



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.
President

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August 17, 2021
Serial No. 21-281

Ms. Celeste Connors
Executive Director
Hawaii Local2030 Hub

-and-

Ms. Kate Brown
Executive Director
Global Island Partnership

Dear Directors Connors and Brown:

Greetings!

The Republic of Palau is pleased to join the membership ranks of the Local2030 Islands Network, a grassroots initiative comprised of many voices with a singular agenda – to support local implementation of global Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you for the invitation, which Palau has anticipated and wholeheartedly welcome.

The need for Local2030 Islands Network became evident at the July 12, 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development “Island Responses to COVID-19 – In the Context of Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development” virtual event hosted by Ireland the United Nations.

Climate resilience, a circular economy, food security, the protection of marine environments, and the pandemic are global issues, requiring participation and contribution from every member of the world community. And too often, island initiatives get swept aside as larger economies dictate perceived solutions.

Local2030 Islands Network provides a forum for island jurisdictions to elevate their voices to the global level. With their distinct geographies and history, unique cultures and cultural practices, they are better positioned to lead in innovative locally and nature-based solutions to address these challenges.

Local2030 Island Network’s four principles recognizes the need for locally “relevant and culturally appropriate solutions that inspire much needed momentum as we work” together to



protect the health and welfare of island communities. Palau looks forward to be a proactive and productive member of the Local2030 Islands Network.

In preparation for the 7th Our Ocean Conference on February 16-17, 2022, Local2030 Network could play an integral role in this important global event on ocean health. Palau welcomes your participation and an opportunity to collaborate around the important thematic areas.

For the significance I place on this collaboration, I have designated Minister Steven Victor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment as Palau's focal point for Local2030 Islands Network, representing my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.".

Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

Cc: The Honorable Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment