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| Description: Description: Description: C:\Users\amessent\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\MN1HAVZZ\Brand NZ-no agency High Res.jpg | **Human Rights Council**  **37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**  **The Federated States of Micronesia**  **Delivered by Permanent Representative Lucy Duncan**  **18 January 2021** |

President,

New Zealand welcomes this opportunity for dialogue with the Federated States of Micronesia on its human rights record.

New Zealand **recognises** the work FSM has done to improve its ability to protect human rights, including a scoping study on the feasibility of establishing an independent National Human Rights Institution. We **recommend** that FSM continues its efforts and works to establish an independent NHRI, seeking assistance from partners and international organisations as required.

New Zealand further **recommends** that FSM ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

New Zealand **commends** FSM for the efforts it has made to eliminate gender-based violence, but **notes with concern** the continued high-rate of offences. We **recommend** that FSM increase efforts to prosecute perpetrators of violence against women, especially cases of domestic violence. We **further recommend** that FSM increase support for victims of violence against women, including through the establishment of governmental facilities to provide shelter for women and children in abusive situations.

New Zealand **acknowledges** the steps FSM has taken to provide greater support for the rights of people with disabilities, notably ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We **recommend** that FSM continue to develop and implement policies and legislation to fully realise the aims of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

New Zealand **commends** FSM for its efforts to eliminate human trafficking. We **recommend** that FSM increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers, and improve procedures to identify and support victims of human trafficking.

Thank you President.