

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
255-35 (LS) As amended on the Floor	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje Telena Cruz Nelson William M. Castro	Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).	11/14/19 10:16 a.m.		2/4/20	11/14/19	To Author.	12/12/19 4:00 p.m.	1/17/20 6:02 p.m.	



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I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

Lillian Kosaka

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'håga
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)**, “**Relative to supporting Guam’s application for membership in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)**,” which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on February 4, 2020.

Sincerely,

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)



I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Joe S. San Agustin
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD
Amanda L. Shelton
Jose “Pedo” Terlaje
Telena Cruz Nelson
William M. Castro
Régine Biscoe Lee
James C. Moylan
Louise B. Muña
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

**Relative to supporting Guam’s application for membership
in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization
(UNPO).**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an
4 international membership-based organization that was established to empower the
5 voices of unrepresented and marginalized peoples worldwide and to protect their
6 fundamental human rights; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO was conceived in the late 1980s by exiled leaders of
2 people living under communist oppression; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO was formally founded in February 1991 at the Peace
4 Palace in The Hague by representatives of movements belonging to Australian
5 Aborigines, Armenia, Crimean Tatars, Cordillera, East Turkestan, Estonia, Georgia,
6 the Greek Minority in Albania, Kurdistan, Latvia, Palau, Tibet, Taiwan, Tatarstan, and
7 West Papua. They were joined just a few months later by representatives from
8 Abkhazia, Aceh, Assyria, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, South Moluccas, Bougainville,
9 Chechnya, Kosova, Zanzibar, and the Mairi and Iraqi Turkmen people; and

10 **WHEREAS**, since then, the UNPO's membership has grown steadily from its
11 original founders, with membership from more than forty-five (45) peoples worldwide,
12 comprising over three hundred million (300,000,000) people lacking true representation
13 in domestic or international forums; and

14 **WHEREAS**, since its founding, many UNPO members have achieved their
15 movement's goals and found a formal seat for their people at the national or
16 international level; and they have thus left the organization as their peoples are no longer
17 considered to be "unrepresented"—including the Republic of Palau; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO serves as a forum and advocacy group for groups that
19 have been disenfranchised; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO membership, comprised of indigenous communities,
21 occupied territories, unrecognized states, and minorities, came together to protect the
22 equal rights of all peoples to self-determination, adhere to internationally-accepted
23 human rights standards, adhere to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejection
24 of intolerance, promote non-violence and the rejection of terrorism and violence as
25 instruments of policy, as well as the protection of the natural environment; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States with no
27 vote in the U.S. Congress, and her people have systematically been denied the right to

1 vote for their own U.S. President, and have more fundamentally been denied the right
2 to self-determination, full self-government, and the right to determine the political
3 future of their choice; and

4 **WHEREAS**, since the beginning of their relationship with the United States, the
5 people of Guam have been denied the right to self-determination, despite partial
6 measures meant to provide for limited local governance; and the dream of a fully self-
7 governing island has remained distantly on the horizon; and

8 **WHEREAS**, through its Legislature and based on the policies it has put forth,
9 Guam has upheld the principles of the UNPO covenant, which includes the equal rights
10 of all peoples to self-determination, adherence to internationally-accepted human rights
11 standards, adherence to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejection of
12 intolerance, promoting non-violence and the rejection of terrorism and violence as
13 instruments of policy, as well as the protection of the natural environment; and

14 **WHEREAS**, for decades, the people of Guam have appealed to both the United
15 States federal government and the United Nations to intervene and protect the
16 fundamental rights of the people of Guam—and to this day there has been no reprieve;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, Guam is not the only place where the United States asserts its
19 dominance over a locality and prohibits their participation in American democratic
20 institutions, while also not demonstrating a full commitment or endorsement to the
21 peoples of these territories with the right to self-determination and the opportunity to
22 fully self-govern; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Washington, D.C. is also a member of the UNPO who is actively
24 fighting for equal representation in the United States Congress, and other concerns tied
25 to achieving the political status preference for its residents; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Guam and her people have yet to formally express an opinion,
27 through a plebiscite or other means, on their preferred political status; and, the UNPO

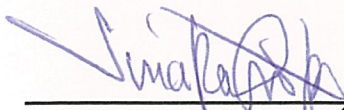
1 can assist Guam in gaining representation of its interests within the United States and
2 across the world, and can also aid in the gaining of new allies in their pursuit of true
3 self-government, which can take the form of statehood, free association, or
4 independence; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Guam can additionally benefit from its membership in the UNPO
6 by having a seat on the international stage and access to global bodies that can assist in
7 defense of Guam's rights; now therefore, be it

8 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
9 recognize the struggles of the people of Guam, and urges the Speaker, the Vice Speaker,
10 and the Legislative Secretary of the Guam Legislature, and the Legislative Chairpersons
11 of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Self-
12 Determination to support and endorse Guam's membership in the Unrepresented
13 Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO); and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
15 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
16 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020.



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary