



Commission on Human Rights
SAAC Bldg., UP Complex
Commonwealth Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

19 March 2018

In re: National Inquiry on the Impact of Climate Change on the Human Rights of the Filipino People (CHR-NI-2016-0001)

To the Honorable Members of the Commission:

The undersigned organizations and individuals are honored to share with the Commission on Human Rights the attached *Joint Summary of the Amicus Curiae Briefs* submitted in support of Petitioners, Greenpeace Southeast Asia et al.

Through this submission, the undersigned *amici* hope to facilitate the Commission's review of the evidence and analysis presented by the *amici* in their respective briefs and to aid the Commission's path-breaking inquiry into the responsibility of the Carbon Majors companies for human rights violations or threats of violations resulting from the impacts of climate change.

To this end, the *Joint Summary* consolidates and summarizes the key messages and arguments contained in the *amicus curiae* briefs originally submitted by the legal scholars, experts, and human rights practitioners listed hereunder while also providing critical updates relevant to the Commission's investigation. This *Joint Summary* is a supplemental resource, and is not intended to replace or supersede the underlying *amicus curiae* briefs upon which it draws. The more detailed scientific evidence and legal analysis in those briefs remains the best reflection of the views and recommendations of each *amicus*. To aid the Commission in identifying the underlying sources of the analysis herein, the brief has been organized into five sections, and the organizations contributing to each such section are identified therein. Throughout, the summary draws on a range of sources and authorities, including the best available science; emerging evidence of corporate conduct and knowledge; the international law of human rights; Philippine law; and established principles and norms of common law and international law. Each of the *amici* organizations brings distinct expertise and distinct perspectives to this effort. Accordingly, no assertion of fact or argument of law should be imputed to any organization or individual not expressly named in the associated section or subsection.

The *amici* are united in their common concern at the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, the impacts of which are now felt on a daily basis throughout the Philippines and around the world. As an extensive body of peer-reviewed science demonstrates, climate change is causing severe environmental, economic, and social impacts at current levels of planetary warming, and these impacts only will intensify with any additional warming.

As the impacts of Typhoon Haiyan prove all too clearly, climate change is already resulting in adverse impacts to human lives and impairments of human rights across the Philippines. Through rising sea levels, changing hydrology regimes and weather patterns, promotion of disease vectors, and exacerbation of extreme weather events, climate change has caused and will continue to cause deaths, injuries, property destruction, and human displacement, while also causing other gradual forms of environmental degradation that undermine and will continue to undermine access to clean water, food, and other key resources. All of these impacts impair fundamental rights including the rights to life, health, clean water and sanitation, food, adequate housing, self-determination and development, and equality and non-discrimination. These effects will fall disproportionately on populations who are disadvantaged due to poverty, gender, age, disability, cultural, or ethnic background, and children and future generations who will experience increasingly severe impacts over time.

Given these immense human rights impacts, it is equally important that people have access to justice. Too often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society not only suffer the most, but also have little recourse. As such and as recognized in multiple international fora, it is critically important they have access to justice, including redress and remedy for environmental harm and for violations of their human rights.

This groundbreaking proceeding before the Commission presents one such critically important avenue. Though the present inquiry is not judicial in nature, the Commission's findings and recommendations can play a vital role in bringing the truth to light, laying the foundations for accountability, and respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights in the Philippines and beyond.

We are deeply honored to contribute our support and our input to the Commission in this important endeavor.

Respectfully,



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