A RESOLUTION

Urging the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to task the relevant Departments and Offices of the National Government to strengthen their efforts in examining the prospect of and preparing action plans for climate change-induced displacement of inhabitants of the low-lying atolls in the Federated States of Micronesia.

1 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change and rising sea water are considered major environmental concerns internationally; and
2 WHEREAS, the low-lying atolls of the Pacific Islands are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and rising sea water; and
3 WHEREAS, the consequences of land loss in the low-lying atolls in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) due to climate change and rising sea water will continue to rise; and
4 WHEREAS, the inhabitants of the low-lying atolls of the FSM are not immune to climate change-induced displacement; and
5 WHEREAS, it is foreseeable that climate change-induced displacement may present new and greater challenges in the environment, including the economic, social, cultural and traditional sectors of the islands; and
6 WHEREAS, non-reversible displacement caused by climate change and rising sea levels have yet to be fully grasped by states and their peoples; and
7 WHEREAS, an assessment report of the consequences and the impacts of climate change to this nation can assist policy makers in formulating policies and measures to address the people’s
plight in anticipating their separation of land and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (EEM), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Justice, is charged with the responsibility to coordinate efforts at the national government to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into strategic policy formulation processes; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Environment and Emergency Management’s responsive strategic policy planning toward the effects of climate change and rising sea water should integrate comprehensive policies within the human rights framework; and

WHEREAS, both short and long-term policies should be similar to those already in place following similar disasters and consist largely of forced migration settlements, shelter programs and other measures; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 2009, that Congress is hereby urging the President to task the relevant Departments and offices of the National Government to strengthen their efforts in examining the climate change-induced displacement of inhabitants of the low-lying atolls in the Federated States of Micronesia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the relevant departments and offices of the national government prepare action plans that will address climate change-induced displacement of inhabitants in the
low-lying atolls in the Federated States of Micronesia, to afford better understanding of the human rights aspects, to identify remedies such as the provision of alternative homes and lands, compensation and access to new and permanent resettlement locations, to further identify unused land for possible future use to resettle people and their communities should this become necessary, and other areas as deemed proper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of the Department of Justice, and the Governor of each State of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Date: 7/10/09  Introduced by: /s/ Fredrico O. Primo

Fredrico O. Primo