

## 9<sup>TH</sup> MICRONESIAN PRESIDENTS' SUMMIT

July 16-17, 2009

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

### Majuro Declaration on Climate Change

We, the Heads of State of the north Pacific, His Excellency Litokwa Tomeing, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, have met in Majuro on July 16 and 17, 2009, to address the adverse impacts of Climate Change, and call for urgent collective global action in addressing climate change; have declared the following:

*We are encouraged* by the proud resilience of our peoples, our local communities and our traditional leaders, to address the adverse impacts of climate change through concrete actions which reduce the vulnerability of our populations and resources, despite barriers and constraints in so doing, and by the mandate from our populations to mobilize international political will for a firm, binding and adequate international agreement on furthering the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009, as well as further dialogue and action to address climate impacts within all appropriate and relevant international fora, such as the Montreal Protocol,

*We reiterate our* support for Resolution MTLC-04-005 of the 2008 4<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Traditional Leaders Conference, which embraces the conviction that we must preserve our natural heritage, our diverse customs and traditions, and safeguard the environment for future generations,

*We are gravely concerned* by issues referenced in the submission of 15 May 2009 by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, to the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, entitled "Climate Change and Statelessness," in which serious risks were described to the right of statehood of low-lying Small Island Developing States, including states in our north Pacific sub-region,

*We are especially concerned that recent scientific findings suggest that climate change impacts may be larger and may occur sooner than is suggested in the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We thus concur with the statement in the Synthesis Report of the Copenhagen Climate Congress for "rapid sustained mitigation and therefore support the FSM submission calling for a "Program of Work on Opportunities for Rapid Climate Mitigation,*

*We affirm* the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC to achieve greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, but also note our concern about other climate warming agents such as black carbon. We thus agree with recent commitments of the G8 leaders to address black carbon as well as greenhouse gases (GHGs), and note the need to bring about short-term climate mitigation as well as long-term climate stabilization. We therefore call upon our colleagues from small island states and beyond to partner with us in our efforts to take action in the near, middle and long terms,

noting that the urgent action that is so often called for entails not only mitigation and adaptation measures soon, but also aims for obtaining the benefits of these measures in the near term.

*We endorse* the principle of State Responsibility as enshrined in Article 2 of the Rio Declaration of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, under which states have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas beyond national jurisdiction,

*We recall* the 2008 Niue Declaration on Climate Change by the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum,

*We recall further* the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Bali Action Plan.

Regarding global action to address climate change impacts, we declare the following:

1. *We welcome and strongly endorse* the call by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) for the current negotiations on a post-2012 global climate framework, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to support collective international action sufficient to ensure the development aspirations and survival of the most vulnerable states and *strongly urge* the close consideration of AOSIS positions by all states parties to the UNFCCC, particularly our closest political partners;
2. *We affirm* our inalienable rights to statehood, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as other fundamental freedoms and basic human rights of our people, including food and water security, as assured by the United Nations Charter and other relevant instruments as well as customary international law, which may be threatened by adverse climate impacts, and *urge* further and intensified acknowledgement and treatment of these rights by the international community;
3. *We call upon* the United Nations Secretary General to report to the General Assembly regarding the possible security implications of climate change, without delay and before December, 2009, within the context of Resolution 63/281;

Regarding regional and sub-regional action to address climate change impacts, we declare the following:

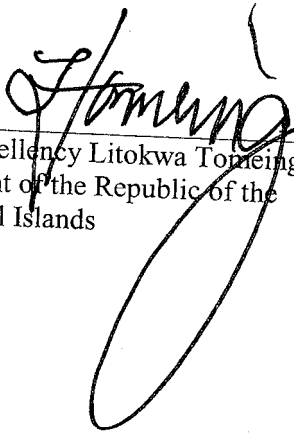
4. *We affirm* our commitment to a range of action-oriented, nationally appropriate adaptation measures to reduce our vulnerability to climate change, including addressing issues such as, but not limited to, food and water security, environmentally-sensitive infrastructure protection, public health and education, communications, safeguarding cultural identity, and early warning systems as well as other appropriate hazard mitigation strategies, ecosystem strategies to adaptation, and integrated coastal and marine management, and seek urgent and sufficient international assistance in full and sustained implementation of these measures and their continued integration, as appropriate, within national development plans and strategies;

5. *We emphasize the need for our countries to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and we affirm our national alternative energy strategies, initiatives, and nationally-appropriate mitigation actions, including sub-regional goal sharing, such as Green Energy Micronesia (GEM).*
6. *We affirm further our support for renewable energy as a pillar of our collective energy security, and, even though we have caused the least contribution of harmful greenhouse gas emissions,*
7. *We call upon the international community to support comprehensive and climate-sensitive sustainable development strategies for vulnerable coastal and marine areas;*
8. *We affirm further the need to enhance cooperation and dialogue within our nations regarding climate change and the urgent need for well-structured implementation of “on the ground” concrete and prioritized actions to reduce vulnerability to climate impacts;*
9. *We emphasize the need to continue and enhance appropriate regional action and information-sharing with other Pacific small island developing states, including through goals and approaches referenced in the Niue Leaders Declaration;*
10. *We call upon the Council of Pacific Regional organizations, in particular, SOPAC, SPREP, SPC and PIF to strengthen its collaborative efforts with other development partners in tackling climate change issues and challenges, particularly on mitigation and adaptation measures in the Micronesia Region;*
11. *We urge the international community to directly support the commitments of our nations, and of the Pacific region, in this regard, with a view to facilitating appropriate and concrete measures which reduce the vulnerability of our communities and resources;*

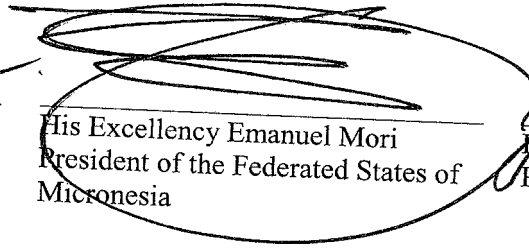
Regarding bilateral action with our close international partners, to address climate change impacts, we declare the following;

12. *We recall our close and mutually beneficial relationship through the free association and territorial relationship with the United States of America, and we note the historic role of the United States as former Administrator of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and, in recognition of our ongoing friendship, we:*
  - a. *Welcome the United States’ commitment to our nations through the Compact agreements, including a mutual policy to promote efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, and to enrich understanding of the natural resources of our nations;*
  - b. *Warmly welcome the renewed interest of the United States in advancing productive climate discussions regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in other relevant international fora, and also through an enhanced focus on leadership through domestic action to address climate change, noting further existing initiatives pursued by individual states and cities;*

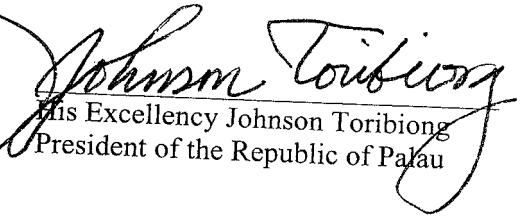
- c. *Affirm our support* for appropriate and mutual consideration of nationally-driven, climate-sensitive approaches within existing and future activities under the Compact, in addition to consideration of these approaches with other mutual partnership efforts with the United States;
    - d. *Strongly urge* the United States to sustain and intensify its positive leadership approach to global climate negotiations and international discussions, particularly through mobilizing the collective political will of all nations;
- 13. *We recall* our historic and ongoing close mutual relationship with Japan, and we *note* the historic role of Japan as former administrator of the South Pacific Mandate of the League of Nations, we:
  - a. *Welcome* the 2009 Hokkaido Declaration resulting from the 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, and *affirm* its conclusions, particularly in regard to Environment and Climate Change;
  - b. *Welcome further* the commitment of Japan in advancing international awareness and discussion of human security, including the possible security implications of climate change;
  - c. *Affirm our support* for Japan's international leadership in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through the Cool Earth Partnership Program as a contribution to practically supporting our nations in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change;
  - d. *Strongly urge* Japan to sustain and intensify its positive leadership approach to global climate negotiations and international discussions, particularly through advocating for sufficient collective international commitment and action which ensures the essential human security of our vulnerable communities;
- 14. *We recall* our historic and ongoing close friendship with Germany, and we *note* the historic role of Germany through its former Pacific territorial possessions, including as expressed in the 1885 Treaty of friendship between the Marshallese chiefs and Germany, and further the important role of Germany within the context of European Union, we:
  - a. *Note* Germany's national commitment for 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2020, should European Union member states agree to a 30% reduction over the same period of time;
  - b. *Warmly welcome* Germany's commitment to assisting with advancing comprehensive climate adaptation strategies for small island developing states,;



His Excellency Litokwa Torieng  
President of the Republic of the  
Marshall Islands



His Excellency Emanuel Mori  
President of the Federated States of  
Micronesia



His Excellency Johnson Toribiong  
President of the Republic of Palau