Resolution No. 58-BOD-03

“Endorsing and supporting the Digital Society Foundation’s submission to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat’s 2017 Regional Policy Consultations Program entitled “Connect the Blue Continent-Harnessing digital technologies for a sustainable and prosperous Pacific.”

WHEREAS, Pacific Island jurisdictions are at risk of following behind in the digital age in social economic development; and

WHEREAS, the nature of our small populations over vast distances creates unique challenges for our ability to harness digital technologies effectively; and

WHEREAS, operating in the modern social and economic system requires the extensive use of digital technologies; and

WHEREAS, with the internet broadband services to commence in the Republic of Palau this month and broadband services soon to be introduced in the FSM states of Yap and Kosrae, digital infrastructure such as submarine fiber optic cables and national networks is continuing to spread throughout the region, but digital literacy in the Pacific is lagging behind all other regions; and

WHEREAS, education, health care, and other systems throughout the Pacific, among others, are not yet effectively harnessing the value of digital technology; and

WHEREAS, APIL member jurisdictions have been strengthening their understanding of these complex challenges facing the region through the joint initiative “Connect the Blue Continent”; and

WHEREAS, APIL recognizes the value of the Digital Society Foundation’s submission for all our member jurisdictions and endorses the call for (1) national master planning for universal connectivity and affordability throughout the Pacific; (2) a vibrant digital technologies industry across the Pacific; and (3) the establishment of a Pacific Digital Adaptation Fund to enable Pacific Island jurisdictions to take an empowered and
self-determined pathway to digital age sustainability and prosperity throughout our
region; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures, 58th Board Meeting, December 6–7, 2017, Republic of Palau, that the
Board of Directors on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby
endorses and supports the Digital Society Foundation’s submission to the Pacific Islands
Forum Secretariat’s 2017 Regional Policy Consultations Program entitled “Connect the
Blue Continent-Harnessing digital technologies for a sustainable and prosperous Pacific”;
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
thereafter transmitted to the Founder of the Digital Society Foundation; and to the Chief
Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of the member jurisdictions of the
Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.**

[Signatures]

ROBERT I. Taulung
PRESIDENT

NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY