



# 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-18, CD1

**“Relative to urging China and the United States to resume meaningful cooperation and resume the climate change dialogue to curb the detrimental impacts of climate change on small island nations.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving  
2 climate change and continue to rise and are now at their highest levels in history. Without  
3 action, the world’s average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century  
4 and is likely to surpass 3 degrees Celsius this century—with some areas of the world  
5 expected to warm even more; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Pacific Island states are only responsible for 0.03% of global  
7 greenhouse gas emissions, but they are disproportionately facing many of the threats of  
8 climate change head on; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the most substantial impacts of climate change include losses of  
10 coastal infrastructure and land, more intense cyclones and droughts, failure of subsistence  
11 crops and coastal fisheries, losses of coral reefs and mangroves, and the spread of certain  
12 diseases; and

13           **WHEREAS**, according to a report issued by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
14 Environment Programme (SPREP), an average sea level rise of between 25 cm – 58 cm is  
15 predicted by the middle of this century along the coastlines of Pacific Island countries,  
16 which would be devastating for islands that sit at or just above sea level; and

17           **WHEREAS**, as global temperatures continue to rise, it is estimated that 90% of the  
18 coral reefs in much of the Pacific Island region could suffer severe degradation, which will  
19 have a severe impact on the marine species that depend upon these ecosystems; and

20           **WHEREAS**, people in Asia and the Pacific were displaced more than 225 million  
21 times due to disasters triggered by natural hazards from 2010 to 2021, accounting for more

1 than three-quarters of the global number, according to a report by the Asian Development  
2 Bank (ADB) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC); and

3       **WHEREAS**, while East Asia and Southeast Asia had the highest number of  
4 disaster displacements—nearly two-thirds of Asia and the Pacific’s total—followed  
5 closely by South Asia. It says the Pacific has the greatest displacement risk relative to its  
6 population size; and

7       **WHEREAS**, the countries that produce the most carbon emissions, i.e., China, the  
8 United States, India, Russia, Japan, Germany, Iran, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and  
9 Indonesia, have a responsibility to not only reduce their carbon emissions but also to offset  
10 their carbon footprint by supporting environmental projects around the world; and

11       **WHEREAS**, while the most important action on climate change must happen  
12 domestically, there must be a concerted global effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions as  
13 part of a concerted global effort through climate cooperation agreements; and

14       **WHEREAS**, to address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at  
15 the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. The Agreement entered into force less than a  
16 year later. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise  
17 to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius;  
18 and

19       **WHEREAS**, on April 17th, 2021, China and the United States, the two largest  
20 emitters, are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle  
21 the climate crisis, which included both enhancing their respective actions and cooperating  
22 in multilateral processes, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
23 Change and the Paris Agreement; and

24       **WHEREAS**, at the climate summit in Glasgow, UK, in November 2021, China  
25 and the United States signed a joint declaration to enhance climate action in the 2020s,  
26 including setting standards for emissions reduction, deploying carbon-capture and -storage  
27 technologies, and measuring and controlling methane emissions; and

28       **WHEREAS**, China’s Foreign Ministry announced on Friday that it was cancelling  
29 or suspending talks and cooperation with the United States in eight different areas, as  
30 “countermeasures” to Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan; and

1           **WHEREAS**, China's suspension of the China-US climate cooperation raises  
2 concerns that this stand-off will slow progress on tackling global warming, hamper  
3 research collaborations, and may threaten the success of discussions at the 2022 United  
4 Nations Climate Change Conference in November of this year; and

5           **WHEREAS**, climate change is a global challenge that does not respect national  
6 borders. Greenhouse gas emissions anywhere affect people everywhere, and it is an issue  
7 that coordination at the international level to help developing countries move toward a low-  
8 carbon economy; and

9           **WHEREAS**, because of its impact on millions of people throughout the Pacific,  
10 cooperation between the large emitters is necessary to accelerate climate action and climate  
11 change should not be made into a political issue; and


12           **WHEREAS**, the Pacific islands encourage large emitters to put aside their politics  
13 and work together for meaningful climate action; now, therefore,

14           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 39<sup>th</sup> General  
15 Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October 12-14, 2022, that the General Assembly, on  
16 behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, that the Association of Pacific  
17 Island Legislatures hereby unequivocally express concerns and disappointment over the  
18 suspension of climate change dialog between China and the United States and urge for  
19 meaningful cooperation to curb the detrimental impacts of climate change on small island  
20 nations; and

21           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the  
22 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall  
23 thereafter be transmitted to the Chief Executive and the Legislative Presiding Officers of  
24 each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.**

  
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**SHELLEN G. NETH**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**VINNIE V. F. SABLON**  
**SECRETARY**

