



**Human Rights Council**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**  
**Federated States of Micronesia**  
**Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich**  
**2 November 2015**

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia to the Human Rights Council, and recognises the commitments undertaken by small island developing states in engaging on these processes.

While there have been encouraging developments in the Federated States of Micronesia, such as the accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2011, we remain concerned at the rate of domestic violence in the Federated States of Micronesia and believe that increased efforts to counter this are required. We note that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has urged the Federated States of Micronesia to introduce federal legislation criminalizing violence against women.

In that light, New Zealand **recommends** that the Federated States of Micronesia develop a national action plan to combat domestic violence against women and children.

Following its first Universal Periodic Review in 2010, the Federated States of Micronesia accepted the recommendation to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, but this has not yet taken place. New Zealand **recommends** that the Federated States of Micronesia ratifies these two core international human rights treaties.

New Zealand commends the Federated States of Micronesia's signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, and **recommends** the ratification of this international agreement and its incorporation into national law.

Thank you Mr President.