

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 171, February 20, 2007]

CREATING THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations has released its fourth assessment report on climate change, prepared by 2,500 experts from 150 countries;

WHEREAS, the report indicated that global temperature will continue to rise towards the year 2100, and in the short-term, will rise by about 1.4-5.8 degrees centigrade, leading to an increase in the sea level from 18 to 59 centimeters by 2100;

WHEREAS, the IPCC findings indicated, that with ninety-percent (90%) certainty, the rise in temperatures had been "very likely" caused by human activity and due to increases in the release in the atmosphere of greenhouse gasses: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydroflouorocarbons, perflouorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride;

WHEREAS, climate change poses serious threats to the lives and welfare of the people, especially the poor households, and sustainable development of the country due to the attendant rise in sea levels, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and drought, and the resulting flooding, disruptions in food production, water resources availability and quality, increase in natural hazards and landslides, threats to human health, and damages to the ecosystems;

WHEREAS, the Philippines signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on June 12, 1992 and ratified it on August 2, 1994, and signed the Kyoto Protocol on April 15, 1998 and ratified it on November 22, 2003;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, being an archipelagic country and located in the typhoon belt, is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects resulting from climate changes and has been experiencing unusual number of high-intensity typhoons that have wrought devastations and anguished to out people;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to confront the issue of climate change and decisively address its adverse effects on the people and on the production sectors pursuant to the constitutional mandate for the state to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order: