



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

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  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## A RESOLUTION

### APIL Resolution No. 35-GA-09, CD1

**“Expressing the continuing concern of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the welfare of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continuing to endorse and support the Marshallese people in their efforts to obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering, and damages that the nuclear testing program of the United States Government has caused and which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese people.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, each year on March 1, Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day, the  
2       Marshallese people pause to remember the victims of the United States nuclear-weapons testing  
3       program; and

4       **WHEREAS**, from 1946 to 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests  
5       in the Marshall Islands. If their combined explosive power was parceled evenly over that 12-  
6       year period, it would equal 1.6 Hiroshima-size explosions per day; and

7       **WHEREAS**, for more than half a century, the United States Government has  
8       undertaken programs to compensate the Marshallese victims who have been deprived of their  
9       health and their ancestral homes on account of America’s program of nuclear testing in their  
10      islands, but, unfortunately, the inadequacy of appropriated sources of funding and the lack of a  
11      full disclosure of the true extent of the nuclear fallout has led the President of the Republic of  
12      the Marshall Islands to declare that the compensation provided by Washington does not provide  
13      a fair and just settlement for the damage caused by the devastating detonation of the 67 bombs  
14      at Bikini and Enewetak Atolls; and

15      **WHEREAS**, in its 53<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors meeting, which was convened on the Island  
16      of Pohnpei in the month of December of 2012, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

1 adopted APIL Resolution 53-BOD-18 in which the Board endorsed “... *the genuine appeal of*  
2 *the U.N. Special Rapporteur in his September 2012 report to the U.N. Human Rights Council*  
3 *for international solidarity by embracing, in principal, the contents of the report which assesses*  
4 *the impacts on human rights of the nuclear testing program conducted in the Marshall Islands*  
5 *by the United States Government from 1946 to 1958...*”; and made recommendations for  
6 affirmative action; and

7       **WHEREAS**, in its 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, which was convened on the Island of Majuro  
8 in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the month of July of 2014, the Association of Pacific  
9 Island Legislatures adopted APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-16 in which the Association joined  
10 “*the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Pacific Island Forum and many other*  
11 *international organizations and concerned citizens of the world in recognizing the special*  
12 *circumstances pertaining to the continued presence of radioactive contaminants in the Republic*  
13 *of the Marshall Islands and reaffirming the existence of a special responsibility by the United*  
14 *States of America towards the people of the Marshall Islands, who have been, and continue to*  
15 *be, adversely affected as a direct result of nuclear weapons tests conducted by the United States*  
16 *during its administration of the Marshall Islands under the United Nations Trusteeship*  
17 *mandate;*” and

18       **WHEREAS**, in its 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which was convened on the Island of  
19 Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia in the month of July of 2015, the Association of  
20 Pacific Island Legislatures adopted APIL Resolution No. 34-GA-10, entitled “*Expressing the*  
21 *continuing concern of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the welfare of the*

1 *people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continuing to endorse the principles and*  
2 *purpose of APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-16, in which the APIL has issued its support for the*  
3 *Marshallese people in their efforts to obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering and*  
4 *damages that the nuclear testing program of the United States Government has caused and*  
5 *which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese people;” and*

6       **WHEREAS**, since the adoption of 33-GA-16 by the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the APIL  
7 and the subsequent resolutions adopted by APIL, little progress has been made in the earnest  
8 quest of the Marshallese to obtain full restitution from the United States Government for the  
9 death, damage, and destruction which has been caused and continues to be inflicted upon them  
10 by America’s incautious program of nuclear bomb testing in their islands; and

11       **WHEREAS**, on November 27, 2015, the Washington Post published a poignant article  
12 on the plight of the Marshallese people, entitled “*A ground zero forgotten, The Marshall*  
13 *Islands, once a U.S. nuclear test site, face oblivion again.*” The article relives the nuclear  
14 testing that occurred in the Marshall Islands, remembers the nuclear victims, and recognizes the  
15 United States Government’s failure to redress the nuclear testing consequences; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the people of the United States and the people of the world must be  
17 educated and sensitized to the victimization of the Marshallese people and call on the United  
18 States Government to take full responsibility for its actions and pay full restitution to the  
19 Marshallese people; and

20       **WHEREAS**, the theme of this year’s general assembly meeting is “Strengthening our  
21 Past and Uniting Our Blue Continent.” The Marshallese people’s past cannot be strengthened

1 until such time that they are fully compensated for the loss and suffering they experienced as a  
2 result of the nuclear testing; however, we can further unite our Blue Continent by continuing to  
3 support our Marshallese brothers and sisters in their struggle for full restitution; now, therefore,

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35<sup>th</sup> General  
5 Assembly, June 1-3, 2016, *Hagåtña*, Guam, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
6 hereby expresses its continuing concern for the welfare of the people of the Republic of the  
7 Marshall Islands and continues to endorse and support the Marshallese people in their efforts to  
8 obtain full restitution for the losses, suffering, and damages that the nuclear testing program of  
9 the United States Government has caused and which it continues to inflict upon the Marshallese  
10 people; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL  
12 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall thereafter be  
13 transmitted to the Honorable Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to  
14 the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, to the Members of the  
15 White House Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; to the  
16 Honorable Mike Crapo, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Tom  
17 Udall, Member of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Michael Bennet, Member  
18 of Congress, United States Senate; to the Honorable Martin Heinrich, Member of Congress,  
19 United States Senate; to the Honorable James E. Risch, Member of Congress, United States  
20 Senate; to the Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives;  
21 to the Honorable Ray M. Grijalva, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the  
22 Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to  
23 the Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the

- 1 Honorable Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the  
2 Honorable Dina Titus, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable  
3 Stevan Pearce, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Secretary General  
4 of the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative  
5 Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2016.**

  
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**KENNETH A. KEDI**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**FERNANDO SCALIEM**  
**SECRETARY**

