

A RESOLUTION

Ratifying 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, or the "BBNJ Agreement".

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 78<sup>th</sup>  
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 RESOLVELD 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.

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18 Date: 1/10/24

Introduced by: /s/ Quincy Lawrence

Quincy Lawrence  
(by request)

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