A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 35-GA-09, CD1

"Expressing the continuing concern of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the welfare of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continuing to endorse and support the Marshallese people in their efforts to obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering, and damages that the nuclear testing program of the United States Government has caused and which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese people."

1. WHEREAS, each year on March 1, Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day, the Marshallese people pause to remember the victims of the United States nuclear-weapons testing program; and

2. WHEREAS, from 1946 to 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands. If their combined explosive power was parcelled evenly over that 12-year period, it would equal 1.6 Hiroshima-size explosions per day; and

3. WHEREAS, for more than half a century, the United States Government has undertaken programs to compensate the Marshallese victims who have been deprived of their health and their ancestral homes on account of America’s program of nuclear testing in their islands, but, unfortunately, the inadequacy of appropriated sources of funding and the lack of a full disclosure of the true extent of the nuclear fallout has led the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to declare that the compensation provided by Washington does not provide a fair and just settlement for the damage caused by the devastating detonation of the 67 bombs at Bikini and Enewetak Atolls; and

4. WHEREAS, in its 53rd Board of Directors meeting, which was convened on the Island of Pohnpei in the month of December of 2012, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
adopted APIL Resolution 53-BOD-18 in which the Board endorsed "... the genuine appeal of
the U.N. Special Rapporteur in his September 2012 report to the U.N. Human Rights Council
for international solidarity by embracing, in principal, the contents of the report which assesses
the impacts on human rights of the nuclear testing program conducted in the Marshall Islands
by the United States Government from 1946 to 1958..."; and made recommendations for
affirmative action; and

WHEREAS, in its 33rd General Assembly, which was convened on the Island of Majuro
in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the month of July of 2014, the Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures adopted APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-16 in which the Association joined
"the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Pacific Island Forum and many other
international organizations and concerned citizens of the world in recognizing the special
circumstances pertaining to the continued presence of radioactive contaminants in the Republic
of the Marshall Islands and reaffirming the existence of a special responsibility by the United
States of America towards the people of the Marshall Islands, who have been, and continue to
be, adversely affected as a direct result of nuclear weapons tests conducted by the United States
during its administration of the Marshall Islands under the United Nations Trusteeship
mandate;" and

WHEREAS, in its 34th General Assembly, which was convened on the Island of
Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia in the month of July of 2015, the Association of
Pacific Island Legislatures adopted APIL Resolution No. 34-GA-10, entitled "Expressing the
continuing concern of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the welfare of the
people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continuing to endorse the principles and
purpose of APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-16, in which the APIL has issued its support for the
Marshallese people in their efforts to obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering and
damages that the nuclear testing program of the United States Government has caused and
which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese people;” and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of 33-GA-16 by the 33rd General Assembly of the APIL
and the subsequent resolutions adopted by APIL, little progress has been made in the earnest
quest of the Marshallese to obtain full restitution from the United States Government for the
death, damage, and destruction which has been caused and continues to be inflicted upon them
by America’s incautious program of nuclear bomb testing in their islands; and

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2015, the Washington Post published a poignant article
on the plight of the Marshallese people, entitled “A ground zero forgotten, The Marshall
Islands, once a U.S. nuclear test site, face oblivion again.” The article relives the nuclear
testing that occurred in the Marshall Islands, remembers the nuclear victims, and recognizes the
United States Government’s failure to redress the nuclear testing consequences; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States and the people of the world must be
educated and sensitized to the victimization of the Marshallese people and call on the United
States Government to take full responsibility for its actions and pay full restitution to the
Marshallese people; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year’s general assembly meeting is “Strengthening our
Past and Uniting Our Blue Continent.” The Marshallese people’s past cannot be strengthened
until such time that they are fully compensated for the loss and suffering they experienced as a result of the nuclear testing; however, we can further unite our Blue Continent by continuing to support our Marshallese brothers and sisters in their struggle for full restitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35th General Assembly, June 1-3, 2016, Hagåtña, Guam, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses its continuing concern for the welfare of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continues to endorse and support the Marshallese people in their efforts to obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering, and damages that the nuclear testing program of the United States Government has caused and which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall thereafter be transmitted to the Honorable Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, to the Members of the White House Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; to the Honorable Mike Crapo, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Tom Udall, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Michael Bennet, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Martin Heinrich, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable James E. Risch, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ray M. Grijalva, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the
Honorable Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the
Honorable Dina Titus, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable
Stevan Pearce, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Secretary General
of the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative
Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT

FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY