



*PALAU MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palau's Ambassador to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Stuart Beck, announced today that Palau has joined with the other members of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu along with Australia, Austria, Canada, Israel, Maldives, New Zealand, Seychelles and Turkey in co-sponsoring and submitting a new draft resolution entitled "Security and Climate Change" (A/62/L.50) to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The draft resolution is attached hereto. The co-sponsors will now seek wide co-sponsorship in the hope of achieving a consensus.

This resolution is based on the right of the General Assembly under the United Nations Charter to call to the attention of the Security Council situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security and invites the Security Council to continue to address the threat posed by climate change to international peace and security which was first undertaken by the Security Council on 17 April 2007 but has not been addressed since then.

The leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, meeting recently in Niue, committed their nations to advocate and support the recognition, in all international fora, of the urgent social, economic and security threat caused by climate change and sea-level rise. The leaders pointed to the urgency of the threat to the "territorial integrity" and "continued existence" of our island nations.

President Tommy E. Remengesau of Palau, in a recent interview with the BBC, said that the threat of climate change has reached a point where "this issue does not have the luxury of time".

Under the leadership of the Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, H.E. Mrs. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, Permanent Representative of Tonga, the Pacific Small Island Developing States have engaged in extensive consultations with member states to underscore the need for engagement by all bodies of the United Nations on the critical issue of climate change, and the security threats posed by attendant issues such as population relocation, ocean incursions, and the salting of food stocks and fresh water sources.

Ambassador Stuart Beck said:

Perspectives may differ among nations regarding the definition of the term 'security' but from the perspective of the Pacific Island nations, the extinction of our cultures is undoubtedly a clear and present danger. Never before have member states faced the prospect of their removal from the globe. The Security Council, in its wisdom and pursuant to the Charter, may provide solutions which can strengthen ongoing efforts of the international community to address the problem.

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## **Security and climate change**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Charter, which recognizes that a primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security,

*Recognizing* that under Article 24 of the Charter, the Security Council is charged with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Further recognizing* that under Article 39 of the Charter, the Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace and shall make recommendations, or decide measures to maintain international peace and security,

*Bearing in mind* that the General Assembly, under Article 11 of the Charter, may call the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security,

*Bearing in mind* that the Security Council remains seized of the matter of climate change in terms of its implications on international peace and security since its thematic debate, 'Energy, Security and Climate Change', held in April 2007,

*Recognizing* the responsibilities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and relevant subsidiary bodies on sustainable development issues including energy and climate change,

*Noting* the goals and objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Deeply concerned* that the adverse impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, trigger population relocation and threaten the territorial integrity and sovereignty of some States, thus endangering international peace and security,

1. *Invites* the Security Council to continue to consider and address, as appropriate, the threat posed by climate change to international peace and security;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the international peace and security implications of climate change;
3. *Invites* the Security Council to update the General Assembly on its work, and any actions taken, in this regard.

