A RESOLUTION

Ratifying the Micronesian Challenge and its commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by year 2020.

1 WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands signed the Micronesian Challenge at the Eight Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil;

2 WHEREAS, the Micronesian Challenge is committed to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by year 2020;

3 WHEREAS, the Micronesian Challenge covers 6.7 million square kilometers of ocean representing more than 20% of the Pacific Island region and 5% of the largest ocean in the world;

4 WHEREAS, the Micronesian Challenge far exceeds current goals set by international conventions and treaties, which call for countries to conserve 10% of terrestrial and marine resources by 2010 and 2012 respectively;

5 WHEREAS, the Micronesian Challenge also emphasizes the need for Micronesian leaders to work together at the regional level to confront environmental and sustainable development issues;
WHEREAS, the Micronesian Challenge serves as a model for island conservation, initiated by a coalition of regional governments, endorsed at an international level and implemented on the ground with local communities;

WHEREAS, each of the five jurisdictions of the Micronesian Challenge is developing their own strategies for implementation including identifying the most biologically important areas, establishing or strengthening protected areas and ensuring continued effective management and oversight;

WHEREAS, each of the five jurisdictions of the Micronesian Challenge are also working to secure funds to support the long term sustainability of the Challenge for each of their jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia has received a $50,000.00 (U.S. Dollars) donation by the Government of Turkey solely to help fund the Micronesian Challenge;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fifteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Third Regular Session, 2008, that the Micronesian Challenge is hereby ratified by the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the President of the Marshall Islands, the President of the Republic of Palau, the Governor of the Territory of Guam, the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands, Governor of each State of the FSM, the Chief Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Date: 2/6/08

Introduced by: /s/ Joe N. Suka
Joe N. Suka
(by request)