



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

Resolution No. 61-BOD-07

“To recognize and express gratitude to the Partners and other Agencies for their assistance and supports during this pandemic and to seek any assistance that APIL and its development partners that could render during the COVID-19 pandemic to its member states.”

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, COVID-19 swept the globe sparing no country
2 or person from feeling its impact or suffering hardship, whether that be
3 economic, with joblessness and lockdowns, or related to health, with the
4 disease leading to infirmity and death, and has since become one of the
5 greatest health challenges that our world has ever faced; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Kiribati had been successful in keeping COVID-19
7 away from its shores for two years, and the COVID-19 taskforce was
8 established comprised of Ministers for which Minister of Health is a chair
9 and other members were Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Education,
10 Minister of Employment, Minister of Communications and Minister of
11 Commerce. They were initially established to coordinate the repatriation of
12 our stranded nationals. When the outbreak kicked in on January 14, 2022,
13 on the first passenger plane after 10 months, two-thirds of the passengers
14 tested positive and set off community transmission in Kiribati; they were
15 then tasked to coordinate COVID-19 matters and report back to the Cabinet
16 for proposals on curfew which were then endorsed by the Cabinet; and

1 **WHEREAS**, as of 16th of February, 2022, there has been 2,737
2 positive cases, with nine deaths. The Ministry of Health Medical Services in
3 Kiribati has covered the targeted population for first dose, while for second
4 doses, we are about 69% for those eligible over 18 years old have been
5 vaccinated; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Pacific Islands are particularly vulnerable to the
7 negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, so far, COVID-19 has spread
8 to three other outer islands of Kiribati apart from the main island of Tarawa.
9 COVID-19 is a serious threat to our livelihoods and has had an impact on
10 many aspects of the society; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during the outbreak, Kiribati can't stop it but must
12 reduce the level of transmissions. The measures in place are vaccinations
13 and public health measures - masks, social distancing, hand washing and
14 avoid crowds - and all these are articulated in the curfew order. These will
15 reduce the transmission or spread of the virus. Testing continues and that is
16 where they detected the number of positive cases. They continue to receive
17 admissions who are needing medical treatment due to COVID 19 - oxygen
18 supplementary, fluids etc. Clinics are continuing to give Panadol's to those
19 with mild symptoms, headaches, fever, etc. Main hospitals continue to
20 receive those with moderate to severe positive cases; and

21 **WHEREAS**, while each country has its own story of how it has
22 coped with and continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, the APIL
23 Board of Directors would like to express our gratitude to Partners: Australia,
24 New Zealand, People's Republic of China, India, World Health Organization
25 (WHO), UNICEF and SPC, for their COVID-19 prevention and response
26 initiatives undertaken to assist our island nations; not forgetting other
27 Agencies who have been assisting the People of Kiribati in many ways

1 especially those who have been working 24 hours away from their families
2 to keep the Kiribati People safe in this pandemic period: the health workers;
3 doctors, nurses and all health officers; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the APIL remains grateful for the ongoing assistance
5 and sincerely conveys appreciation for the steadfast friendship and
6 partnership of the Government of Australia, New Zealand Government and
7 to all the Partners and Agencies during this challenging and difficult time in
8 providing medical supplies in response to a request from the Ministry of
9 Health of the Republic of Kiribati. The medical supplies include PPE such as
10 (N95 masks, surgical masks, isolation gowns and shoe covers),
11 pharmaceutical items and medicine, and 27,300 doses of Astra Zeneca with
12 associated consumables. It is also confirmed that some testing supplies
13 donated by the New Zealand Government were also uplifted on that same
14 month in early February 2022; and

15 **WHEREAS**, we further extend our gratitude to all Partners and
16 Agencies who have been involved in providing assistance and support to our
17 Pacific Island communities in different ways, now, therefore,

18 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association
19 of Pacific Island Legislatures, 61st Board Meeting, February 17-18, 2022,
20 via ZOOM Conferencing, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island
21 Legislatures that the Board of Directors hereby recognizes and expresses
22 gratitude to Partners and other Agencies for their assistance during the
23 COVID-19 pandemic for the people of the Republic of Kiribati and for each
24 and every Member of APIL family; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Pacific
26 Island Legislatures President shall certify, and the Secretary shall attest to
27 the adoption of this Resolution and that copies of the same shall be

- 1 transmitted to the Chief Executive Officers of the contributing countries and
2 associations, and to the Chief Executives and the Presiding Legislative
3 Officers of the member jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island
4 Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.



**NELSON STEPHEN
ACTING PRESIDENT**



**VINNIE SABLEN
ACTING SECRETARY**

