
NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
42ND CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2021



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 37

A **RESOLUTION** to respectfully request the Cabinet to declare that the climate crisis is an issue of national security and an existential threat to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and as such, should be considered, and adopted as a subject matter for discussions and negotiations in the upcoming Compact negotiations.

WHEREAS, changes in the climate projected by the scientific community in the coming decades threaten rapid, widespread, concurrent, and long-lasting increase in heat waves, wildfire, disease, drought, crop failure, ocean acidification, mass extinction and collapse of food chains, saline intrusion, pluvial flooding, coastal flooding, mass population migrations and the very existence of the Marshall Islands due to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, climate model outputs assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) project an average increase in sea level rise between 1.35 ft and 2.13 ft by 2090, depending on the emission scenario considered. In addition, IPCC also projects that extreme sea level events currently occurring once in a century could become occur annually before 2050; and

WHEREAS, recent studies on the impact of sea level rise to the Republic of the Marshall Islands by University of Hawaii and the US Geological Survey researchers confirmed that the intensity and the frequency of intense coastal flooding could lead to flooding by a least one foot to occur daily as early as 2080, and that over wash of whole islands would lead to the unavailability of potable water as early as 2040 under the high emission scenario, rendering some islands uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, the RMI is currently developing its National Adaptation Plan in response to and in preparation for these extreme impacts - a plan which aims to create a pathway for the people of the RMI to adapt to the changing climate and its immediate effects, which can and should inform the Compact Negotiations for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall Islands is very appreciative of the fact that United States President Biden has made climate change an early priority of his administration, directing the U. S. to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement on his first day in office; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall Islands welcomes President Biden's declaration that Climate change will be "the center of our national security and foreign policy"; and

WHEREAS, the designation of climate change as a national security threat by President Biden and, and his commissioning of a National Intelligence Estimate from the U.S. Intelligence agencies on climate change security implications is very welcoming, and much appreciated by the government and the people of the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has entrusted to the United States government "the full authority and responsibility for the security and defense" of the Marshall Islands pursuant to Title 3, Section 311 (a) of the Compact of Free Association; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands through their Nitijela, at its 42nd Constitutional Regular Session 2021, that the Cabinet is respectfully requested to adopt and declare climate security as an integral part of its foreign policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cabinet is also respectfully requested, and is hereby requested to direct the RMI Compact negotiating team to table climate security as an issue for discussions and negotiations with the United States government prior to the commencement of negotiations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of Cabinet.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:

1. That Nitijela Resolution No: 37 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 10th day of June 2021; and
2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Resolution No: 37 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 14th day of June 2021.



Hon. Kenneth A. Kedi
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:



Morean S. Watak
Clerk
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

