



## Resolution 26-04

*To work together to jointly secure communications resiliency for the region.*

**WHEREAS**, the last twenty-five (25) years have seen an ever-increasing demand for internet communications, and all members of the Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF) have all either connected or are in the process of connecting their respective major islands to submarine fiber optic cables; and

**WHEREAS**, these submarine cable projects have nearly always been established as collaborative ventures, including the Hantru-1 system that connected Ebeye, Kwajalein, and Majuro in the Marshall Islands, as well as Pohnpei in the FSM and the SEA-US cable that connects Yap and Palau; and

**WHEREAS**, each MIF member jurisdiction has made improvements in building and increasing access to low-cost, high-speed, high-quality terrestrial connectivity, each seeking to provide modern fiber to the home and advanced mobile networks to better serve our people; and

**WHEREAS**, MIF members are all now starting to take advantage of those communication links to improve access to new technology, which is helping them deliver better education, health, and administration outcomes to our respective peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, MIF members are now considering the overall resiliency of these networks, given that, the more that we rely on them, the more critical they become; and

**WHEREAS**, recent advances in satellite technology have helped resiliency. They also provide an exciting development for our more remote islands and a backup for critical sites that do not have sufficient capacity to back up the primary cable; and

**WHEREAS**, new cable systems have been announced, which look to offer longer-term security and resilience, as well as back-up for our current fiber optic cables such as the Google Central Pacific Connectivity (CPC) cable; and

**WHEREAS**, these proposed new cable systems provide long-term benefits to the MIF community, offering resilience and increasing people's confidence in our communication links, supporting the establishment of new industries, fostering remote employment, and helping skilled Micronesians to move back to contribute to the ongoing development of their nations and support the next generation; and



26<sup>TH</sup> MICRONESIAN ISLANDS FORUM

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**WHEREAS**, donors have traditionally supported the capital cost but not the ongoing operating costs of cables, and as a result, they substantially increase the cost faced by our small nations for connectivity; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MIF Leaders direct the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Committee, in conjunction with the MIF Secretariat and Designated Representatives, to work with Communications Departments/Ministries on how best to engage, as a region, with prospective donors, regional interests, operators, and cable companies to ensure that Micronesian jurisdictions have access to the increased resiliency that these cable systems offer us all; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these high-level discussions specifically consider alternative sources and solutions to lower the operating costs for these new backup cable systems so that our people can afford to access the communication networks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MIF Secretariat disseminate this resolution to relevant Communications Departments/Ministries and international and regional partners.



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