**Universal Periodical Review of the Federated States of Micronesia**

**2 November 2015**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia to its second UPR. We thank Micronesia for their work in preparing the report and also for the additional information provided in the opening speech.

Estonia notes with appreciation that since the last UPR session, Micronesia has taken some steps to implement previous recommendations.

We would like to commend Micronesia for meeting its obligations through the incorporation of human rights principles into national policies. Estonia welcomes the special focus of Micronesia on gender and youth issues, and the willingness to develop the FSM National Gender Policy. In this light, we would like to welcome the first research effort to gather comprehensive information on violence against women and encourage Micronesia to translate the collected data and findings into national legislation, to better protect women and children from violence, including gender based violence, and also raise their awareness of their rights. The establishment of the Gender Office at the National Government level with gender focal points in Pohnpei and Yap are also very helpful. We commend Micronesia for their reporting efforts as a small country, notably for the latest CEDAW report submitted in June 2015.

Further, Estonia would like to commend the Government of Micronesia for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OP-CRC-SC). We hope for a swift ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CRC-AC) and the Convection on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

While fully acknowledging the challenges the Government of Micronesia is facing in moving the human rights agenda forward, Estonia encourages the country to continue its efforts to become party to all the main international human rights instruments and cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including by issuing a standing invitation.

Estonia would like to make the following **recommendations** to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia:

- to align its national legislation with the the Rome Statute of the **ICC** (International Criminal Court), to ratify the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (**APIC**);

- to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**) and the two optional protocols (**ICCPR-OP1, ICCPR-OP2**);

- to ratify the **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (CAT) and the optional protocol (**OP-CAT**) and to prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home environment.

We would like to wish the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia a successful review meeting.

Thank you.