



REPUBLIC OF NAURU
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Micronesia unified in Forum withdrawal

The five Presidents of Micronesia will honour the Mekreos Communiqué and withdraw from the Pacific Islands Forum, as stated in a joint communiqué released today, 9 February.

The leaders met virtually yesterday, 8 February, and are united in their decision. They will now initiate the process to formally withdraw from the Forum, which Palau has already commenced late last week.

The new communiqué states:

- 1. The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the President of the Republic of Kiribati, the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the President of the Republic of Nauru and the President of the Republic of Palau convened a virtual meeting on 8th February, 2021.*
- 2. The Micronesian Presidents expressed unity and solidarity and restated that their position remains in accordance with the Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) Special Leaders Meeting Mekreos Communiqué, 2020. There is no value in participating in an organization that does not respect established agreements, including the gentlemen's agreement on sub-regional rotation.*
- 3. The Micronesian Presidents collectively expressed great disappointment with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General appointment process.*

Withdrawal from the Pacific Islands Forum

- 4. The Micronesian Presidents jointly agreed that all five nations will initiate the formal process of withdrawing from the Pacific Islands Forum, as set out in Article XII of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Each nation will undertake this process with respect to its own internal legal and procedural requirements and final decision rests with respective governments.*
- 5. The Micronesian Presidents look forward to strengthening the work of subregional organizations including the Micronesian Presidents' Summit.*

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea believes the Forum has lost its original intent to be a regional body and what the Forum was originally set up to do.

The Mekreos Communiqué endorsed at the special meeting of the Micronesian Presidents in Palau in October 2020 underscores the Gentleman's Agreement and intentions to withdraw from the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) should the agreement not be honoured and Micronesia denied its turn to nominate the secretary general of the premier regional institution.

The PIF was formed in 1971 and has only been led once by a Micronesian secretary general in its 50 year history. The original members were Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Tonga and Samoa.

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