

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

Preamble

In exercising our inherent sovereignty,

We, the people of Palau

proclaim and reaffirm our immemorial right
to be supreme in these islands of Palau, our homeland.

We renew our dedication

to preserve and enhance our traditional heritage,

our national identity and

our respect for peace, freedom and justice for all mankind.

In establishing this Constitution

of the sovereign Republic of Palau,

We venture into the future

with full reliance on our own efforts

and the divine guidance of Almighty God.

REPUBLIC OF PALAU CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

TERRITORY

Section 1. Palau shall have jurisdiction and sovereignty over its territory which shall consist of all of the Palauan archipelago, the internal waters, the territorial waters, extending to two hundred (200) nautical miles from a straight archipelagic baseline, the seabed, subsoil, water column, insular shelves, and airspace over land and water, unless otherwise limited international treaty obligations assumed by Palau. The straight archipelagic baseline shall be drawn from the northernmost point of Ngerauangel Reef, thence east to the northernmost point of Kayangel Island and around the island to its easternmost point, south to the easternmost point of the Babeldaob barrier reef, south to the easternmost point of Helen's Reef, West from the southernmost point of Helen's Reef to the easternmost point of Tobi Island and then around the island to its westernmost point, north to the westernmost point of Fana Island, and north to the westernmost point of Ngeruangel Reef and. Then around the reef to the point of origin.

Section 2. Each state shall have exclusive ownership of all living and non-living resources, except highly migratory fish, from the land to twelve (12) nautical miles seaward from the traditional baselines; provided, however, that traditional fishing rights and practices shall not be impaired.

Section 3. The national government shall have the power to add territory and to extend jurisdiction.

Section 4. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to violate the right of innocent passage and internationally recognized freedom of the high seas

ARTICLE II

SOVEREIGNTY AND SUPREMACY

Section 1. This Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

Section 2. Any law, act of government, or agreement to which a government of Palau is a party, shall not conflict with this Constitution and shall be invalid to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. Major governmental powers including but not limited to defense, security, or foreign affairs may be delegated by treaty, compact, or other agreement between the sovereign Republic of Palau and another sovereign nation or international organization, provided such treaty, compact or agreement shall be approved by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the Olbiil Era Kelulau and by a majority of the votes cast in a nationwide referendum conducted for such purpose, provided that any such agreement which authorizes use testing, storage or disposal of nuclear, toxic chemical, gas or biological weapons intended for use in warfare shall require approval of not less than three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast in such referendum.