

KOROR DECLARATION

COMMITTING PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT TO JOINT EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC VALUE AND DERIVE GREATER BENEFITS FROM THE TUNA RESOURCE

Leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu met in Koror, Palau, on 25 February, 2010.

LEADERS,

Taking into account the Nauru Agreement concerning cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest and the First, Second, and Third Implementing Arrangements setting forth additional measures to implement the Nauru Agreement;

Noting the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Access and the Palau Arrangement for the Management of the Western and Central Pacific Purse Seine Fishery;

Recalling the *Bikenibeu Declaration on Securing Greater Value from their Common Fisheries Wealth* adopted by Fisheries Ministers done at Tarawa on 22 October 2009 calling for the adoption of additional conservation and management measures;

Reaffirming support for the PNA Office established in Majuro, Marshall Islands, on 1 January 2010;

Reiterating the commercial aspirations of the Parties through the PNA Office;

Acknowledging the importance of regional co-operation as underlined in the Vava'u Declaration and reaffirming the Parties' support for co-operative regional fisheries management through the Pacific Forum Leaders Summit, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;

Mindful of the healthy state of skipjack tuna and its ability to support further sustainable growth and development of the fishery;

Expressing concern about the state of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and the increasing growth of capacity and effort in the region;

Desiring to maximize economic gains from the tuna fisheries through the adoption of effective conservation and management measures and exertion of greater control of the fisheries for the Pacific Islands;

Noting that for many of the Parties, the tuna resource represents the primary source of achieving greater economic self-sufficiency;

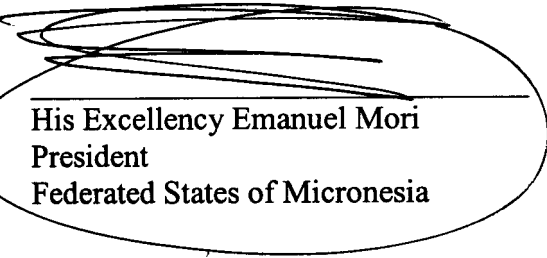
Further noting that the prospects of enhancing economic growth for many of the Parties depend to a large degree on the sustainability of their common tuna resource;

Recognizing that economic gains may be maximized through the development of additional arrangements that control output and limit effort to create scarcity and increase the value of the tuna resources;

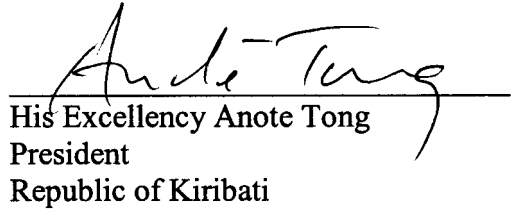
HAVE AGREED:

1. To effectively conserve and restore highly migratory stocks while maximizing economic returns and explore suitable arrangements for the Parties to control output and limit effort;
2. To promote the greater commercial utilization of the tuna resources for the benefit of the Parties, and towards this end, the "Vessel Day Scheme" as adopted for purse seine vessels is hereby confirmed;
3. To close off additional high seas areas between 10⁰N and 20⁰S and 170⁰E and 140⁰W in the Western and Central Pacific by prohibiting purse seine vessels licensed by the Parties from operating in such waters;
4. To initiate management practices that will enhance commercial and economic opportunities for the Parties through optimum utilization of the tuna fishery; and
5. To proceed with the full assessment for certification of the skipjack fishery to increase the value of the tuna resource.

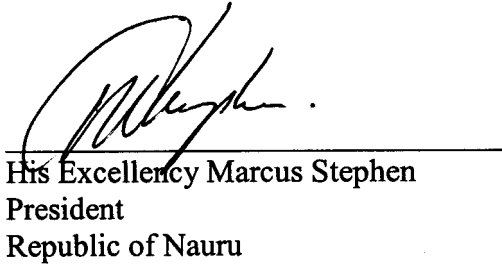
Done at Koror, Republic of Palau, this 25th day of February 2010



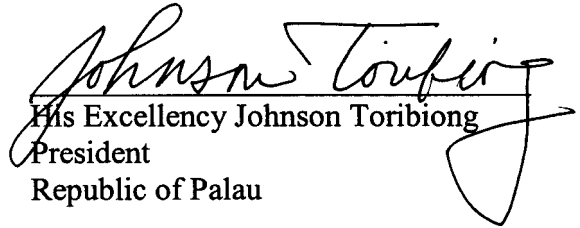
His Excellency Emanuel Mori
President
Federated States of Micronesia



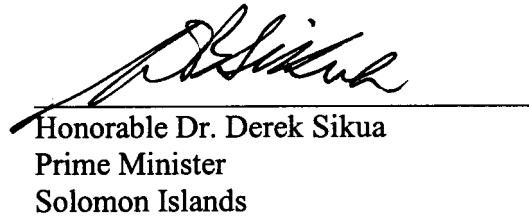
His Excellency Aote Tong
President
Republic of Kiribati



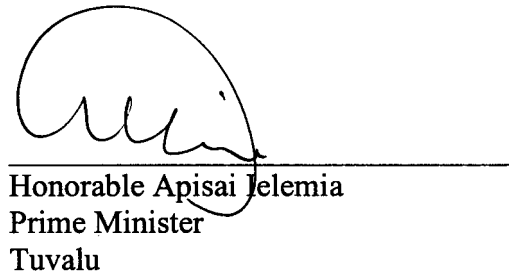
His Excellency Marcus Stephen
President
Republic of Nauru



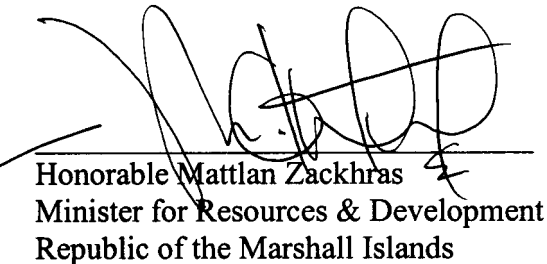
His Excellency Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau



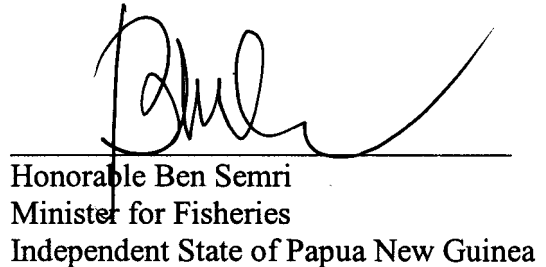
Honorable Dr. Derek Sikua
Prime Minister
Solomon Islands



Honorable Apisai Telemia
Prime Minister
Tuvalu



Honorable Mattlan Zackhras
Minister for Resources & Development
Republic of the Marshall Islands



Honorable Ben Semri
Minister for Fisheries
Independent State of Papua New Guinea