APIL Resolution No. 34-GA-16, CD1

**“Relative to expressing opposition to any and all proposed military use of the Northern Mariana Islands of Pågan** **and any increase in military activities on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”**

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”) contributes to the defense of the United States by being a valuable strategic military defense asset in the Pacific region and by leasing its scarce real property including, but not limited to, more than two-thirds of Tinian island, valuable portions of Tanapag, Saipan, and the entire island of Farallon de Medinilla (“FDM”) for military trainings, maneuvers, and live-fire bombings and other exercises; and

**WHEREAS**, more than forty (40) years after signing the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (“Covenant”), which sets forth not only the scope and parameters of the political relationship between the CNMI and the U.S., including identifying those specific parcels of real property deemed necessary for national defense purposes, scarce land in the CNMI is once again being slated for increased militarization, namely manned and unmanned live-fire bombing and related military trainings and maneuvers by land, sea, and air extending far beyond FDM; and

**WHEREAS**, given the significant land, sea, and airspace that the military has already taken for national defense purposes, the people of the CNMI, through several

public hearings, together with the 18th House of Representatives via House Joint Resolution 18-14 and the 19th CNMI Legislatures via House Joint Resolution 19-3, have opposed the military’s proposed Pågan plan for combined-unit live-fire trainings and maneuvers, which entails the impermissible continuous use and occupation of the entire island of Pågan for warfare functional areas (“WFA”) not limited to amphibious warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, strike warfare, air warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and Naval special warfare, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, the CNMI Joint Military Training Proposal would also expand military operations in the CNMI by introducing unit-level training on leased lands on Tinian – a plan opposed by Tinian’s residents and because of consequent adverse impacts on access to areas of cultural and historic significance as well as access to natural resources critical for subsistence, and additionally because said plans would result in the destruction of their lands and the long term contamination and ultimate degradation of their environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the jurisdictions that constitute the membership of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (“APIL”) function essentially as one “Blue Continent” such that the “re-pivot” or “re-balance” of U.S. military presence in the Pacific must be managed in a comprehensive manner, especially in light of the fact that the Mariana Islands Training and Testing seeks to nearly double the ocean space that has been already taken and controlled by the military per the Mariana Islands Range Complex (“MIRC”), i.e. increasing it from 501,873 square nautical miles to 984,469 square nautical miles – making the combined ocean area occupied for military training equal to the combined sizes of the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana and New Mexico combined; and

**WHEREAS**, Dentons US LLP, the contracted team of experts reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) on behalf of the CNMI government, has concluded, based on its initial findings, that the DEIS is non-compliant with the basic principles of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the CNMI, for its own sake as well as that of the Blue Continent as a whole, hereby respectfully requests that the APIL takes all necessary measures to oppose the proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pågan and further oppose the increased military exercises within the Northern Islands, as there is an urgent need to collaborate with the members of the APIL on these issues, and for said members to participate meaningfully in the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to protect our land, sea, and air from ecologically destructive bombing and other military activities; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th General Assembly, July 7-10, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses its opposition to any and all proposed military use of the Northern Mariana Islands of Pågan and any increase in military activities on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 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 thereafter be transmitted to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures and shall transmit copies to His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States, the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the CNMI, the Honorable Representative Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the U.S. House Armed Forces Committee, the Honorable Senator John McCain, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, the Honorable Ash Carter, U. S. Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corp, the Honorable Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan, U. S. Congress Delegate of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Honorable Madeleine Bordallo, U. S. Congress Delegate of Guam and the Mayors of Rota, Tinian and Aguigan, Saipan, and the islands north of Saipan.

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

**KENNETH A. KEDI FERNANDO SCALIEM**

**PRESIDENT SECRETARY**