

UNITED SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

UPR of Micronesia

Thank you Mr President,

Micronesia, in the western Pacific, consists of some 600 islands grouped into four states: Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk (Truk) and Yap. Overall democracy has functioned well with Micronesia. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a constitutional republic. The government works to respect the civil and human rights of its citizens. When individual instances of abuse are reported, the law provides effective means of addressing them. In recent years, only judicial delays, incidences of domestic violence, child neglect, and allegations of governmental corruption were reported. Generally, this country has one of the most positive human rights records internationally.

Traditional rights, however, are also constitutionally set forth and traditional leaders hold considerable sway over local governmental activity. At the municipal level, there are elected magistrates and councils, as well as traditional village government.

The economic outlook for FY2016 is brighter, as recovery in agriculture and the scaling up of infrastructure projects are projected to support higher growth. However, growth is expected to be less than projected in 2015 as capacity constraints may hinder reconstruction. Minimal inflation is forecast for FY2016 as low prices for imported food and oil persist.

There is no specific threat of terrorism against Federated States of Micronesia, nor has it been a traditional target of terrorist violence. The FSM is party to five of the twelve international conventions and protocols pertaining to terrorism.

In order to develop its limited economy, develop technology, and train its populace, Micronesia is very open to foreign investment and has developed regulations to encourage foreigners to invest and establish companies. The government's development plan is to develop the construction industry, manufacturing, inter-state trade, and resource exploitation.

Interest in foreign direct investment varies from state to state. Each state government determines the regulations for foreign investment within its boundaries.

Micronesia boasts a stable political climate, clean environment, and especially attractive marine resources. The population of Micronesia has a life expectancy at birth of 70.65 years (68.79 for males and 72.61 for females) and an infant mortality rate of 27.03 deaths/1,000 live births. In terms of literacy, 89 per-cent (88 per cent of the female population and 91 per cent of the male population), and age 15 and over, can read and write. About 3.9 per cent of GDP is spent on health expenditures. Access to water is considered to be good. Health care facilities in the FSM consist of hospitals on each of the four major islands and a few scattered clinics.

Religious Freedom is well established. The constitution states that no law may establish a state religion or impair the free exercise of religion. There were no reports of government actions affecting constitutional guarantees on the free exercise of religion. There were no reports of significant societal actions affecting religious freedom.