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No. 001321

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ((Attn: Office of the Director, Office for Sustainable Development) and has the honor to transmit a copy of the letter of reply from the Department of Environment of Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines submitting inputs on UNDESA GA Resolution 65/149 questionnaire on "Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

1 July 2013, New York





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JUN 14 2013

HON. EDUARDO MARTIN R. MEÑEZ
Assistant Secretary
Office of the United Nations and
Other International Organizations
Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear Asst. Sec. Meñez:

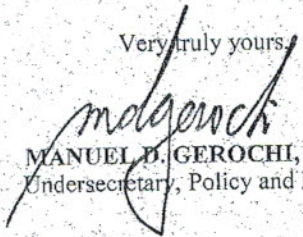
This refers to your letter dated 05 April 2013, requesting for comments/views on the questionnaire referring to UN General Assembly resolution 65/149 on "Cooperating measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea."

DENR finds no objection to support the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) regarding the UN General Assembly Resolution. The evaluation of threats may be done initially by identifying the presence of potential disposal sites and locations of WOCMDS through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) whose primary tasks are to enforce laws within the Philippine waters, conducting maritime security operations and protecting the marine environment and resources, among others. Effects to the environment and health risks from chemical weapons' agents may be caused by potential transport/dischARGE to surface or groundwater, release to air and leaching to soil and bioaccumulation in the food chain. In this connection, DENR has to strengthen regulations of all sources of waste-generating activities, coordination and networking with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations/civil society groups.

Furthermore, related reports on inventory of locations and related activities from the Department of National Defense's "Balikatan Exercises" and maritime security operations of the PCG may be necessary for this Office to come up with strategic plans related to monitoring and sampling of water quality at strategic impact areas.

Thank you and we look forward to further coordination with your office on this matter.

Very truly yours,


MANUEL D. GEROCHI, CESO I
Undersecretary, Policy and Planning