A RESOLUTION

Ratifying the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, 1990, as amended.

WHEREAS, in 1972 the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in the South Pacific Offshore Areas was formed to facilitate and promote effective cooperation in the prospecting, research and development of non-living resources; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Committee resolved in 1990 to reconstitute the Committee, which had been reconstituted in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia became a founding member of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Committee ("SOPAC") on October 24, 1990, by placing its signature on the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC Constitution); and

WHEREAS, SOPAC has been established to promote, facilitate, undertake, coordinate, advise on, and cooperate in the prospecting for and research into the non-living resources in the offshore, coastal and onshore areas of member countries, and in other oceanic areas of the South Pacific region and to assist in activities relating to the prospecting, research and development of such resources; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of these purposes, the Secretariat of SOPAC:
(1) promotes, undertakes and coordinates the work programme of SOPAC;
(2) establishes working arrangements with relevant regional and international organizations;
(3) promotes manpower development and training;
(4) disseminates relevant information and data to members of the Commission;
(5) assists members in the interpretation and evaluation of technical data;
(6) advises members on problems and opportunities with regard to activities consistent with the Commission's purpose, including the management of non-living resources; and
(7) reviews and reports on progress made with projects included in the work programme, among other duties; and

WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia contributed $8,000 to SOPAC in fiscal year 2000; and
WHEREAS, the annual benefit the FSM receives from this contribution to SOPAC in the form of technical assistance far exceeds the FSM's annual contributions; and
WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia has not yet formally ratified the SOPAC Constitution; and
WHEREAS, at the 22nd Annual Session of SOPAC the members of the Committee recommended certain changes to the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, which amendments only enter into force thirty days after receipt
by the Depository of instruments of acceptance or ratification from all members; and

WHEREAS, ratification of the SOPAC Constitution and ratification of the amendments proposed to that Constitution will formalize the Federated States of Micronesia's status as a party to the SOPAC agreement and convey the FSM's support for the amendments proposed to that agreement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Twelfth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia that the Congress hereby approves the Federated States of Micronesia's membership in SOPAC and accepts the obligations of the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, 1990;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress hereby ratifies the amendments to that Agreement recommended at the 22nd Annual Session of the members of SOPAC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of this resolution the President of the Federated States of Micronesia shall deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Government of Fiji, which serves as Depository under Article 13 of the SOPAC Constitution;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs and the FSM Embassy in Fiji.

Date: ____________  Introduced by:__________________________

Joseph J. Urusemal
(by request)