



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. 39-GA-08

“Expressing appreciation to the governments of the United States and Australia and to UNICEF for providing desperately needed humanitarian assistance to the people of the Republic of Kiribati who are suffering from the severe hardships of an extended drought.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Kiribati consists of thirty-three low
2 lying atolls spanning a distance of approximately 1,800 miles across the
3 vast expanses of the Central Pacific Ocean; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in June of this year, the Republic of Kiribati declared
5 a State of Disaster for the whole of the Kiribati nation in response to the
6 prolonged drought currently affecting that country; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the declaration was critically necessary considering
8 this extended period of drought caused by the lack of rainfall, for it has
9 resulted in an increase in the salinity of water sources throughout the low-
10 lying atolls of the country; and

11 **WHEREAS**, so far this year, some areas of Kiribati have recorded
12 less than 2.3 inches of total rainfall which has affected all 123,000 people
13 residing in that nation, including 94,000 people in the severely impacted the
14 Gilbert group, which is heavily dependent on rainwater harvesting; and

15 **WHEREAS**, exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of climate
16 change, the conditions which as caused this catastrophic drought are
17 forecasted to continue at least until the end of this year; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the people throughout Kiribati are being advised to
2 conserve and use water wisely as long as these drought conditions continue
3 to threaten their health and wellbeing; meanwhile,

4 **WHEREAS**, the declaration of the State of Disaster is allowing for
5 the coordination of efforts between Kiribati's National Disaster
6 Management Office and concerned local, national, regional and
7 international bodies to provide support and assistance to the people of
8 Kiribati during the crisis; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the United States, through the U.S. Agency for
10 International Development, (USAID), is providing \$500,000 in
11 humanitarian assistance to respond to the nation's State of Disaster; and

12 **WHEREAS**, U.S. officials in the region and
13 in Washington, D.C. are closely monitoring humanitarian impacts of this
14 drought in coordination with partners throughout the region; and

15 **WHEREAS**, as an example, this American sourced funding has
16 allowed USAID to partner with the United Nations Children's Emergency
17 Fund (UNICEF) to immediately strengthen the capacity of the government
18 to monitor groundwater sources, including their salinity levels, and to
19 provide critical water conservation and treatment messaging to affected
20 populations; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the especially harsh adverse effects
22 that climate change is causing in the low-lying atolls of the Republic of
23 Kiribati, the government of Australia is also providing valuable assistance
24 to the people of Kiribati in meeting the challenges of the severe drought
25 that is plaguing that nation; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the 39th General Assembly of the
2 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, State of Pohnpei, FSM, October
3 12-14, 2022, that this General Assembly hereby expresses our sincere
4 gratitude and appreciation for the timely assistance offered by the United
5 States, Australia and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund to the
6 people of Kiribati to help them overcome the life-threatening challenges of
7 the prolonged drought that has placed that nation in a State of Disaster; and
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall
9 certify and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that
10 copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the President of the
11 United States of America, to the Prime Minister of Australia, to the
12 Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and
13 to the Chief Executive and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each
14 member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.



SHELTEN G. NETH
PRESIDENT



VINNIE V. F. SABLAN
SECRETARY

