A RESOLUTION


1 WHEREAS, His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina signed the
2 BBNJ Agreement on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia on
3 September 20, 2023 in New York City in the margins of the 78th
4 Session of the United Nations General Assembly; and
5 WHEREAS, this marked the conclusion of approximately two
6 decades of discussions including 5 years of active negotiations of
7 the BBNJ Agreement, which is an international legally binding
8 instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the
9 Sea (“UNCLOS”) to regulate the high seas and would fill in legal
10 and governance gaps in UNCLOS pertaining to seas beyond national
11 jurisdiction; and
12 WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement is based on a package of core
13 issues, namely: 1) marine genetic resources (“MGRs”), including
14 questions on the sharing of benefits; 2) area-based management
15 tools (“ABMTs”), including marine protected areas (“MPAs”); 3) 16 environmental impact assessments (“EIAs”); and 4) capacity
17 building and the transfer of marine technology (“CBTMT”); and
18 WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement establishes a number of
19 institutional arrangements, including a Conference of the Parties,
1 a Scientific and Technical Body, and various committees and other
2 subsidiary organizations; and
3 WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement is subject to ratification by a
4 vote of at least 2/3 of members of Congress of the Federated
5 States of Micronesia pursuant to its constitutionally delegated
6 authority under Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution; now,
7 therefore,
8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated
9 States of Micronesia, Third Regular Session, 2023, that Congress
10 hereby ratifies the BBNJ Agreement; and
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States
13 of Micronesia, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs,
14 Secretary of the Department of the Resource and Development, the
15 Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice and the Governor of
16 each state of the Nation.
17
18 Date: 1/10/24                  Introduced by: /s/ Quincy Lawrence
19                                  Quincy Lawrence
20                                    (by request)