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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations, and with reference to the latter's Note LOS/SGR/2020/1/ST dated 14 December 2021, has the honor to convey the enclosed inputs of the Philippines on "Ocean Observing", the theme of the twenty-second meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to be held on 6 to 10 June 2022.

The Mission further has the honor to inform the Secretariat that the Philippines proposes the inclusion of the following subtopic "expanding the existing global network of marine meteorological observation platforms in order to improve the analysis and prediction of marine weather and climate in line with ensuring the safety of lives and properties 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 United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 12 January 2022



THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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The Philippines proposes the inclusion of "expanding the existing global network of marine meteorological observation platforms in order to improve the analysis and prediction of marine weather and climate in line with ensuring the safety of lives and properties at sea" as a potential sub-topic for the twenty-second United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process (ICP22), which will be held from 06 to 10 June 2022.

While there have been significant strides in increasing the density of sea-based observations of marine meteorological variables through the Volunteer Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme and the deployment of moored and drifting buoys, much of these observations are situated over the offshore waters and high seas (within the exclusive economic zone, but usually outside the territorial sea and archipelagic waters).

Thus, the proposed sub-topic would cover, among others, discussions on the expansion of marine meteorological observations over inshore and coastal waters through additional buoy deployment, inclusion of more vessels plying domestic sea routes, and the use of earth-based and space-based remote sensing applications, such as high-resolution altimetry, high-resolution ocean sea surface winds, and high-frequency Doppler ocean radars.

The Philippines' inputs are based on the submission by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the country's operational meteorological agency.