowledge management and development activities that will increase awareness on the concept of circular economy in national agencies, local government units (LGUs), the private sector, and the general public;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCC, in coordination with the Environmental Education and Information Division (EEID) under the DENR - Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), shall develop and publish easy-to-read manuals introducing the concept of circular economy;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCC shall coordinate with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as well as other regulatory agencies with mandate over the private sector, to explore the incorporation of the concept of circular economy in guidelines for sustainable corporate practices and sustainability reporting;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCC shall urge the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation-Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) Cabinet Cluster, through its member agencies, to adopt the provisions of NSWMC Resolution No. 1363 for implementation as a unified policy for all government agencies and consider the inclusion of circular economy in the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster Roadmap;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCC shall monitor and track the progress of incorporation of circular economy in the plans, policies, and programs of the cluster members of the CCAM-DRR; and

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be distributed to all the concerned offices for information and appropriate action.

Signed this __ day of __ 2020, Manila, Philippines.

CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ
Secretary of Finance
Chairperson's Official Representative

EMMANUEL M. DE GUZMAN
Vice Chairperson - Executive Director
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NOEL ANTONIO V. GAERLAN
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