A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 35-GA-23, CD1

“Committing the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to the task of calling greater and greater attention of the developed world to the plight of small island states suffering from global warming and taking upon ourselves a more pro-active positive role in helping to bring the offered assistance of the industrialized nations to the beleaguered islands of the Blue Continent.”

WHEREAS, the islands that constitute the twelve member jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, gathered together in Guam for the 35th General Assembly of the APIL, are deeply aware of the issues of climate change and the adverse consequences of global warming on our Blue Continent; and

WHEREAS, commencing with the adoption of Resolution 26-GA-04 almost a decade ago, the General Assemblies of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures have been repeatedly calling on all APIL members entities to cooperate by collecting and sharing information and observations on ways to prevent and mitigate the effects of global warming on our atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, as the members of the APIL gathered in the atoll nation of the Republic of Kiribati for the 29th General Assembly of this organization, evidence of sea level rise was brought home to all of the APIL delegates as we personally witnessed villages of the Kiribati atoll of Tarawa being inundated by the rising tides of warming seas; and

WHEREAS, during that 29th General Assembly, this organization firmly resolved to establish a task force to facilitate a dialogue amongst the APIL member jurisdictions to assist in climate change mitigation, adaptation, education, and implementation; and

WHEREAS, at our 33rd General Assembly, held in the atoll nation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2014, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures again witnessed the adverse affects of global warming on the capital island of that nation leading the APIL to express our
organization's support and commitment to the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, which to that date is the strongest and most powerfully issued statement on climate change issued by the Pacific Island countries; and

WHEREAS, just last year during the 34th General Assembly Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, which was convened on the Island of Pohnpei, this Assembly reaffirmed our resolves on climate change that foster cooperation among Pacific Island countries by calling on APIL member states and entities to continue to press for the reduction of greenhouse gases globally; and

WHEREAS, since the last General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures held on Pohnpei last July, one hundred and ninety-six nations of the world met in their 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and

WHEREAS, the presence of the delegations from the world’s small island states at the Paris Conference was the most vocal and most influential ever to be seen at these yearly conferences; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 conference on climate change led to the successful negotiation of the “Paris Agreement,” which will become legally binding if joined by at least fifty-five countries which together represent at least fifty-five percent (55%) of global greenhouse emissions; and

WHEREAS, during this year’s annual celebration of Earth Day which occurred on the 26th of April, one hundred and seventy-four countries signed the Paris Agreement in New York and are now beginning to implement the terms of the Agreement through their own national legal systems; and

WHEREAS, while the Paris Conference did not adopt the most stringent standards in limiting temperature increase that were being requested by the island states, the gathered nations to the Paris Agreement did indicate that they would “pursue efforts” to limit the temperature increase to the island nations’ target of 1.5 °C”; and

WHEREAS, along with the adoption of climatic standards, many of the industrialized nations are now pledging to assist the most vulnerable peoples of the world to address, adapt to, and mitigate the damages of global warming; and
WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that this organization should adopt for itself a more visible level of involvement in calling the attention of the developed world to the plight of small island states and by adopting a more pro-active and a more positive role in bringing the offered assistance of the industrialized nations to the beleaguered islands of the Blue Continent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35th General Assembly, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, that this Assembly hereby commits itself to the task of calling greater and greater attention of the developed world to the plight of small island states and to taking upon ourselves a more pro-active and more positive role in helping to bring the offered assistance of the industrialized nations to the beleaguered islands of the Blue Continent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attention of the APIL with respect to climate change not be limited to just the atoll nations of our organization, but should be expanded to each and every one of our island jurisdictions for we all will need to meet the challenges of this globally destructive condition; 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 be transmitted 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