

**Statement by**

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates

It is a great pleasure for me to address this 47th Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on behalf of the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). We associate ourselves with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished Minister of the Cook Islands on behalf of the Pacific Island states. The longer version can be accessible on the paper smart portal.

The theme of this year's Commission on Population and Development is timely and of critical importance. It enables us, as Member States, to discuss the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) over the last 20 years.

We take note, Mr. Chair, of UN General Assembly Resolution 65/234 on the follow up of implementation on the ICPD Programme of Action which requested UNFPA and other UN partners to conduct a comprehensive review of progress and gaps. In addition, the review was to use available evidence to identify new challenges related to population and development in the context of related global processes, including the post 2015 development agenda.

The Federated States of Micronesia congratulates UNFPA and other organizations within the UN system for the comprehensive analysis of the contributions provided by Member States to the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Review Report. The actions identified in the report provide us with a clear road map for addressing the gaps in the ICPD Programme of Action in the future and must be a key consideration in the Post 2015 development agenda.

Mr Chair,

While celebrating the many successes of ICPD over the past 20 years, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the compelling evidence that points to the considerable challenges that remain. The health and well being of our population must be central to our discussions.



The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a federal system of government with four geographically separate states, comprised of 607 islands. In 2010, forty seven percent of our population is aged 19 years or younger. In 1973, the pregnancy rate amongst girls aged 15-19 years was 90 per 1,000. By 2010, this rate had more than halved to 43 per 1000. While still higher than is desirable, FSM is proud of this achievement which has come about through the provision of comprehensive sexuality education and services that are both accessible and acceptable to adolescents and young people. Due to this experience, we recognize the need to protect the rights of adolescents and young people to appropriate and comprehensive sexuality education and health services for their sexual and reproductive well-being, and life-long health.

In Micronesia, Mr. Chair, we have not recorded a maternal death since 2008. We acknowledge, however, that there could be unrecorded deaths occurring in our outer islands and we are therefore strengthening pre-natal and basic obstetric care services, as well as referral systems. We acknowledge the need to focus on the most vulnerable in our societies in order to preserve their dignity and human rights.

While we have made progress against the MDGs, particularly in health and education, gender equality and women's empowerment are key priorities for the current government. It is clear that our women are a vital and an integral fabric of our Micronesian society. Women have participated at the highest level in decision making in our Government from the Executive Branch to our Judiciary, where there is a higher percentage of women Secretaries (Ministers) in the Executive Cabinet holding key positions, and a woman serving as an Associate Justice at our National Supreme Court. In the economic sector, our women hold key positions of that of Presidents of the National Development Bank and the national commercial banks. In politics, there are women in the state legislatures. But, we want to see women in our national congress. There is a recognition to address this inequality by allocating reserved seats for women in our national Congress. We also have a framework in place to mainstream gender and women's rights across the whole of government and this is a goal within the national development framework. Legislation, policies and measures to prevent gender based violence are a priority in Micronesia - a draft national domestic violence policy has been introduced into Congress and, in Pohnpei, through an administrative order, the Justice Department has adopted a 'no drop' policy, to ensure that victims and survivors of gender based violence are assured that perpetrators are punished. The State of Kosrae passed the Family Safety and Protection Act in March of 2014. Micronesia, with support from UNFPA is currently doing a Nationwide survey on Family Health and Safety to have a better understanding of the current situation and move forward with policies to further improve access to family health and safety services.

My government has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and national consultation is currently ongoing to facilitate the ratification of the Treaty.



Mr Chair,

Out-migration to the United States and its territories is the primary cause of the negative population growth in our country. The adverse impact of climate change is also a contributing factor. The determinants of the differential rates of out-migration at the state level are complex and include economic performance. The collection and analysis of population data and the integration of population dynamics into development planning are therefore crucial at national, regional and international levels.

Mr. Chair,

It is clear that we have made progress from 20 years ago, but these achievements would be undone and render meaningless to those of us from the small island developing states if climate change and sea-level rise which pose direct threats to the survivability of our island countries and people continue to run their course without serious actions taken by the international community. With rising sea level, our water aquifers are contaminated with salt water, our subsistence farming is already made more difficult to grow crops and our public health is undermined. And most worrisome is that whole island population and cultures will simply disappear if the prevailing business as usual continues. The dignity and human rights of our children and their children - of paramount concern to this Commission on Population and Development (CPD) would have been just empty rhetoric if we do not act now.

Mr. Chair,

FSM is committed to equality and non discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind.

The Asia Pacific regional review on the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 contains many important finding and recommendations. In September 2013, the 6th Asian and Pacific Population Conference, the majority of countries from the Asia Pacific region adopted a regional plan of action in the form of a Ministerial Declaration. We support the agenda for the next decade that will support nationally driven programs.

We look forward to working with other Member States to agree to a CPD outcome which recognizes the regional review outcomes and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014 review. We



also wish to ensure a linkage between the outcomes of the review and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you.

