Resolution No. 53-BOD-18

“Endorsing 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 makes recommendations for affirmative action.”

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Council has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Human Right’s Council Resolution 18/11, a Special Rapporteur visited the Marshall Islands and the United States to assess 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

WHEREAS, the Special Rapporteur presented his report to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its Twenty-first Regular Session in September of 2012; and

WHEREAS, in the nineteen page report, specific recommendations were made for affirmative actions to be taken both by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and by the Government of the United States of America; and
WHEREAS, the Special Rapporteur concludes his report with an appeal to the international community to stand in solidarity with the Marshallese people as they face the challenge of overcoming the legacy of nuclear testing; and

WHEREAS, as the members of the APIL who are joined in a cooperative relationship in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures with the legislative assembly of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, we are well aware of the many challenges facing the Marshallese people with respect to the nuclear testing that was conducted on their islands and of the many efforts made by the Marshallese people over the decades since 1958 to seek redress and relief for the suffering that they have had to endure because of the devastating effects of the nuclear testing program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 53rd Board of Directors meeting, December 5-6, 2012, State of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Board of Directors of the APIL hereby endorses 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 makes recommendations for affirmative action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of APIL, in deep respect for, and for the enduring benefit of the Marshallese people, further calls upon other organizations within the Pacific to endorse the September 2012 report of the Special Rapporteur as well; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the APIL shall certify, and the Secretary of the APIL shall attest, to the adoption of this resolution, and that copies thereupon be transmitted to the President of the U.N. Council on Human Rights, to the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to the President of the United States of America, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED. D. PRESIDENT

CHANG B. WILLIAM SECRETARY