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

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 58

A RESOLUTION to express the desire of the people of the Marshall Islands acting through their Nitijela to urge the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Government of the United States of America to ensure that the key pillars of the Compact of Free Association (as amended) on matters and issues relating to Compact, Kwajalein, Nuclear Legacy and Climate Change are included and addressed in the upcoming Compact negotiations.

WHEREAS, the close ties between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States of America goes way back to the end of the World War II. The affirmation between Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Government of the United States of America and our relationships as Governments are founded upon respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for all, and thus both striving to achieve common interests in creating and maintaining a mutual beneficial relationship through free and voluntary association in promoting economic advancement and budgetary self-reliance through the Agreement of Compact of Free Association as it also embedded under Article XIII, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, Freely Associated States (FAS), in free association with the United States, covers an area from the Philippines to Hawaii as large as the 48 contiguous states. The Compacts of the COFAs, together with laws that amended the compacts, that govern these relationships, provide the U.S. to control land, air, and maritime access in the region and enable key military bases.

WHEREAS, In 1986, the United States (U.S) government entered into separate international agreements-known collectively as the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); and

WHEREAS, The Compact provided for the continuation of a defence arrangement that has connected the Unites States and the RMI (and FSM) since the end of World War II. The compact obligates the United States to defend these island nations against attack, while providing the United States with continued access to the Kwajalein Atoll in the RMI, which is used for missile testing and space tracking activities. Additional rights were retained by the United States under the Compact – the ability to deny access to the islands by third-party militaries and block actions by the governments that are incompatible with U.S. defence authority and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Compact was intended to achieve three principle goals: (1) secure self-government for each country; (2) assist the RMI in our efforts to advance economic development and self-sufficiency; and (3) to ensure certain national security rights for RMI and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, under the Compact, as amended, the U.S. provides the Government with approximately $70 million annually through FY2023, including contribution to a jointly managed trust fund and financial assistance from other U.S. Federal Grants; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defence, under the MUORA, a subsidiary government-to-government agreement of the Compact, received permission to use parts of the lagoon and a several islands on Kwajalein Atoll. The agreement allows United States continued use of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll missile test range until 2066 with an option until 2086; and

WHEREAS, economic provision under the Compact between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands enables states to participate in all Office of Insular Affairs technical activities by way of U.S. giving the Republic access to many U.S. domestic programs including disaster response and recovery and hazard mitigation programs under the Federal Emergency Management Agency, some Department of Education programs including Pell Grant, and services by the

National Weather Service, the United States Postal Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and U.S. representation to the international Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunication Union which is set to expire in the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, from 1946 to 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear tests in, on and above the Marshall Islands – vaporizing whole islands, carving craters into its shallow lagoons and exiling hundreds of people from their homes; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that, the key issues must prioritized including unfulfilled Compact law commitments, contamination from the leaking radioactive waste storage facility built by the U.S. on Runit Island, or radioactive waste left elsewhere on Enewetak Atoll.

WHEREAS, Runit Dome is the most visible manifestation of the United States' nuclear legacy, a symbol of the sacrifices the Marshallese made for U.S. security, and the broken promises they received in return. The concrete coffin, which our people refer to "the Tomb" is at risk of collapsing from rising seas and other effects of climate change. Tides are creeping up its sides, advancing higher every year as distant glaciers melt and ocean waters rise; and

WHEREAS, this society has survived, and has withstood the test of time, the impact of other cultures, the devastation of war, and the high price paid for the purposes of international peace and security. All we have and are today as a people, we have received as a sacred heritage which we pledge ourselves to safeguard and maintain, valuing nothing more dearly than our rightful home on the islands within the traditional boundaries of this archipelago. With this Constitution, we affirm our desire and right to live in peace and harmony, subscribing to the principles of democracy, sharing the aspirations of all other peoples for a free and peaceful world, and striving to do all we can to assist in achieving this goal.

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 Nitijela hereby approves and therefore approved this resolution to urge the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Government of the United States of America to ensure that the key pillars of the Compact of Free Association (as amended), on matters and issues relating to Compact, Kwajalein,

Nuclear Legacy and Climate Change are included and addressed in the upcoming Compact negotiations.

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

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SIGNATURES

DATE: _____ **INTRODUCED BY** KENNETH A. KEDI
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10-29-21 **INTRODUCED BY** David Kabua
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10.29.21 **INTRODUCED BY** Peterson Jitan
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/21 **INTRODUCED BY** Jack J. Ading
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/21 **INTRODUCED BY** DAVID PAUL
Print Name *Signature*

10/29/21 Mike Kabua
10/29/21 Wisely Zackhras
10/29/21 Alvin Silk
10/29/21 Tony Aiseo

DATE: Oct. 29, 2021 INTRODUCED BY Wilbur Heine
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/21 INTRODUCED BY Tony Muller
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/2021 INTRODUCED BY Ota Kisino
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/21 INTRODUCED BY Hilda Heine
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10-29-21 INTRODUCED BY HIROSHI YAMAMURA
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 11 INTRODUCED BY Alvi Riklon
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: 10/29/21 INTRODUCED BY DENNIS MOMOTARO
Print Name *Signature*
MEIN IS.

DATE: 10/29/21 **INTRODUCED BY** Stephen W. Phillips

Print Name *Signature*

DATE:_____ **INTRODUCED BY** _____ _____

Print Name *Signature*

DATE:_____ **INTRODUCED BY** _____ _____

Print Name *Signature*

DATE:_____ **INTRODUCED BY** _____ _____

Print Name *Signature*

DATE:_____ **INTRODUCED BY** _____ _____

Print Name *Signature*

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Print Name *Signature*

DATE:_____ **INTRODUCED BY** _____ _____

Print Name *Signature*