NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
46TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2025

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 34

A RESOLUTION requesting the *Nitijela* to approve the ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands endorsed and signed up to the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction(hereinafter the BBNJ "Treaty") on the 20 of September 2023 in the United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States of America;*

WHEREAS the Treaty also known as the "BBNJ Agreement", was adopted on 19 June 2023, and provides a legal framework ensure that sustainable conservation and management of biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction are affected by anthropogenic pressures such as destructive fishing practices ,pollution and climate change which, cumulatively, put the health and resilience of the ocean at risk and undermine the good work we are already doing within our Exclusive Economic Zones;

WHEREAS the four main components of the BBNJ Agreement are Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs), Area Based Management Tools (ABMTs) such as marine protected areas, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Capacity Building and Transfer of Marie Technology (CBTMT);

WHEREAS, the ocean's importance cannot be overemphasized. It is an essential reserve of biodiversity provides critical ecosystem services, supporting livelihoods of billions and food security, amongst others. It provides important goods and services, such as means of transport, energy production, tourism potential and a host of minerals and organisms of relevance to various sectors in the context of a sustainable ocean-based economy. It produces oxygen that we breathe and is a significant carbon sink, drawing in a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions and over 90 percent of the excess heat in the climate system, aiding in limiting rises in air temperature and the effects of climate change;

WHEREAS all these ecosystem services are all under threat now from destructive practices, pollution, illegal fishing in areas beyond national jurisdictions, and as such, the urgency for all Members of the United Nations to ratify the Agreement and to bring it into force in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, the said Treaty will require at least 60 countries to ratify and will enter into force 120 days after the deposit of the 60th ratification;

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1(3)(d) of the Constitution requires that no treaty shall be finally accepted without the approval of the *Nitijela,* signified by Resolution. Taking into consideration Article V Section 1(4) of the Constitution and following the ratification of the BBNJ Agreement, the relevant stakeholders in the RMI, will work together with Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and partners to update the relevant legislation or to propose new enabling legislation, as the case may be to enable the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their *Nitijela* at its 46thConstitutional Regular Session further to Article V, Section 1(3)(d) of the Constitution, that the *Nitijela* hereby approves the Republic of the Marshall Islands' ratification to the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President or the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade shall execute and transmit depository letters and ratification documents to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:

1. That Nitijela Resolution No: 34 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 27th day of January 2025; and

2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Resolution No: 34 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 29th day of January 2025.

Brenson S. Wase
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:

Morean S. Watak
Clerk
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands