



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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Executive Order No. 411

Creating an Executive Committee to prepare the Republic of Palau to host the 7th “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau will have the honor to host the 7th “Our Oceans” conference in 2020, and expects a large gathering of nation states, civil society/non-government organizations, youth organizations, and members of the private sector, including international personalities, united in their commitment to finding solutions to protect and conserve the world’s oceans and seas; and

WHEREAS, the “Our Oceans” Conference was founded in 2014 by the U.S. Secretary of State H.E. John Kerry, and has been held annually since its inception, with hosts such as the United States, Chile, and the European Union. In 2018, the Government of Indonesia will host the 5th Conference, and in 2019 the Government of Norway will host the 6th; and

WHEREAS, for the first time, a Small Island Developing State has been selected to host the “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, and addresses the impacts of ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS, enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the “Our Oceans” Conference is to build partnerships and to encourage result-oriented solutions through such partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 “Our Oceans” Conference, held in Malta by the European Union, produced some 437 tangible and measurable commitments from nation states, major corporations, and international non-governmental organizations, 7.2 billion (EUR) in financial pledges, and 2.5 million square kilometers of additional Marine Protected Areas; and

WHEREAS, the “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020 is expected to be, by far, the largest and most high-profile international event ever to be held in the Republic of Palau, and hosting an event on this scale has the potential to impact the reputation of, and future possibilities for, the Republic of Palau and its citizens for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, preparation for this event will require solutions to major financial, logistical, administrative, and policy challenges, and will require that planning begin immediately to ensure success for the Republic;



NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby order the creation of an “Our Oceans” 2020 Executive Committee (“the Committee”), with the following characteristics and responsibilities:

Organization: The Committee shall include the following members:

- a) A representative from the Office of the President, as Chairman;
- b) The Minister of Finance;
- c) The Minister of State;
- d) The Minister of Natural Resources, the Environment, and Tourism;
- e) The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce;
- f) A representative of the Council of Chiefs;
- g) A representative of the Governor’s Association;
- h) A representative of the Chamber of Commerce; and
- i) The Executive Director of the Palau International Coral Reef Center;

The Committee shall be responsible for setting the policies and priorities for the planning and preparation of the “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020. The Committee shall be responsible for approving, in writing, any and all expenditures from the Our Oceans 2020 Conference Fund in the Palau National Treasury.

The Committee may organize working groups or subcommittees on specific topics, as applicable. The Committee may manage its own membership, and that of its working groups or subcommittees, as appropriate. Committee members from the Government shall involve their respective staff as appropriate.

A secretariat may be established to serve the Committee for the planning and preparation of the conference.

Term: The Committee shall convene, at the call of the Chairman, within 15 days of the signing of this order. The Committee shall remain in effect, and shall continue to hold regular meetings, until the “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020 has been concluded, high-profile conference guests have departed Palau, and funds from the Our Oceans 2020 Conference Fund have been reallocated according to law.

Meetings: Meetings shall be held regularly, upon the call of the Chairman and as appropriate by the Committee. Records of meetings, activities, and operations of the Committee shall be held at the office of the secretariat, or at another appropriate place.

Budget: The Committee shall have full responsibility for the Our Oceans 2020 Conference Fund established in the Palau National Treasury.



Responsibilities: The Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) Setting the policies, themes, and goals of the “Our Oceans” Conference in 2020;
- b) The development and preparation of all conference materials;
- c) Vendor, participant, and attendee recruitment;
- d) Conference advertisement and outreach; and
- e) All administrative and logistical preparation, including but not limited to:
 - i. Procuring, improving, or constructing conference space and related facilities;
 - ii. Arranging appropriate security for the conference, including any special security required by high-profile attendees;
 - iii. Arranging catering, communication, transportation, and related attendee services;
 - iv. Purchasing, renting, or otherwise securing necessary equipment; and
 - v. Working with Our Oceans Conference international partners, donors, and related organizations.

Authority: The Committee shall expect the full cooperation of employees of the Executive Branch of the National Government, particularly those employees in the Office of the President and in the Ministries of Justice, State, Finance, and Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism.

The Committee is authorized, through the appropriate Committee member, to call upon staff of the National Government to assist in the execution of any Committee responsibility, including but not limited to:

- a. Communicating with foreign governments;
- b. Soliciting donations;
- c. Developing materials;
- d. Making logistical arrangements; and
- e. Executing service contracts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 12th day of February 2018, in the Republic of Palau.



Tommy E. Remengesau Jr.
President, Republic of Palau