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Federated States of Micronesia

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APF	Asia Pacific Forum
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CKAU	Chuuk Disability Group, and the Chuuk Youth Council
COFA	Compact of Free Association
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CWC	Chuuk Kish Able United the Chuuk Women's Council
CYC	Chuuk Youth Council
DECEM	Department of Emergency, Climate Change Emergency Management
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DHSA	Department of Health and Social Affairs, Division of Social Affairs
DR&D	Department of Resources & Development
FSHD	Framework for Sustainable Health Development
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FSMSSA	FSM Social Security Administration
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEDSI	Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IDP	Infrastructure Development Plan
JFNHR&SDGTF	Joint FSM National Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goal Taskforce
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSAP	Joint Strategic Action Plans
MCF	Maternal and Child Health
MIF	Micronesian Islands Forum
MGEF	Micronesia Gender Equality Framework
NAP	National Action Plan
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NSPA	National Strategic Plan of Action
NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
NMRIF	National Mechanisms for Reporting, Implementation, and Follow-up
PICS	Pacific Island Countries
PIHOA	Pacific Island Health Officers Association
SDP	Strategic Development Plan

SPC	Pacific Community
SPPA	Social Protection Program Assistant
SR	Special Rapporteur
UNCHR	United National High Commissioner for Refugees
UN	United Nations
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPRWG	Universal Periodic Review Working Group
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

I. Introduction

1. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is pleased to present its Fourth National Report to the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (UPRWG) of the Human Rights Council at its Session in January-February 2026.
2. Following the completion of the third UPR cycle in 2021, the FSM Government, through its relevant Departments, remains actively committed to implementing the UPR recommendations and advancing human rights conditions nationwide, despite challenges posed by limited technical and financial resources. Of the 154 recommendations received, the Government accepted 141. It continues to work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, faith-based groups, and traditional leaders – to ensure the effective realization of these commitments.
3. The UPR process also provides a valuable opportunity for the FSM Government to evaluate challenges and identify strategies to address them. This report highlights the progress made during the previous UPR cycle while candidly acknowledging the challenges encountered in implementing the recommendations. The Government remains committed to collaborating with our development and technical partners – including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Pacific Community (SPC), UN entities, and the World Health Organization (WHO) – to ensure the comprehensive and effective fulfilment of the UPR recommendations.

II. Methodology and consultation process

A. Methodology for preparing the report

4. The Federated States of Micronesia Universal Periodic Report was compiled following consultations with the State Government and all the National Government Departments, including all the relevant stakeholders. The FSM Joint National Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals Task Force (JNHR&SDG) chairs the meetings and leads the drafting of the report. It serves as the country's National Mechanism for Reporting, Implementation, and Follow-Up (NMIRF).
5. The national consultation process also encompasses meetings with civil society groups, including women's organizations, disability organizations, and faith-based groups, to discuss their contributions and obtain feedback on the report. Additionally, the JNHR&SDG Taskforce has sought support from OHCHR and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office-Micronesia (UNRCO) to facilitate these consultations with civil society organizations.
6. The JNHR&SDG Taskforce utilized the FSM Human Rights Monitoring tools alongside the UPR Implementation Matrix, which assigned relevant recommendations and thematic areas to the respective Departments for the provision of data and information. The JNHR&SDG Taskforce also supported the drafting and verification of the report.
7. The JFSMNHR&SDG Taskforce also organized separate meetings with the lead departments to discuss their recommendations and provide feedback on the FSM report. This multi-sectoral approach ensures a comprehensive review of the thematic recommendations, covering a broad spectrum of human rights issues presented by UN member states. Consultations are a vital component of the methodology, fostering dialogue among government entities, civil society groups, and community representatives to gather diverse perspectives and substantive insights. These inclusive consultations facilitate the consolidation of accurate, current, and nuanced information aligned with FSM's international human rights obligations under the United Nations framework.

B. National follow-up process for implementation and reporting

8. The JNHR&SDG Taskforce took the lead in preparing the report, with the Department of Foreign Affairs chairing the UPR working group. The Task Force collectively assigned relevant Departments the responsibility for implementing the recommendations and providing updates on progress. Utilizing the Human Rights Excel tracking tool, the Task Force has been able to effectively monitor the status of these recommendations. Plans are underway to further develop comprehensive tracking and monitoring mechanisms to ensure continual oversight of the implementation process.

III. Follow-up and implementation of recommendations and commitments undertaken in the previous review

A. Human rights frameworks

1. National and regional frameworks

9. The human rights legal framework in the FSM is primarily grounded in the FSM Constitution, which enshrines protection against discrimination based on race, gender, religion, and other statuses. It guarantees fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion. The Constitution notably includes provisions for equal protection under the law, due process rights, and prohibitions against slavery, involuntary servitude, and cruel or unusual punishment. As a member of the United Nations, FSM also adheres to key international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These frameworks collectively safeguard human rights and reflect FSM's commitment to its international obligations.

10. In 2023, the FSM Government adopted nine constitutional amendments proposed by the 4th FSM Constitutional Convention. These amendments address dual citizenship; revenue sharing from fishing fees; the presidential veto override; net revenue sharing from mineral and non-living resources from the seabed and subsoil beyond 12 miles; eligibility requirements to run for Congress; jurisdiction over land cases; the establishment of a new office of an independent prosecutor; and the right to a healthy environment. All amendments were ratified by President Simina on October 4, 2023, reflecting a significant step in strengthening the FSM Constitution in response to contemporary governance and human rights considerations.

11. The FSM Congress passed Public Law 22-61 in 2021, which entitles all national government female employees to eight consecutive weeks of paid maternity leave, regardless of their employment status. In 2022, the Kosrae State Legislature enacted State Law No. 12-286, granting up to 90 days of paid maternity leave to all female state government employees, irrespective of their employment status. Similarly, in 2022, the Pohnpei State Legislature passed Law No. 10L-85-22, providing public employees with three months of maternity leave and two weeks of paternity leave. These legislative measures collectively reflect the commitment of the FSM and its states to support working parents and promote gender equality in the workplace.

Responding to recommendation 86.152 – Persons with disabilities

12. On December 3, 2021, the Kosrae State Legislature passed the Kosrae Disability Act to promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. Following this, the Chuuk State Legislature enacted the Chuuk Disability Act, which was signed into law by the Governor of Chuuk State on February 7, 2022. Both laws focus on protecting and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, acknowledging the challenges they face. On March 20, 2023, the Chuuk State Governor amended Administrative Directive No. 2022 to include Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), such as youth, faith, and women's groups, as well as disability advocacy groups including the Chuuk Disability Group, Chuuk Kish Able United (CKAU),

the Chuuk Women's Council (CWC), and the Chuuk Youth Council (CYC). This directive aims to support the effective implementation of the Chuuk Disability Act and foster collaboration with diverse stakeholders to promote disability rights and inclusion.

Responding to recommendation 86.99 – Right to development

13. The FSM Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) 2025–2034 is a ten-year strategic roadmap for capital development, endorsed by the FSM Congress in January 2025. The plan prioritizes infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity, resilience, and sustained economic growth over the next decade, while addressing the unique challenges faced by the country, including those posed by climate change. Through a coordinated approach, the IDP seeks to guide government and development partner investments to ensure that public infrastructure meets both current and future demands across sectors such as transportation, energy, water and sanitation, and public facilities.

14. Infrastructure such as electricity, roads, public facilities, and water systems underpins fundamental rights related to health, education, livelihood, water, and energy. The IDP ensures that these essential services are accessible to all citizens, thereby supporting equitable social and economic development throughout the FSM. Through strategic investments and coordinated planning, the IDP aims to strengthen the country's infrastructure resilience and improve the quality of life for all communities.

15. The FSM Government launched the National Energy Policy 2024-2050 in May 2025, marking a significant step toward a sustainable and inclusive energy future. The policy places strong emphasis on developing domestic solar and wind resources to reduce the country's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels. Its key guiding principles include Access, Affordability, Capacity, Security, Sustainability, Efficiency, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Innovation, and Environmental Responsibility. Notably, the policy highlights the importance of inclusivity by empowering diverse communities, including women and men, faith-based organizations, NGOs, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, ensuring that the energy transition benefits all sectors of society.

16. The FSM Government has developed and finalized the IDP, which highlights the government's priorities for the next 20 years. Refer to para 13.

*Recommendations relating to national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up
(Recommendations 86.51, 86.53)*

17. JFNHR&SDG Taskforce was established by Presidential Executive Order on February 14, 2022. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) were developed to guide the work of JFNHR&SDG Taskforce.

*Recommendations relating to National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)
(Recommendations 86.55–86.67)*

18. The FSM Government has not yet established a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). However, three NHRI scoping visits have been conducted to explore this possibility. The first visit, in 2017, involved consultations with national and state government officials as well as civil society organizations in Pohnpei. The second visit, in 2019, carried out similar consultations across Kosrae, Yap, and Chuuk. The resulting scoping report reflected broad consensus on the establishment of an NHRI tailored to FSM's national context, provided certain conditions were met. A third, more recent scoping visit aimed at validating these findings and recommendations. These efforts were supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), with the validation process completed in 2023. This demonstrates the Government's careful and inclusive approach toward creating an NHRI that is relevant and effective within FSM's unique framework.

19. The FSM Government is supportive of the recommendation to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in the FSM, provided that the conditions outlined in the scoping report are met. A key condition is that the NHRI will have a Human Rights Commissioner based in each State to ensure relevance and effectiveness across the nation. The establishment of an NHRI is also endorsed within the FSM Health Framework for Sustainable Development 2024-2034, where it falls under the priority area of Social and

Environmental Determinants of Health. This reflects the FSM Government's commitment to strengthening human rights mechanisms in alignment with national development goals.

Recommendation relating to the National Human Rights Action Plan (or specific areas) Implementation Plan (Recommendation 86.54)

20. The FSM Government fully supports this recommendation and will continue to work with the JFNHR&SDG Taskforce to develop the Human Rights Actions Plan.

21. In 2025, the Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF), of which FSM is a member, formally endorsed the Micronesia Gender Equality Framework (MGEF). This endorsement underscores the Government's strong commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusivity across the region. The thematic focus of the Framework aligns closely with international human rights and gender equality standards, emphasizing the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, and the principle of non-discrimination. Furthermore, FSM participates actively in the MIF Gender Equality Committee, which coordinates ongoing efforts among member states to implement this important sub-regional framework within their respective countries. This collective approach fosters regional collaboration and reinforces shared commitments to gender equality.

2. International frameworks

Responding to recommendations 86.1-86.10; 86.33 – Ratification of and accession to international instruments

22. The FSM Government is considerably realizing the ratification of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Congressional Resolution No 24-39 – A Resolution ratifying the Convention Against Torture was introduced on August 11, 2025. The resolution is currently under consideration and awaits formal endorsement by Congress.

23. There are ongoing discussions and dialogues within the JHR&SDG Taskforce and with relevant partners regarding the ratification of additional core international human rights treaties. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. These efforts reflect the Government's continued commitment to strengthening the legal framework for human rights protection in FSM. FSM has initiated the process of reviewing other pending human rights conventions and treaties FSM has not ratified.

Recommendation relating to cooperation with human rights mechanisms and request for technical assistance (Recommendation 86.45)

24. The FSM Government will continue to work with the Human Rights Mechanism and will request technical assistance from Development and technical partners in ensuring that the recommendations are fully implemented.

Recommendation relating to cooperation and follow-up with treaty bodies (Recommendation 86.36)

25. On April 28th, 2022, the FSM Government submitted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability Initial report.

26. The FSM Government submitted and presented its Second Voluntary National Review (VNR), titled "Navigating Our Future: Balancing Traditional Values and Sustainable Development," in July 2025 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. This presentation reaffirmed FSM's national commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the country's progress, challenges, and strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while integrating traditional values and sustainable development priorities. (Refer to annex 1).

Recommendations relating to cooperation and follow up with special procedures (Recommendations 86.46–86.50)

27. The Special Rapporteur (SR) in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki, visited the FSM from June 2–13, 2025. This visit reaffirmed the significance of FSM's ongoing commitment to promoting and protecting human rights through inclusive governance, enhanced institutional capacity, and strategic partnerships. It emphasized FSM's responsibility to uphold international human rights standards while integrating culturally grounded approaches that resonate with the nation's values and aspirations. Moreover, the engagement strengthened FSM's determination to advance gender equality, youth empowerment, and equitable access to essential services, ensuring that human rights remain a core priority within its development agenda and diplomatic efforts.

B. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination

*Recommendations relating to racial discrimination. (recommendation 86.69),
Recommendations relating to violence against women (Recommendations 86.121–86.142)*

28. Article IV, Section 4 of the FSM Constitution serves as the fundamental legal safeguard against racial discrimination. It affirms that equal protection under the law shall not be denied or impaired on the basis of race, among other characteristics. This provision guarantees equality before the law and prohibits any denial or impairment of protection based on race, sex, ancestry, national origin, language, or social status. Consequently, the government must demonstrate a compelling interest to justify any action that classifies individuals based on race, ensuring that persons in similar circumstances are treated equally regardless of race. This constitutional protection extends to employment and is further reinforced by the FSM Public Service System Act.

29. Kosrae and Pohnpei State Governments have enacted their Domestic Violence laws, which aim to provide comprehensive protection and ensure accessible services for victims of domestic violence. One of the primary challenges remains the effective implementation of these laws due to lack of resources. The FSM Government is steadily establishing mechanisms to address domestic violence and support victims. These efforts include the development of a Standard Operating Procedure for the Clinical Management of Rape, sexual violence, and Gender-Based Violence, as well as strengthening referral systems in collaboration with key implementing departments.

30. The Pohnpei State Government has developed a draft Implementation Plan for the Pohnpei Domestic Violence Act. A key objective of this plan is the full and effective implementation of the Act. Additionally, the Governor has revised the Executive Order establishing the Pohnpei Domestic Violence Taskforce to ensure the inclusion of all relevant key stakeholders who will support the successful implementation of the plan.

31. In September 2025, the Pohnpei State Government launched the Pohnpei Sexual Harassment Policy 2025, which establishes safeguards and complaint mechanisms to protect all employees, regardless of classification, from sexual harassment. In July 2025, the Pohnpei State Government finalized the draft Implementation Plan for the Pohnpei Domestic Violence Act of 2017, with a key focus on its full and effective implementation. In November 2024, the Government formally handed over the Yap Day Care Center to the Yap State Government; this center was established to provide a safe environment for early childhood education and to empower working mothers. There is an ongoing plan to establish a counseling center in Yap to support victims of domestic violence. Efforts to address gender-based violence are ongoing across all FSM States, including the neighboring islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei.

32. The Pohnpei State Government Domestic Violence Task Force has revised Governor's Executive Order 23-06 to include all relevant departments, and invitations will be extended to all Civil Society Organizations to participate.

33. The Chuuk APIMAR referral network continues to provide critical support to victims of domestic violence. This network, composed of government departments and civil society organizations, has played a leading role in assisting those affected by domestic violence.

34. Standard of Operations Procedure on Clinical Management of Rape and Sexual Assault was endorsed for Pohnpei State in 2022, Yap, and Kosrae in 2023.

35. On August 5th, 2021, the Pohnpei State Legislature passed Pohnpei State Law No 10L-57-21 on Obscene and Offensive Communication, which protects cyberbullying and online harassment.

2. Rights to development

36. The FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024-2043 was finalized and endorsed in 2024. The SDP outlines FSM's thematic priorities for the next 20 years, serving as a comprehensive and forward-looking framework to guide the government's planning and budgeting efforts. The plan prioritizes key areas essential to the country's sustainable development, including cultural heritage, education and human capital, health and well-being, gender equality and social inclusion, governance and institutional strengthening, peace and security, sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability and climate change, as well as infrastructure development.

37. Furthermore, the Compact of Free Association (COFA) between the FSM and the United States recognizes the FSM's capacity to conduct its own foreign affairs and affirms its status as a self-governing nation. This agreement underscores the importance of economic advancement, budgetary self-reliance, and economic self-sufficiency for the people of FSM. It serves as a foundation for development cooperation that respects the country's sovereignty while providing targeted support in key sectors such as education, health care, private sector development, the environment, and infrastructure.

38. The right to development in FSM is therefore realized through strategic government planning, international partnerships, and a strong commitment to human rights and sustainable growth, all aligned with the nation's unique cultural and environmental context.

39. In January 2025, the FSM Congress endorsed the new FSM IDP 2025-2034. This plan provides a clear 10-year roadmap for infrastructure development in FSM. Key focus areas include transportation, energy, water and sanitation, and public facilities, all designed to support the current and future priorities outlined in the national development plan.

3. Environmental issues

*Recommendation relating to human rights and the environment (Recommendation 86.80).
Right to a healthy environment*

40. The Department of Emergency and Climate Change Emergency Management (DECCEM) has secured funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to develop the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). A portion of these funds will be allocated to review and update the Climate Change Policy as well as the National Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change policies and plans. The government has recently engaged a firm to collaborate with partners and stakeholders in reviewing and revising the Nationwide Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy, along with the Joint Strategic Action Plans (JSAPs).

Recommendation relating to human rights and the environment (Recommendation 86.80) and recommendations relating to human rights and climate change (Recommendations 86.75–86.79)

41. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), developed through a comprehensive bottom-up, top-down, and middle-out approach, is closely aligned with FSM's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) as well as the 2.0 and 3.0 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While the NAP focuses on adaptation, the NDCs address mitigation. Both frameworks are interconnected, sharing common priorities such as Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), food security, water security, health security,

energy security, resilient transportation, short-lived climate pollutants, loss and damage, waste management, and the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

42. The NAP is currently under development, alongside the NDC 3.0, with both closely linked through shared national priorities. The NAP will include a review and revision of the Nationwide Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy, as well as an assessment and update of the four Joint State Strategic Action Plans (JSAPs) for disaster risk management and climate change. Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) remain integral components of both the policy and the plans. These efforts are expected to address the concerns raised effectively.

43. As part of the development of the NAP, a review and revision of the Nationwide Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy is underway, with GEDSI serving as a consistent and guiding theme throughout the policy. GEDSI principles are integrated into every activity and initiative implemented by DECEM.

44. The development of the NAP and NDC 3.0 places a strong emphasis on the inclusion of GEDSI. This commitment involves actively engaging stakeholders and partners, including women, persons with disabilities, youth, and senior citizens.

4. Human rights and counter terrorism

45. On September 13, 2021, a Presidential Executive Order was signed to establish a new division within the Department of Justice, known as the Cyber Security and Intelligence Bureau. The primary objectives of this division are to serve as the nation's cyber security law enforcement and intelligence entity, analyze trends in criminal activities both nationally and regionally, and strengthen cyber security and criminal law enforcement efforts.

C. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty, and security

Recommendation relating to right to life (Recommendation 86.106)

46. The National and State Behavioral Health and Mental Wellness Programs are currently conducting studies and assessments on the prevalence of suicide in the FSM and exploring effective approaches to address this critical issue. Under Article IV of the FSM Constitution, all FSM citizens are guaranteed these rights. Moreover, Title 11, Chapter 7 of the FSM Code provides that individuals whose constitutional rights have been violated may initiate legal action against those responsible, following the procedures applicable to civil lawsuits.

2. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

Recommendation relating to thoroughly investigate, prosecute, and punish corruption by government officials (Recommendation 86.81)

47. On July 4, 2023, FSM voters approved a constitutional amendment to Article XII, Section 4 of the FSM Constitution establishing the Office of the Independent Prosecutor. During the second regular session of the 24th FSM Congress in September 2025, the newly appointed Independent Prosecutor was officially confirmed and approved by Congress. The Independent Prosecutor is vested with the following authorities: exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute any individual or entity, whether private or public, including officials at the national, state, or local levels, for national offenses involving the misuse of national funds; authority to investigate and prosecute national government officials for offenses related to public corruption; and the power to investigate and prosecute any person for obstruction or perjury committed in connection with investigations or prosecutions carried out by the Independent Prosecutor.

3. Fundamental freedoms and participation in public life and political life

Recommendation relating to freedom of opinion and expression and access to information (Recommendation 86.82)

48. Article IV, Section 1 of the FSM Constitution guarantees that no law shall deny or impair freedom of expression. In 2021, the previous administration submitted to the 22nd FSM Congress a proposed bill entitled the “Freedom of Information Act.” The legislative intent of this Act is to promote transparency in public service, foster a culture of openness and accountability within the government, and encourage the disclosure of public information.

49. The FSM Constitution and laws guarantee citizens the right to choose their government through free and fair periodic elections, conducted by secret ballot and based on universal and equal suffrage.

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery

Recommendations relating to human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery (Recommendations 86.83–86.93)

50. The FSM national government, in collaboration with the State governments, has enacted laws addressing human trafficking. The FSM Department of Justice has been actively conducting and expanding awareness campaigns on the progress of national efforts to combat human trafficking across the FSM States. Public awareness initiatives have also been carried out beyond FSM, including in Hawaii and on the U.S. mainland.

5. Rights to privacy and family

51. The FSM’s right to privacy is constitutionally protected under Article IV, Section 5 of the FSM Constitution, which prohibits “unreasonable searches, seizures, or invasions of privacy.” While this right is not absolute, it specifically safeguards against unreasonable intrusions and applies where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy. In addition to this constitutional protection, the right to privacy may also be asserted through tort actions in cases involving highly offensive intrusions into private affairs.

D. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work

52. The FSM Congress enacted Public Law 22-61 in 2021, granting all female employees of the national government eight consecutive weeks of paid maternity leave. In 2022, the Kosrae State Legislature approved State Law No. 12-286, providing up to 90 days of paid maternity leave to all female state government employees, regardless of their employment status. Additionally, in 2022, the Pohnpei State Legislature passed Law No. 10L-85-22, which grants public employees three months of maternity leave and two weeks of paternity leave.

2. Right to social security

53. The Federated States of Micronesia Social Security Administration (FSMSSA) provides retirement, survivor, and disability benefits to citizens and residents through a social insurance system funded by mandatory contributions from both employers and employees with disability.

3. Right to an adequate standard of living

Recommendations relating to legal and institutional reform. (recommendations 86.94, 86.97)

54. The FSM Government recruited a Social Protection Program Assistant (SPPA) to support COVID-19 assistance initiatives targeting vulnerable groups, including senior

citizens, persons with disabilities, and residents of outer islands (providing cash assistance, solar lamps, monetary support, and water tanks). Moreover, the program includes small business grants and support for the tourism industry through COVID-19 financial assistance, as well as medical waiver assistance. Relevant efforts are aligned with the World Bank and gender machinery work, with reports available online. Support also includes the provision of rape kits and dignity kits.

Recommendations relating to right to an adequate standard of living (Recommendations 86.95, 86.96, and 86.99)

55. The DECEM is implementing a water security project funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF). This project has successfully constructed and rehabilitated water catchment systems across various islands, including the replacement of rusted roofs, gutters, and pipes. Earlier this year, FSM declared a national state of emergency; notably, the islands benefiting from this AF project were not adversely affected and had sufficient water supplies. The FSM government is keen to extend this project to additional islands; however, securing additional funding will be necessary to expand its reach.

56. The development of the National Building Code is currently underway, with a key objective to promote inclusivity in building standards. The Government recognizes the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, and children have equal access to public buildings and that essential services are accessible to vulnerable groups. In 2024, the FSM Government supported the outer islands of Chuuk State by handing over 15 solar water purification systems, marking a significant step toward providing clean water access to underserved communities.

4. Right to health

Recommendations relating to the right to health. (Recommendations 86.98–86.105, 86.107–86.108)

57. In April 2024, the FSM Government approved the 2024-2043 Framework for Sustainable Health Development (FSHD) in FSM. This Health Strategic Framework is founded on several core principles: health is a human right; health is essential for national development; health requires sustainable resources and financing; health demands effective leadership and governance; and health benefits from a multi-sectoral approach and collaboration. The Framework outlines key priorities for the Government, with objectives that include achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2043 and strengthening healthcare services across the nation.

Tackle neonatal death by implementing high-quality and affordable antenatal and maternal care as well as community-based care for mothers and newborns (Recommendation 86.100)

58. The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs (DH&SA) is currently implementing the Project for Pacific Co-Learning Towards a Resilient Health System, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This initiative aims to enhance capacity for the continuous provision of essential Maternal and Child Health services during health emergencies. The key objectives of the project are to: (1) establish policies and guidelines that integrate the delivery of essential MCH services during health emergencies; (2) strengthen human resource development to ensure uninterrupted provision of critical health services to mothers and children during such emergencies; (3) enhance capacity to utilize digital technology for delivering essential health services within the designated digital technology (DT) pilot area; and (4) reinforce networking among Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices related to the ongoing provision of essential health services.

59. The FSM Maternal and Child Health (MCH) priority in the Women/Maternal domain for 2025-2030 is to ensure that new mothers receive comprehensive support for physical recovery, emotional well-being, and infant care. In the Infant/Perinatal domain, the focus is on preventing newborn deaths by raising awareness about premature infants, congenital disabilities, and breastfeeding practices. These priorities form a central component of the

current MCH action plan, which the Department of Health and Social Affairs intends to implement during the 2025-2030 period.

Strengthen efforts to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates (Recommendation 86.102)

60. The FSM Government remains committed to effectively implementing programs to achieve these recommendations. The FSM Family Planning Program (FPP) is supported by the Title X Telehealth Access Project from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which provided Telehealth services to residents of eight outer islands in 2022. The project aimed to enhance and expand Telehealth infrastructure and capacity in underserved clinical areas; improve telecommunications for Electronic Health Record services at dispensaries on the outer islands; facilitate access to cloud-based health systems; and promote health equity by reducing disparities among vulnerable populations in these hard-to-reach communities. Key services offered through the Telehealth project include pregnancy prevention and birth spacing, pregnancy testing and counseling, antenatal care, support for achieving pregnancy, basic infertility services, and various pre-conception health services. The central objective of the program is to strengthen efforts to reduce infant mortality and mortality rates in FSM.

Fully implement the national strategic plan of action on non-communicable diseases for 2019 (Recommendation 86.104)

61. The FSM has made significant progress in implementing the National Strategic Plan of Action (NSPA) for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) 2019–2024. This strategic plan was developed through a multi-sectoral and participatory process involving national and state health departments, as well as the education and agriculture sectors, civil society, and international partners such as WHO, SPC, CDC, and PIHOA. Grounded in the WHO STEP wise framework, the plan emphasizes both the prevention and clinical management of NCDs. The FSM Government is currently collaborating with its partners and stakeholders to develop an updated framework.

62. The FSM Government, along with its States, has established comprehensive policies and action plans, including the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), to effectively respond to the growing prevalence of NCDs within the country. These initiatives specifically target lifestyle factors such as poor nutrition, tobacco use, and physical inactivity, which are key contributors to the high incidence of NCDs. With expert technical support from esteemed organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), FSM is diligently implementing multi-sectoral strategies aimed at mitigating NCD risks and enhancing the overall health and well-being of its population.

63. The FSM Government has also endorsed the National Nutrition Action Plan (2020-2030). This plan provides National and State guidance to improve nutritional outcomes.

64. The FSM Government has successfully operationalized a range of programs under its strategic plan, including the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Program, and the Tobacco Control Program. Efforts to strengthen the health system encompass the expansion of primary care services to enhance early detection and management, the development of survivorship support services for individuals affected by NCDs, and capacity building for health workers alongside community outreach initiatives. Additionally, community engagement is prioritized through public education campaigns addressing tobacco use, betel nut consumption, alcohol, and unhealthy diets, as well as the promotion of physical activity and healthy lifestyles in collaboration with schools and local organizations.

65. While the FSM Government has made commendable progress, full implementation continues to be constrained by limited financial and human resources, the geographic dispersion of populations across remote islands, and the ongoing need for sustained technical assistance and donor support. FSM Government remains steadfast in its commitment and respectfully calls on the global community to match this urgency with consistent and sustained support. The FSM Government will continue to diligently implement these

recommendations and ensure that necessary assistance is provided to address the persistent challenges ahead.

Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information (Recommendation 86.105)

66. The FSM Family Planning Telehealth project aims to upgrade existing dispensaries by enhancing internet speed and bandwidth. While residents currently receive basic health information and guidance from community health workers, Telehealth will provide access to a higher level of clinical support, such as preconception health services and counseling on birth control contraindications. Moreover, community health workers will be able to utilize Telehealth for consultations, including the stabilization of patients experiencing acute health issues.

Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi summit (Recommendation 86.107)

67. The 2024 FSM National Operational Guidelines on Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) are specifically designed for health workers and support staff engaged in delivering sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to young people. These guidelines are intended for use by both government and non-government service providers, as well as relevant stakeholders, to ensure effective and comprehensive SRH service delivery. In response to critical gaps in the primary healthcare workforce, especially in remote and outer island communities, FSM is actively exploring approaches to strengthen local health education. Consultations are underway with the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) to update the Health Assistant curriculum, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the necessary skills, tools, and competencies to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the population.

68. Family Planning Title X Requirements Acknowledgement Forms are mandatory for all current and new family planning staff, as well as consent forms for family planning users, including minors, to inform them of their right to confidential services. With the support of the Reproductive Health National Training Center, the FSM Family Planning program has developed written policies and procedural documents to ensure that family planning services are provided without coercion, allowing individuals to freely choose or decline any specific family planning methods. Furthermore, the patient bill of rights notice was revised for all family planning clinical sites in November 2023. An updated FSM policies and procedures manual, designed to uphold clinical and administrative standards of care and ensure alignment with the most recent family planning recommendations and protocols, is currently under development.

69. The FSM Government supports this recommendation and will continue to implement the recommendations on Right to Health. In FSM, HIV treatment services are provided free of charge and are accessible to all individuals regardless of ethnicity, age, or sex, including non-FSM citizens residing in the country. Kosrae remains the only state free of HIV. People living with HIV now receive complimentary nutritional supplements and hygienic supplies to help improve their immuno-compromised condition.

70. People living with HIV in FSM now receive free nutritional supplements and hygienic supplies to support the improvement of their immuno-compromised conditions. Home visit patient management is provided for those facing challenges in accessing healthcare services. Free screening services for tuberculosis and other sexually transmitted infections are available to people living with HIV, while viral load and CD4 testing are conducted on a biannual basis to monitor their health status.

Recommendations relating to data collection and research (Recommendation 86.52)

71. The FSM Government fully supports these recommendations and remains committed to strengthening its mechanisms for data collection and research. To enhance coordination and facilitate more effective implementation, the Government has proposed the establishment of a specialized coordination mechanism to align national and state development initiatives. Efforts are also underway to increase investments in administrative data systems and to develop robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

5. Right to education

Recommendations relating to rights to education (Recommendations 86.109–86.110)

72. FSM Code Title 40 establishes the policy framework for a decentralized educational system in the Federated States of Micronesia, emphasizing citizen participation, cultural preservation, and the protection of educational rights. As a foundational document, FSM Title 40 supports an inclusive, culturally responsive education system that addresses the diverse needs of its citizens.

73. Title 40, Chapter 1: Education System, Section 104 addresses compulsory education, attendance, failure to send a child to school, and the school year. It stipulates that education shall be provided and is compulsory for all children, including those with disabilities, from first grade through graduation from eighth grade, or until they reach the age of 14. Furthermore, school attendance is required for all children between the ages of six and 14, or until the completion of the eighth grade.

E. Rights of a specific person or group

1. Women

Recommendations relating to discrimination against women (Recommendations 86.70, 86.120)

74. Progress on Gender Capacity Development and Training under the Department of Transport, Communication and Infrastructure, World Bank Gender Transport Project, such as the following, among others: 1) A Beneficiary Survey and Social Assessment conducted to identify barriers to women owning driver's licenses. The survey confirmed that women face systematic and multidimensional barriers to mobility, licensing, and transportation. Implementation of a pilot program aimed to increase the number of women with valid driver's licenses through road safety training and fee waivers is in progress. Both structural improvement (e.g., proper drainage) and safety-related features (e.g., lighting, sidewalks, etc.) were addressed in parallel. 2) SEA and SH Training will be undertaken to identify actions to prevent, mitigate, and address risks of SEA and SH.

75. The pilot project linked to driver's licenses has not started; however, awareness activities are underway. The sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and abuse trainings have already begun in three of the four states, with the remaining four states to follow soon. Feedback from local women has been very positive, with many expressing that the training is valuable and wishing it could be extended in length.

76. A Gender Employment Opportunity to be created to reduce the gap between men and women in technical roles by 15%. There is ongoing work to increase women's role and participation in the technical positions and transportation agencies where women are very underrepresented in technical positions at DTC&I and State transport agencies.

77. The Pohnpei State Legislature has passed a State Law 101-75-22 declaring March 8, International Women's Day, a State Public Holiday.

Recommendations relating to the participation of women in political and public life (Recommendations 86.113–86.117, 86.119)

78. There are currently 3 women congress members out of a total of 14 congress members in the FSM Congress. The State Yap and Kosrae Legislatures have elected women to State Legislatures. In 2025, Pohnpei State elected its first woman Lieutenant Governor. Several women have also held important and high-level offices at national, state and municipal governments.

Recommendations relating to reservations (Recommendations 86.37, 86.38, 86.39)

79. There is ongoing work to lift FSM's CEDAW reservations. The FSM Government is currently collaborating closely with the States regarding the withdrawal of the reservations to the CEDAW.

Recommendations relating to the advancement of women (Recommendations 86.111–86.112, 86.118)

80. The FSM DH&SA, Division of Social Affairs, coordinates and leads on the implementation of the FSM National Eliminating Violence Against Women Policy and the National Gender Equality Policy. In June 2025, the Division of Social Affairs organized the round Gender Based Violence and Gender Coordination workshop. Key objectives of the workshop are to coordinate, share best practices, and improve the implementation of government commitments and obligations. These Roundtable discussions focus on monitoring the progress of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and gender commitments in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), while also laying the groundwork for future strategic events. The objective is to provide valuable insights and generate momentum for the forthcoming national Women's Conference and, ultimately, for regional platforms like the Triennial Regional Gender Summit. Through these interconnected initiatives, the FSM Social Affairs aims to promote a unified and sustainable strategy for advancing gender equality throughout FSM and the broader Pacific region. The Roundtable will be Chaired by the Assistant Secretary of FSM Social Affairs Division and will bring together key representatives from, Social Affairs/Gender/Women's Divisions from all the states, Government of FSM Departments and agencies, Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on gender issues, particularly the FSM National Council of Women, states women's councils and associations, Community-based organizations and Development partners.

81. The FSM Gender policy was launched during the FSM Women's conference in Chuuk at the end of September 2025. Prior to launching, state Consultations and validations workshops were conducted to finalize the Policy. The state consultations involved a broad and diverse array of stakeholders, which includes representatives from government, civil society, women's organizations, members of the National FSM Women's Council, as well as state women's councils and associations, youth groups, academic and research institutions, private sector and industry associations, and marginalized and vulnerable groups such as individuals with disabilities and LGBTQI persons, along with media and advocacy platforms.

2. Children

Recommendation relating to children: definitions; general principles; protections (Recommendation 86.144)

82. The FSM Government is strengthening child protection services by ensuring the safety and rights of children are included in national programs and in practice. Ongoing work includes the development and expansion of case management, reporting mechanisms, and support services for vulnerable children, along with awareness-raising and training for staff, communities, and partners. Cross-sectoral coordination among health, education, and social services is being enhanced to improve responses to abuse and violence. There's ongoing work on the FSM Child Protection Work.

83. The Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program- Implemented since 2019, the purpose of the program is to provide knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their sexual health and promote healthy lifestyle choices, including abstinence from non-marital sexual activities. The target focus group is high school, and the curriculum used in the program is the essential advanced version.

84. In February 2024, the FSM Government endorsed the Early Childhood Development Policy. The policy seeks to offer a road map to guide, develop, and advance children's potential to thrive.

85. The FSM Government recently hired the Child Protection Co-Ordinator. The coordinator sees the work on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Pohnpei State government recently hired a Child Protection Officer.

Recommendations relating to children: family environment and alternative care (Recommendations 86.149-86.151)

86. The FSM Department of Education (DOE) Accreditation Procedures manual prohibits corporal Punishment in all schools. There is a Pilot Program on anti-Bullying with the Schools in Pohnpei. Key Stakeholders involved in the pilot program include the National and State Department of Health and Social Affairs, and the FSM DOE. The targeted participants for this pilot program are students and teachers.

87. The FSM DOE is providing ongoing case management training for Social Services staff. This case management training focuses on mental health psycho-social services.

Recommendations relating to children: protection against exploitation (Recommendations 86.145, 86.148)

88. The Chuuk State Government endorsed its Inter-agency Chuuk Child Protection Policy (CCPP) in December 2022. The Government acknowledges the importance of adopting a comprehensive development approach that integrates child safety within the school system. This approach emphasizes proactive prevention strategies, moving beyond solely responding to incidents of abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence.

Children: juvenile justice (Recommendations 86.146–86.147)

89. The FSM Government will continue to work with all the relevant stakeholders in ensuring that this recommendation is fully implemented. FSMC Title 12, Section 1101 stipulates that the courts continue to adopt flexible procedures for administering juvenile cases. This includes acquiring welfare or probation reports before the trial; conducting hearings informally in closed sessions; and allowing children to be released into their parents' custody.

3. Persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities: definitions, general principles (Recommendations 86.152–86.153)

90. The FSM Government submitted its initial report concerning persons with disabilities to the UN CRPD Committee in April 2022. This FSM CRPD initial report was put together by the FSM Joint Human Rights and SDG Task Force with the support of the relevant stakeholders in FSM, including the State Government and civil society organizations.

91. The FSM SDP 2024–2043, under Thematic Area 3 (Gender and Social Inclusion), outlines Strategic Outcome Two, which emphasizes the advancement of effective mechanisms to address the economic, legal, political, and social needs of persons with disabilities in the FSM. Following comprehensive consultations with all FSM States, the FSM ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2016. Since then, three of the four FSM States – Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae – have enacted Disability Laws in alignment with the national ratification. These laws reaffirm the Government's commitment to ensuring accessible services and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, promoting their inclusion and respect across society.

92. The Governments of Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae States have also established disability inclusion committees and task forces to develop and implement draft plans in support of various state legislations. Civil society organizations (CSOs) in FSM have actively carried out initiatives that promote disability inclusion. For example, Pohnpei Women with Disability is currently advocating for the enforcement of accessible parking provisions under the Pohnpei Disability Act. Similarly, the Kosrae Special Parent Network (KSPN), through the Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) program, is advocating for a review of the Kosrae Building Code to ensure alignment with both the CRPD and the Kosrae Disability Act.

93. Discussions are currently underway to review the FSM Disability Policy. A concept note has been developed, and the FSM DH&SA is collaborating closely with technical partners to undertake a comprehensive review of the policy.

94. The FSM Social Security Act provides benefits to Persons with Disabilities who are fully insured under the FSM Social Security Programs.

4. Minorities and indigenous people

*Recommendation relating to rights related to name, identity, and nationality.
(Recommendation 86.143)*

95. The FSM government has set up a centralized system of birth and death registration in the FSM DOH&SA and the Office of Statistics in the Department of Resources & Development (DR&D). The FSM Government continues to regularly update and register this in the system and has taken key steps in registering births occurring in the outer islands. This includes working closely with the DOE and the DH&SA when it comes to school registration. School registration requires completion of the yellow card, which shows appropriate immunizations and birth certificates. Children without birth certificates are encouraged to complete birth registration forms with the Hospital and courts to process birth certificates.

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people

Ensure protection of the rights of refugees, asylum seekers (Recommendation 86.154)

96. The FSM Government will continue to engage with the relevant offices and agencies including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ensure full protection of refugees and asylum seekers. The country complies with constitutional guarantees on freedom of movement within its territory, and international agreements provide guidance on protecting vulnerable migrants.

6. Stateless

97. The FSM does not have a known population of stateless persons. FSM citizenship is primarily governed by the FSM Constitution and nationality laws, which define who is a citizen by birth, descent, and naturalization. Citizenship is granted to persons born to at least one FSM citizen parent, including those born before and after the country's independence. Naturalization is possible under strict conditions, including residency requirements, renunciation of other citizenships, language proficiency in an indigenous language, and a formal oath-taking ceremony.

98. However, the naturalization process is recognized as challenging and relatively rare, partly because applicants must renounce their previous citizenship and meet several stringent criteria. This process, combined with issues such as renunciation of foreign citizenship without guaranteed FSM citizenship, might place some individuals at risk of statelessness. Nonetheless, FSM law emphasizes preventing statelessness by ensuring that persons born to FSM citizens have citizenship rights and by providing pathways to naturalization.

99. Recent constitutional amendments on dual citizenship clarify that persons born to FSM citizens retain FSM citizenship even if they hold another nationality, thereby reducing the risk of statelessness. Therefore, the FSM Government aims to maintain legal safeguards to avoid stateless populations through its citizenship laws and evolving policies. While global statelessness remains a challenge, FSM Government has not documented a stateless population in recent census or government records.

IV. Implementation of voluntary pledges

100. The government will continue to support voluntary pledges in the FSM VNR report. This includes protection of the environment and the marine ecosystems.

V. New and emerging issues

101. The FSM is increasingly confronting a range of new and emerging human rights challenges shaped by rapid technological advancement and shifting social dynamics. Among the most pressing are cyberbullying and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, which exploit digital platforms to inflict harm, particularly on women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. The rise of digital technology has outpaced existing legal protections, exposing gaps in accountability and enforcement. Compounding these issues are drug-related threats, exacerbated by weak border controls and limited legislative coverage, which pose serious risks to public health and safety. As these challenges evolve, FSM Government is working to strengthen its institutional and legal frameworks to ensure the protection of individual rights and uphold its commitments to international human rights standards.

VI. Achievements and challenges

A. Achievements

102. Some notable achievements of the FSM include significant advancements in gender equality, such as expanded access to health services and improved digital connectivity. Progress is reflected in measures like the extension of maternity leave and the election of women to Congress, underscoring a growing institutional commitment to inclusive development and the empowerment of women. However, the report also highlights persistent gaps impacting vulnerable populations, particularly in relation to gender-based violence and limited access to specialized healthcare services. These challenges underscore the need for sustained, targeted interventions and strengthened policy frameworks to ensure that progress is both equitable and enduring.

103. FSM Government has also acceded to several important international human rights treaties, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child and protocols aimed at combating human trafficking. Notably, FSM has taken concrete steps to address human trafficking by establishing a Division of Anti-Human Trafficking Services within the Department of Justice and allocating funding for victim support services and enforcement. Furthermore, FSM initiated the accession process for the remaining human rights conventions and treaties.

104. Efforts to reinforce human rights protections have been supported by strategic national policies aligned with sustainable development goals, including initiatives to reduce poverty, promote gender equality, and protect vulnerable groups such as children and women. The FSM's engagement with regional human rights frameworks and its active participation in the Universal Periodic Review process further demonstrate its commitment to continuous improvement in human rights practices.

105. Although challenges remain—such as judicial delays, social issues like domestic violence, and limited resources, FSM Government's achievements reflect a growing institutional capacity and dedication to uphold human dignity, justice, and equality for all its citizens.

B. Challenges

106. The FSM reaffirms its commitment to advancing human rights and sustainable development, and acknowledges the notable progress made in recent years across key sectors. However, a constellation of enduring structural constraints continues to impede the full realization of national development objectives and the effective implementation of human rights obligations.

107. Foremost among these challenges is the limited human and institutional capacity, particularly within essential public service sectors. This constraint affects the quality and consistency of service delivery, policy execution, and long-term strategic planning. The situation is further compounded by ongoing out-migration, especially among skilled

professionals, which has resulted in a significant loss of human capital and institutional memory, thereby weakening national systems and reducing resilience.

108. Persistent gaps in development financing remain a critical concern. The need for more strategic, results-oriented resource allocation is evident to ensure that limited fiscal resources are directed toward high-impact, inclusive, and sustainable interventions that uphold human rights and foster equitable development.

109. FSM's acute vulnerability to climate change and environmental degradation presents additional risks to food security, infrastructure integrity, and public health. These risks underscore the urgency of implementing robust adaptation and mitigation measures, in line with international commitments and national priorities.

110. Moreover, deficiencies in institutional data systems continue to hinder evidence-based policymaking, monitoring, and accountability. These limitations create blind spots in national planning and constrain FSM's ability to meet international reporting obligations, including those under the UPR and other treaty bodies.

111. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed systemic fragilities and widened existing inequalities. In response, the Government of the FSM declared a State of Emergency and instituted a series of public health and operational protocols, including the temporary closure of government offices, the transition to remote work arrangements for non-essential departments, and the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to safeguard public health. These measures were critical in mitigating the spread of the virus and maintaining essential services but also placed additional strain on already limited institutional capacities.

112. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires coordinated, inclusive, and forward-looking strategies that strengthen national systems, enhance institutional resilience, and ensure the protection and promotion of human rights for all. FSM remains committed to working with development partners, UN agencies, and regional mechanisms to advance these goals in a manner that reflects its unique context and aspirations.

VII. Conclusion

113. The FSM Government has made significant progress in implementing the UPR recommendations and will continue to seek the support of all the partners to ensure full protection of Human Rights in FSM.

114. Based on the FSM Government's ongoing development initiatives, several thematic priorities have been identified. These include strengthening data collection, research, and monitoring mechanisms to better inform policymaking and implementation; enhancing healthcare services with a focus on HIV treatment, non-communicable diseases, and telehealth, particularly to improve accessibility across remote islands; and advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities through comprehensive review and enforcement of disability policies and legislation. These priorities reflect FSM's commitment to addressing the diverse needs of its population while promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

115. The FSM Government also prioritizes supporting gender equality and social inclusion through capacity development and advocacy efforts. Furthermore, enhancing child protection systems by integrating prevention strategies within educational frameworks remains a key focus. The FSM Government is committed to encouraging multisectoral collaboration to promote sustainable development and social protection aligned with international human rights commitments. Recognizing the challenges posed by limited resources and geographic dispersion, FSM calls for sustained technical and financial support from the international community to address these constraints.

116. The FSM reaffirms its commitment to upholding human rights and diligently implementing existing recommendations, while seeking continued partnership and support to overcome ongoing challenges.

117. The FSM Government supports the establishment of a permanent UN Human Rights Country Office, attached to the United Nations Multi-Country Office (UN MCO) in FSM, to be based in Pohnpei. This office would serve the North Pacific region, including the Freely Associated States (FAS), primarily the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.
