



Association of Pacific Island

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1986 the FSM and the RMI, and later Palau in 1995, entered into
2 the political relationship known as "Free Association" by the entry into force of
3 agreements with the United States called "Compacts of Free Association"; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Compacts give the U.S. the right to deny potential adversaries
5 access to the territory, airspace and territorial waters of the FSM, RMI and Palau; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Compact with the RMI, in particular, guarantees the U.S. access
7 to the important missile testing and space operations range on Kwajalein Atoll and
8 provides for full and final settlement of all nuclear claims resulting from U.S. nuclear
9 weapons testing carried out in the RMI, in so far as it is just inadequate; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Compacts have met their initial goals of providing for a stable
11 transition from United Nations Trusteeship status to sovereign self-government while, at
12 the same time, protecting U.S. security and political interests in the Central Pacific; and

13 **WHEREAS**, while the Compacts are said to have had some success over the
14 years, there are special challenges that are looming for the FSM and RMI as the year 2023
15 comes ever closer; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the financial assistance provided under these Compacts are targeted
17 to cease in that year, and thereafter the FSM and RMI will need to rely on their own
18 financial resources and their Trust Fund established under the Compacts of Free
19 Association for their continued governance; and

20 **WHEREAS**, special challenges exist for Palau as well since the amendments to its
21 Compact which were negotiated over five years ago have yet to be approved by the U.S.
22 Congress; and

23 **WHEREAS**, impediment issues already exist under all three Compacts for the
24 Freely Associated States, especially in the areas of immigration, social development,
25 health, education, the Trust Fund, the development of sovereign wealth and the
26 enhancement of economic self-reliance; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a very important impediment remains for the Republic of the
2 Marshall Islands in so far as changed circumstances has resulted in the need for
3 substantially more in remedies for the loss, suffering and damages which continue to be
4 inflicted upon the Marshallese people on account of the U.S. program of testing nuclear
5 weapons on their islands; and

6 **WHEREAS**, some of the issues that have arisen around the provisions of the three
7 Compacts are having significant impact on the neighboring jurisdictions of the APIL
8 Pacific as well as the three Freely Associated States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, although these issues are repeatedly discussed during the annual joint
10 meetings between representatives of the U.S. Government and each of the Freely
11 Associated States, most of these issues remain unresolved; and

12 **WHEREAS**, at present there are no dedicated FSM-RMI-Palau or regional forums
13 at which Compact issues of mutual interest are discussed in detail; and

14 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that
15 the concept and the feasibility of the establishment of a Think Tank on the Compact issues
16 should be explored to enable the APIL jurisdictions, especially the Freely Associated
17 States, to obtain a broader perspective and a better position in discussing and engaging in
18 the negotiation of Compact matters with the United States; now, therefore,

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th
20 General Assembly, July 7-10, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the APIL General
21 Assembly hereby endorses the concept and the feasibility of establishing a Think Tank on
22 the Compacts of Free Association; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that with this decision of the regional concept of
24 a Think Tank on the Compact issues with the United States, the President of the APIL is
25 requested to take the steps to ensure feasibility studies are undertaken for the
26 establishment of the Think Tank; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the efforts to bring the regional Think
2 Tank concept to fruition, the APIL President is requested to call upon the Association's
3 national and international partners and friends; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the APIL is further
5 requested to take steps to identify sources of funding from institutions such as the PEW
6 Foundation which under its democracy mandate may be able to support the establishment
7 of the Think Tank; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President is further requested to
9 ensure that such feasibility studies consider the possibilities for the Think Tank to work
10 closely with non-governmental organizations within the region such as the newly
11 established Micronesian Trade and Economic Community (MTEC) which has its
12 secretariat in Pohnpei; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President is further requested to
14 present a status report on his efforts to carry out the feasibility studies under this resolution
15 at the next General Assembly of this Association; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the
17 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
18 transmitted to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each of the
19 member jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to be presented as a
20 supporting resolution from each of these jurisdictions.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2015.



KENNETH A. KEDI
APIL PRESIDENT



FERNANDO SCALIEM
APIL SECRETARY

