

## Universal Periodic Review – 23<sup>rd</sup> session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of the Federated States of Micronesia

2 November 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia and thanks it for presentation of its report.

We commend Micronesia for ratifying the second optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and for completing national procedures for ratifying the first Optional Protocol to the same Convention. We urge Micronesia to ratify other core international human rights instruments including in particular the ICCPR and ICESCR.

We commend Micronesia for making efforts to tackle violence against women including by compiling data on the scale of the problem through the Family Health and Safety Study 2014. Recognition of the problem and awareness-raising is crucial to tackling this issue, changing attitudes alongside strengthening legal protections. Ireland strongly encourages Micronesia to use the recommendations arising from the 2014 Family Health and Safety Study to formulate a comprehensive national policy to tackle violence against women.

We further note that gender, sexual orientation and gender identity and disability are not protected grounds for non-discrimination in Micronesia. Ireland urges Micronesia to amend its laws to ensure the equal protection of all citizens from discrimination on these grounds.

Ireland notes that Micronesia accepted recommendations to establish a National Human Rights Institution at its first review and regret that progress has not yet been made in implementation. We **recommend** that immediate steps be taken, including if necessary by requesting appropriate technical assistance, to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Ireland is concerned at the lack of women's representation, particularly at higher levels of decision making and that no woman has ever been elected to Congress. We **recommend** that Micronesia take steps, including by implementation of gender quotas for candidates presented for election by political parties, to increase women's representation in public and political life.