

**Universal Periodic Review 23rd Session**

**2nd of November 2015, Geneva.**

**Statement on behalf of Fiji for the review of the Federated States of Micronesia, delivered by Namita Khatri, Deputy Permanent Representative.**

Thank you Mr. /Ms. (Vice-) President,

Fiji notes the important steps taken by the Federated States of Micronesia since the last UPR cycle, to further substantive gender equality. In particular Fiji notes that the FSM is working towards the adoption of a National Gender Policy, and has conducted in 2014 a Family Health and Safety Study to consider the prevalence of gender based violence in the country. Fiji has had similar experiences as the Federated States of Micronesia in relation to the intersection between custom, customary attitudes and gender inequality. Our experience has been to mainstream gender and to ensure that legislation removes barriers to reporting gender based violence. We recognise that domestic violence and the abuse of children within the family remain largely unreported as a result of social, cultural and institutional barriers. To that end Fiji recommends;

1. That the reservations of the FSM to CEDAW be lifted;
2. That the proposed National Gender Policy be prioritised and that it should incorporate gender mainstreaming policies in all aspects of FSM domestic law and policy;
3. That the FSM consider passing a Domestic Violence law which makes reporting of violence within the family and especially against women and children mandatory, and which creates a regime of family violence restraining orders designed to protect the family against further violence.

Thank you Mr. /Ms. (Vice-) President.