A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 29-GA-05

"Relative to supporting the United Nations resolution, ‘Climate change and its possible security implications’, and establishing a regional APIL task-force to address the effects of climate change."

WHEREAS, global warming is considered a serious international issue, requiring ongoing discussion within the United Nations, the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), and the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change by 188 countries; and

WHEREAS, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum’s Human Impact Report, emissions of greenhouse gasses as a result of human activity are primarily responsible for global warming; and

WHEREAS, the same report states that climate change will impact humans in terms of food security, health, poverty, water, displacement, and security; and

WHEREAS, the report also states that climate change poses an international security threat, as it has the potential to exacerbate existing conflicts and create new tensions as a result of competition for resources such as food, water, and land, eventually leading to large-scale human displacement; and

WHEREAS, the report further states that neither the UNFCCC, the primary body within the United Nations for addressing climate change, or the Kyoto Protocol, a binding international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, include provisions relevant to specific assistance or protection for those directly affected by climate change; and
WHEREAS, the 2007 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report states that small islands will experience sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, coral bleaching, reduced water resources, and invasion by non-native species, all of which are occurring in Pacific islands and atolls; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts are exacerbated in areas like Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, where saltwater intrusion contributes to massive inundation, the loss of fresh water, and the degradation of agricultural crops, forcing the continued displacement of indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, Pacific islands are amongst the least contributors of greenhouse gas emissions, but of the first to be significantly impacted by the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the drastic effects of climate change within the Pacific is only a precursor to large-scale problems given that the IPCC and Stern Review claim that up to 200 million people will be permanently displaced as a result of rising sea levels, flood, and drought by 2050; and

WHEREAS, at the 85th plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, representatives of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) expressed their concern that the effects of climate change, particularly in small islands countries, require the immediate attention that security threats typically receive by the United Nations Security Council; and

WHEREAS, the SIDS introduced the draft resolution “Climate change and its possible security implications” (document A/63/L.8/Rev.1); and

WHEREAS, the resolution “invites the relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates to intensify their efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications”; and

WHEREAS, the resolution “requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the possible security implications of climate change, based on the views of the Member States and relevant regional and international organizations”; and

WHEREAS, the resolution is non-binding and thereby potentially ineffective, but the expression of the sense of this highest body in international affairs is still very important since the threat of large-scale displacement of Pacific peoples currently lacks urgent international attention; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures, 29th General Assembly, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati, June 3-4, 2010, that the APIL hereby supports the resolution, “Climate change and its possible security implications,” and urges the United Nations Security Council and relative bodies to commit to its call for meaningful and immediate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures establish a regional APIL task-force to facilitate dialogue amongst member jurisdictions, assist in mitigation and adaptation education and implementation, and provide annual reports of progress to the body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify and the Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the chief executives and legislative presiding officers of each member of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.


J. KALANI ENGLISH  
APIL PRESIDENT

JUDITH T. WON PAT  
APIL SECRETARY