



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 14 - 2024/279

## Forum Communique: Transformative and Resilient Pasifiki A vision for sustainable development in the Pacific



*President David Adeang is welcomed to the Kingdom of Tonga by Tonga Prime Minister Hon Hu'akavameiliku for the 53rd Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting*

The 53rd annual meeting of Pacific Islands Forum leaders held in Tonga, 26-30 August, delivered the Forum Communique reaffirming commitments already set in motion and new pledges, under the theme Transformative and Resilient Pasifiki: Build Better Now.

The theme reaffirms the importance of integrated resilience across all Pacific communities and sectors including the areas of climate change and environmental degradation, building economies through collective solution, building the capacity of Pacific people through innovation and technology, and working together to continue to address health and education challenges.

After a few days of plenary and bilateral meetings, leaders met on the Tongan island of Vava'u for the one day retreat resulting in the Communique [[reports-communique](#)]

Leaders reaffirmed the value of working together for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent for the interest and priorities of the region, and notably the importance of the integration of Smaller Island States priorities in the implementation of the Strategy.

Leaders also emphasised the importance of the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and the need for continued strengthened CROP collaboration to support effective delivery for members.

About 62 per cent of the region's critical health facilities are situated within 500 metres of the coastline, while health workforces face a crisis in staff shortage and uneven distribution of skilled professionals.

Therefore, leaders recognise the need to prioritise investment in climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care as well as advocate for international climate finance to support it.

Non-communicable disease (NCD) is an ongoing concern for the region and leaders commit to building stronger partnerships between government sectors and other sectors to address the issue.

Building resilient education systems and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and digital platforms to ensure continuity and equity in learning across the Pacific region are also priorities including ensuring a skilled and dedicated workforce.

The Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) is the first Pacific-led, member-owned and managed, and people-centred climate and disaster resilience financing facility.

It has received capital funds from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres as well as other countries, including Australia, Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of China, the United States, and Nauru.

**cont pg 2...**

## Forum Communique: Transformative and Resilient Pasifiki

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Under regional peace and security is the concept of the Ocean of Peace developed by the Fiji government since its consideration by leaders in 2023.

The concept aligns with the 2050 Strategy, the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security, and the 2000 Biketawa Declaration.

Noting the emphasis on peace, leaders tasked the PIFS to develop the draft concept on the Ocean of Peace Declaration for consideration by leaders at the 54th leaders meeting to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 2025.

Fisheries is a critical shared resource and a source of sustenance and livelihood for Pacific communities, leaders therefore support and reaffirm the need for inter-agency cooperation both nationally and regionally, and welcome the implementation of frameworks to support coastal fisheries, surveillance, and the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Development Fund.

Leaders welcomed the appointment of Noan David Pakop as the incoming Forum Fisheries Agency Director General and acknowledged the work of outgoing DG Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen.

Noting the Lagatoi Declaration Pacific ICT and Digital Transformation Action Plan 2024-2030, Pacific senior ICT officials are directed to develop a governance framework, taking into account the current review of regional architecture, for consideration and adoption at the 54th leaders forum in 2025.

Leaders reaffirmed their support for the Marshall Islands' candidature for the Human Rights Council for 2025-27; and considered the applications for associate membership of Guam and American Samoa.

Smaller Island States have long been recognised as being the most vulnerable members of the Forum and deserve special attention to ensure its priorities and challenges are advocated for and addressed.

In addressing the concerns about the negative socioeconomic impacts of derisking and debanking in the region particularly for members who are facing the imminent risk of losing Corresponding Banking Relationships (CBR), leaders welcomed ongoing efforts to secure the regional CBR project that will be financed by Forum Island Countries' (FIC) International Development Association (IDA) grants and credits from the World Bank.

Solomon Islands will host next year's leaders meetings; Palau will host in 2026; and Nauru in 2028 coinciding with its 60th anniversary year of independence. //



Forum leaders in Vava'u, Tonga for the 53rd PIF leaders retreat





## Leaders plenary, Nauru commits \$1m for Pacific Resilience Facility capital

Nauru pledged \$1 million over the next five years towards the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) and encouraged Pacific governments to follow suit and plant the seed today with their financial contributions.



*Deputy Minister Dageago reaffirms Nauru's commitment during the plenary session, Pacific Islands Forum Meeting*

Deputy Minister Isabella Dageago made the announcement during the plenary session of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM53) in Tonga, 28 August.

She thanked funding partners for their trust by starting the capital drive, saying the “transformative community-centred climate and disaster financing model for the PRF is ground breaking”.

“If we as Pacific governments can contribute to join to have access to other global multilateral institutions, then it is time, that we really demonstrate ownership of our PRF.

“We might be a small country, but we have the heart as big as the Blue Pacific ocean that surrounds us.”

President David Adeang says “we in the Pacific can and should do more with and for each other”

“In our unity is our strength and by this modest gesture from the humble people of the tiny island of Nauru, we reach out to our wider Pacific family to assist kickstart the Pacific Resilience Facility,” President Adeang said.

The United Kingdom also pledged the provision of technical support valued at GBP1.3 million and an additional pledge by the United States of USD\$20 million.

Endorsed by the PIF leaders, the PRF is a Pacific-owned and led initiative established to make it easier for Pacific communities at the forefront of climate change impacts to access climate financing for adaptation, disaster preparedness and smaller scale projects often overlooked by larger multilateral funds.

Leaders welcomed the commitment by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to support the capitalisation of the PRF.

Other commitments were made to the facility in 2023 by Australia for AUD\$100 million; Saudi Arabia for USD\$50 million; the People's Republic of China for USD\$500,000; and the United States for USD\$5 million.

The initial financing target of USD\$500 million is anticipated before 1 January 2026, with a longer term goal of USD\$1.5 billion in capitalisation.

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## NORI's side event at the Pacific Islands Forum

The side event on deepsea minerals by Nauru Ocean Resource Inc. (NORI), hosted by Tonga and Nauru during the recent 53rd Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting in Tonga, addressed the environmental concerns of collecting polymetallic nodules from the ocean floor.

CEO and Chairman of The Metals Company, the parent company of NORI, Gerard Barron and Environmental Program Manager Dr Michael Clarke led the presentation, at the USP Tonga campus, 28 August.

The presentation also explained the role of Pacific Island States in the responsible development of marine minerals and rationale for deep sea nodule collection.

Polymetallic nodules are high grades of four critical metals: nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese, and are found and collected from the ocean floor.

President David Adeang and Tonga's Prime Minister Hon. Hu'akavameiliku welcomed special guest the Crown Prince of Tonga Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, and other dignitaries to the event.



*The Metals Company CEO Barron led the presentation on deep sea minerals*

Nauru sponsored the first Plan of Work for exploration in a Reserved Area in 2011 and many Pacific Island and developing states have since followed suit.

Through the exploration work sponsored by Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati and the Cook Islands, Pacific Island states are helping advance our scientific understanding of the deep-sea, enabling the responsible use of marine resources while protecting the marine environment. //

## Leaders participate in dialogue session with UN Secretary-General

During the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga, leaders engaged in a dialogue session with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 27 August, where a range of issues including innovative resilience, transformative partnerships, regional initiatives, connectivity, banking, and sea level rise were discussed, as well as a side event with private sector representatives.

On behalf of President David Adeang, Minister for Nauru Fisheries Reagan Aliklik delivered remarks addressing Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBR), drawing attention to the critical and growing issue of widespread de-banking of Pacific countries by large international banks.

“While this practice is often labeled as ‘de-risking’, it is, in truth, driven by profit margins rather than actual risk. What these banks consider ‘de-risking’ is, for us, the painful reality of being de-banked—an issue that strikes at the very heart of our fragile economies.”

Minister Aliklik cautions that if left unchecked the ‘one size fits all’ approach could invite geopolitical instability and small economies cannot grow without access to essential banking services.

“We are not asking for special treatment, but rather, for fair and context-sensitive solutions that recognise our unique challenges.”

Minister Aliklik requested the UNSG office to advocate for key international financial institutions’ swift recognition of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and provide the necessary support that has been unjustly withheld due to the misrepresented economic data.

In the session with private sector representatives, board member of the Nauru Chamber of Commerce Alamanda Lauti highlighted the challenges of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in small island developing states.

Like Nauru, small island developing states have small land space and limited infrastructure development and opportunities, coupled with the environmental stress of a growing population on utilities and services.

Accessibility to online options of shopping, entertainment, services and working from home dramatically increased during and since COVID-19.

But Ms Lauti underscored the importance of focused support for MSMEs in the digital space to assist their business grow and expand internationally and through foreign direct investment avenues.

“The MSMEs in Micronesia are the backbone of our island economies but we cannot do this in isolation. We need support to remain operational, creating job opportunities and creating revenue for the government,” Ms Lauti said.

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*Minister Aliklik urged the UNSG office to advocate for the swift recognition of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index*

## GAESTROENTEROLOGY SPECIALIST

VISIT TO

# NAURU

**A gastroenterology specialist will be on island this month. If you have issues from the throat to the gallbladder, schedule an appointment at RON Hospital with Corasita Mackay at 5572901.**

## ROAD SAFETY MEASURES



### Buckle up

Wear your seat belt at all times. Wear a helmet when driving a motorcycle.



### Observe the speed limit

Speed limit: 50kph  
Driving past schools, churches and hospital: 20kph.



### Pedestrian crossing

Drivers should slow down at traffic stops and give way to pedestrians at a zebra crossing.



### Never drink and drive

Have a designated driver if you plan to drink. Don't operate a vehicle when you're intoxicated.

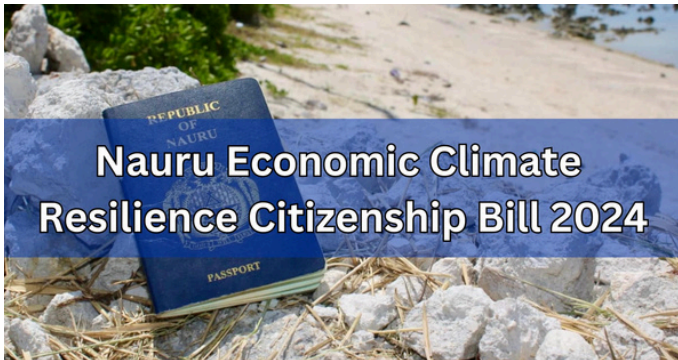


## August Parliament: Introduction of bills and amendment bills

### Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Bill 2024.

The purpose of the Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Act 2024 is to grant citizenship under a new category which is not provided for in the Naoero Citizenship Act 2017.

The fundamental requirement in clause 4 of the Act is that, any person seeking citizenship has to contribute in some form of development or benefit for Nauru. This includes in the form of social, economic and industrial climate protection.



All financial contributions are required to be paid into the Treasury Fund. The process to grant citizenship is similar to that in the Naoero Citizenship Act 2017 but will be administered by the Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Program Office and its agents.

The minister for justice grants citizenship after consulting the Cabinet for approval.

A person will not be granted citizenship if they engage in acts of terrorism, proliferation financing related activities, or convicted of an offence under the Anti-Money Laundering and Targeted Financial Sanctions Act 2023, or Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crimes Act 2004.

Other offences include sexual offences involving children, is a citizen of a high-risk designated country by the United Nations Security Council, is named or designated as a high risk individual or is a person who holds any shares or as a beneficial owner, any interest in any legal entity sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council

Similarly, citizenship can be cancelled under the same circumstances or if citizenship was obtained fraudulently. The Registrar of Citizenship, who is the Secretary for Justice, will keep a separate register for this citizenship category.

The administration of the oath may be done on Nauru, or outside of Nauru if the oath ceremony is outside of Nauru; through audio visual link; or before a notary public or similar office holder in any other jurisdiction.

It is projected that in the first year of its establishment which is from 1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, it is expected that the Republic will add a revenue of \$9 to \$10 million. //

### Nauru Meteorology Services Bill 2024

The Nauru Meteorology Services Bill 2024 repeals one of Nauru's oldest existing Acts – the Meteorology Act 1906. This Act has served Nauru for 118 years.

During this period, there has been substantial change, reforms nationally, regionally and internationally on the work and function of meteorologists.

This Act requires a revision and bringing in line with the requirements of managing the national disaster relating to the change in weather patterns and weather events such as the increase of king tides.

Overall the objective of this is to maintain public safety by protecting life and property. This bill provides for the full mechanisms relating to events arising from meteorological, terrestrial and hydrological events.

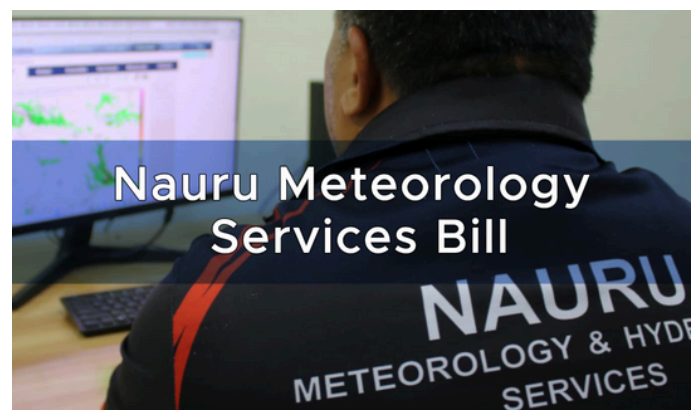
The bill is further enhanced and now given the requisite force of law to ensure compliance.

The bill itself provides for members of the public to comply with the warnings for the purposes of saving lives, public safety and protecting property. Failure to comply will result in prosecution.

The Nauru Police Force has been given the power in such periods to arrest, investigate, charge and prosecute individuals not complying with the warnings issued by the Nauru Meteorology Services (NMS).

This bill is needed as a matter of priority for Nauru to also update its weather recording systems and instruments to support the upgrade of weather reporting technology.

The bill also makes it mandatory that all recordings of meteorological events are now to be kept indefinitely. //



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## Fisheries Management Bill 2024

The Fisheries Management Bill 2024 was introduced to Parliament on 15 August. It aims to address the improved and enhanced management of fisheries and fisheries waters within Nauru's jurisdiction and beyond Nauru's fishery waters.

Nauru relies on fisheries for economic development and food security. It is crucial to safeguard fisheries by having in place an internationally, regionally and bilaterally compliant fishery management framework.



Upon certification, the Fisheries Management Act repeals the Fisheries Act 1997.

The new Act will greatly enhance and improve the framework that Nauru will have in place to exercise sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve and manage its fisheries and marine resources in accordance with the relevant rules of international law.

The Act will also ensure Nauru's fisheries resources are utilised, managed, developed, protected and conserved in such a way as to conserve and replenish the resources as a sustainable asset for future generations.

Other objectives of the Act is to achieve economic growth, improved social standards, improved nutritional standards, human resource development, increased employment and sound ecological balance.

The Act will also ensure to pursue effective strategies for managing the fisheries and marine resources of Nauru, including the registration of fishing vessels and the licensing of fishing and fishing related activities.

Continuing to provide a sustainable framework will contribute to food security, biodiversity conservation and social equity. //



## Consumer Protection Bill 2024

On the passing of the Consumer Protection Bill, the Prices Regulations Act 2008 is repealed. However, any price orders, act, appointment, decision, order, declaration, action, status or capacity that were made or existed under the repealed Act, will continue as if they were made under the Consumer Protection Bill once passed.



The Consumer Protection Act has 10 separate parts. Part 2 establishes a Consumer Protection Authority, an independent body, which comprises of three members who are appointed for three years.

Part 8 provides for the appointment of authorised officers for the enforcement of the Act.

A substantial part of the Act deals with restrictive business conduct and practices. It encompasses all the contracts, arrangements or understanding.

The phrase 'contracts, arrangements or understanding' captures any form of arrangement between suppliers.

The restrictive conduct is anti-competitive behaviour, exclusivity of supply, fixing prices, retail price maintenance, misuse of market power, black marketing, hoarding and profiteering, misleading information and insider trading.

The Act also provides for dealing with misleading conduct such as marketing goods and services using language and skills which may go beyond the reality of the goods and services. That conduct becomes misleading.

This will no longer be the case. The sales pitch must be in agreement with the reality of the product.

The Act also provides for the standards or quality of goods and services. The introductions of cheap goods and in some cases, they are also dangerous goods, should not be allowed into Nauru. The Act now empowers the minister to be able to prescribe any particular standards of quality of goods that may be brought into Nauru.

Previously, there was no provision for raising consumer complaints to any particular body. The Act now provides that all complaints are to be made to the Authority. //



## Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2024 looks to provide stability in the electoral roll by limiting the number of times a voter can transfer between constituencies to twice in four years. As a parliamentary term is for three years, the new clause restricts transfer to only one per parliamentary term.



The choice of transfer has to be made by voters very carefully. Once a voter transfers during a parliamentary term, they will not be able to transfer for the next four years.

This will bring stability in the number of voters in the constituency, and also encourages voters to remain within their residential district.

Another amendment is the timeframe for an individual to declare their intent to contest the general elections, which is now increased to 12 months from 270 days.

Anyone who intends to contest an election and holds an office of profit in the service of Nauru are required to resign 12 months before the dissolution of the full term of the Parliament. The previous requirement was 60 days.

The amendment to voter transfer which is based on Nauruan custom, customary link and affiliation, now allows the Electoral Commission to make recommendations to the Cabinet, who then considers the recommendation.

However, the power to make decisions for the transfer remains with the Electoral Commission for the purpose of maintaining independence and integrity of the electoral process.

The decision of the Electoral Commission is still capable of being appealed in the normal process which is provided in the Electoral Act since 2016.

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## Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2024

The amendments to the Crimes Act now ensures children between the ages of 10 to 14 are liable to answer for serious offences under Part 4 and Part 7, and the prosecution will not be required to prove that the child knew his or her conduct was wrong.



Part 4 is for offences causing death such as murder, attempt to murder, manslaughter and similar offence; and Part 7 for sexual offences such as rape, indecent acts and others.

Prior to the amendment being tabled in parliament on 20 August, prosecution was required to prove that the child committed the offence, but also that the child knew the conduct was wrong.

With the new provision, the usual standard of proof for criminal matters will apply, which is to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the child committed the offence, but it is no longer required to prove that the child knew their conduct was wrong.

The second amendment introduces the offence of trafficking in stolen property. Before this amendment, the law covered only the persons who are involved in stealing and those who ultimately receive the property.

Now, those who act as agents between the two, are not covered under the law. This gap is now covered by making it an offence for those involved as middle persons or agents from enabling the selling of stolen property.

Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea told parliament there is a noticeable increase in the number of house break-ins and the theft of mostly electronic equipment such as mobile phones, laptops, and television sets.

Stolen goods are believed to most likely be sold off to others. The number of stolen goods are not sold directly by those involved in the stealing but rather agents are used to sell them through normal business channels.

The bill will capture all agents or enablers of thieves who indirectly or directly support individuals to steal property. //

## Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2024

The bill proposes to completely ban the manufacture, importation, possession, selling, distribution and using or smoking of e-cigarettes and tobacco imitation products.



The ban includes prohibiting sponsorship and advertisement of anything relating to e-cigarettes and imitation tobacco products.

Imitation products look like tobacco or cigarettes but are actually lollies, chocolate or toys. These products target children.

A number of studies have shown the connection between exposure of children to tobacco imitation products and the high likelihood of them actually taking up smoking in future.

The bill aims to prevent this from happening to our children, by completely banning their presence in Nauru.

While the warnings of cigarette smoking and the effects are well established, the amendment proposes to prevent other harm that can come to our society by targeting children and young people to become addicted to products that are either the same as being addicted to tobacco and products that will lead them to trying tobacco later on life and risk addiction. //

## Customs (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Customs (Amendment) Bill makes two changes. The first is in Section 95 (1) amending the assessment of the valuation of customs duty and tariff. This allows the chief collector of claims to vary the amount of classification of duty for goods where it is not accurately stated by the importer or customs broker.



The customs tariff to be levied on those imports which are not correctly represented by importers will be charged in accordance with the Customs Tariff Act 2014.

The second amendment corrects the timeline provided under the Customs Act 2014 for record keeping requirements and the limitation period for prosecuting customs offences. In some instances, it was for seven years and others five. The amendment now stipulates a period of five years for both timelines.

This is an acceptable international timeline also for all customs related activities. Also, this is consistent with many other international instruments, conventions and treaties to which Nauru is party to. //



*The Government of the  
Republic of Nauru*

## Nauru Utilities Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Nauru Utilities Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2024 replaces the function of the Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) to provide fuel which has been a service of a private entity – Vital Fuel, for some time now.

The NUC is no longer responsible for providing fuel, which Section 10 requires, and as such, Section 10 is deleted and substituted with a new function of the Corporation.

The Corporation is now responsible for de-sludge, transport, treatment, storage and disposal of sewage material and waste water.

The provision for the removal and proper disposal of sewage material and waste water is a growing demand. //





## Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2024 proposed to tighten processes of extraditing fugitive offenders on the request of another country.



There are offenders who commit an offence in one country then leave that country to seek haven in another or to avoid being prosecuted.

The first amendment is to empower the Cabinet to make regulations for the general implementation and operation of the Act.

The extradition process only applies to a Pacific Islands Forum country which has a bilateral relationship with Nauru.

Secondly, the Cabinet is given powers to make regulations deal with the form and procedural matters by which the Act is implemented.

Thirdly, the amendment provides for a simple procedure for extraditing any person who voluntarily consents to being removed from Nauru to the requesting country.

Previously, there was a single procedure under the Act which is complex and time consuming, subsequently arriving at committal proceedings and a ruling.

Simplified, where a person agrees to be extradited the minister should be able to accede to the request, avoiding a committal proceeding.

Other amendments are to allow for the inclusion of the relevant offences and also the designated countries. Both of these are Executive acts, either by ratification of any bilateral instruments or entering into any bilateral arrangements with foreign countries for the purposes of extradition. //

## Food Safety (Amendment) Bill 2024

The amendments made to the Food Safety Act is to introduce an expeditious avenue for the punishment and deterrence of offences. The introduction of spot fines for minor breaches of the Act will ensure food inspectors will be able to promptly enforce the provisions of the Act.



Over the years, the Department of Health has not been able to enforce a number of provisions of the Act. This is owing to the long process which required an investigation, gathering of evidence, liaising with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and police, and then prosecution.

Often the breaches are not that complex but still require the long investigative process. The uncertainty of delays and outcomes of the court frustrates the implementation of the Act which is germane/relevant to the health of all Nauruans.

These small breaches could include a trader attempting to sell goods which have expired, or selling goods without providing description on the package.

This has led to the proposal to introduce the issuing of on the spot fines for minor breaches of the Act, and fixed penalties will apply. //



*The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.*

*It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).*

*The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.*



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