



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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**German questions and recommendations to the  
Federation of Micronesia States**

**German National Statement**

Mr President,

Germany warmly welcomes the delegation of the Federation of Micronesia and thanks for the national report provided to the Working Group.

We commend the systematic and inter-institutional engagement of the Federation of Micronesia in the UPR process, involving human rights stakeholders from both – governmental as well as non-governmental sides.

Since the last UPR report, progress has been made in a number of important fields, such as ratification of the Optional Protocols to the CRC, protection of victims of human trafficking and in the fields of disabilities.

We especially appreciate the Government's awareness as to the fact that violence against women is one of the most serious human rights violations and public health issues worldwide as well as its commitment to combat domestic and sexual violence at the national as well as States' level.

Having studied the current report, Germany wishes to offer the following recommendations:

1. We reiterate our recommendation from the previous UPR cycle to pursue and complete accession to core human rights covenants, including in particular the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD and CAT.
2. We recommend, also as a follow-up to recommendations Micronesia accepted in the course of the first UPR cycle, putting forward a concrete plan with regard to the withdrawal of all reservations made to the CEDAW convention.
3. We recommend introducing comprehensive legislation criminalizing violence against women, including marital rape.

Thank you, Mr President.

## Questions in advance:

1. What are the Government's plans as to signing core human rights covenants such as ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD and CAT?
2. How does the Government assess support provided by state and national institutions for completion of the ratification process for the CRPD convention?
3. We noted, that in responding to the 2010 report of the UPR Working Group, the Federated States of Micronesia accepted the recommendations calling for a withdrawal of the reservations to CEDAW, namely with regard to equal remuneration and recognition of employment, maternity leave and comparable social benefits, removal of discriminatory legislation, regulations, customs and practices as well as modification of cultural and social patterns of conduct of men and women, elimination of discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations. What are the Government's plans to implement these recommendations?
4. We would like to ask whether the Government is considering temporary measures to address the critical underrepresentation of women in Parliament and Congress, given the fact that the bill reserving seats for women did not receive the required support for enactment in 2012.
5. To the Government's knowledge, to what extent is corporal punishment still inflicted on children by parts of the population? Can the Government give examples of effective existing institutional safeguards and support structures for victims of corporal punishment? Are there any plans to criminalize acts of corporal punishment of children by law, as required under the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
6. Could the Government please elaborate on the burden of proof with regard to sexual offences? Are there any plans to modify existing regulations to make it easier for victims to stand their case before court (e.g. need for testimony of witnesses and proof of resistance)?