



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) – [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

REFERENCE: MK/follow-up/Micronesia/75

11 March 2020

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the combined initial to third periodic reports of the Federated States of Micronesia, at the Committee's sixty-sixth session, held in February 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/FSM/CO/1-3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 56 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Federated States of Micronesia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in 9, 25 (a), 27 (b) and 37 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with an eight-month delay in November 2019 (CEDAW/C/FSM/CO/1-3/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-fifth session, held in February 2020 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 9** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“expedite without delay the review of all its reservations to the Convention, with a view to withdrawing them or narrowing their scope within an established time frame, in consultation with women's civil society groups. In this context, it recommends that the State party take into consideration the experiences of other Pacific island States that have withdrawn reservations to the Convention; and to seek and utilize technical support from development partners, as appropriate, in addressing national and federal constraints to the full adoption and implementation of the Convention without reservations”**:

The Committee notes that the State party has not addressed the issue of its reservations to the Convention due to constraint of time and resources. The Committee considers that the State party did not take steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Her Excellency  
Mrs. Jane J. Chigiya  
Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia  
to the United Nations  
300 East 42nd Street, Suite 1600  
New York, NY 10017

Email: [fsmun@fsmgov.org](mailto:fsmun@fsmgov.org)



The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 9** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

**1. Expedite without delay the review of all its reservations to the Convention, with a view to withdrawing them or narrowing their scope within an established time frame, in consultation with women's civil society groups. In this context, it recommends that the State party take into consideration the experiences of other Pacific island States that have withdrawn reservations to the Convention;**

**2. Seek and utilize technical support from development partners, as appropriate, in addressing national and federal constraints to the full adoption and implementation of the Convention without reservations.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 25 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**carry out educational and awareness-raising campaigns targeting women and men, including traditional and religious leaders, on women's rights and gender equality to effectively promote the substantive equality of women and overcome patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society**”:

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on series of awareness-raising campaigns on human rights, gender equality and the Convention, targeting at men and women, including church leaders, traditional leaders and the Congress. Nevertheless, it regrets the absence of information on whether these meetings and workshops address patriarchal attitude and deep-rooted discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society to eliminate them. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 25 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Continue efforts to conduct educational and awareness-raising campaigns on women's rights and gender equality and ensure these efforts effectively contribute to overcome patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society.**

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 27 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**put in place a comprehensive national policy to eliminate gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, with adequate resources for its implementation**”:

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party that four states of the State party have worked together with UNFPA and other partners to develop a draft policy on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), which is in review and endorsement phase. It also commends the development of action plans of individual states and establishment of taskforces to coordinate and monitor the implementation of action plans. The Committee considers that the State party took substantial steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been substantially implemented**.



The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 27 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Adopt the draft policy on Elimination of Violence Against Women and ensure that the policy includes domestic violence and are provided with adequate resources, including financial resources, for its implementation.**

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 37 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**amend its legislation to legalize abortion not only in cases in which the life of the pregnant woman is threatened, but also in cases of threats to her health, pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, and cases of severe fetal impairment, and to decriminalize abortion in all cases**”:

The Committee takes note of the information that the State party has not taken steps to amend its legislation regarding abortion due to constraint of time and resources. The Committee considers that the State party did not take steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 37 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

**Amend its legislation to legalize abortion not only in cases in which the life of the pregnant woman is threatened, but also in cases of threats to her health, pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, and cases of severe fetal impairment, and to decriminalize abortion in all cases.**

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lia Nadaraia  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women