A RESOLUTION

To ratify the "United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (December, 1979), with reservations.

1   WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of

2   Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW") was adopted by the United

3   Nations General Assembly in December, 1979, and entered into force

4   in September, 1981; and

5   WHEREAS, since joining the United Nations in 1991, the

6   Government of the Federated States of Micronesia has consistently

7   taken positive action on issues affecting human rights; and

8   WHEREAS, Article IV, section 4 of the Constitution of the

9   Federated States of Micronesia guarantees the equal protection of

10 the laws to all citizens, regardless of gender; and

11   WHEREAS, discrimination against women violates the principles

12 of equal protection of the laws, and respect for human dignity; is

13 an obstacle to the participation of women on equal terms with men

14 in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their

15 countries; hampers the prosperity of society and the family, and

16 makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of

17 women in the service of their countries and of humanity; and

18   WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia continues to be

19 committed to human equality; and

20   WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of

21 Discrimination Against Women condemns all forms of discrimination

1 against women, and parties to the Convention agree to pursue

2 without delay a policy eliminating discrimination against women;

3 and

4   WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia supports the

5 global effort to end all forms of discrimination against women;

6 now, therefore,

7   BE IT RESOLVED by the Thirteenth Congress of the Federated

8 States of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 2003, that pursuant

9 to section 2(b) of Article IX of the Constitution of the Federated

10 States of Micronesia, and subject to the reservations specified

11 below, the Congress hereby ratifies the "United Nations Convention

12 on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women"

13 (December, 1979);

14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ratification of this

15 Convention is subject to the following reservations:

16   1. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

17 advises that it is not at present in a position to take the

18 measures either required by Article 11(1)d of the Convention to

19 enact comparable worth legislation, or by Article 11(2)b to enact

20 maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits

21 throughout the nation;

22   2. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia,

23 in its capacity as trustee of the heritage of diversity within its

24 States under Article V of its Constitution, reserves the right not

25 to apply the provisions of Articles 2(f), 5, and 16 to the

1 succession of certain well-established traditional titles, and to

2 marital customs that divide tasks or decision-making in purely

3 voluntary or consensual private conduct; and

4   3. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

5 does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Article 29,

6 paragraph 1 of the Convention, and takes the position that any

7 dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the

8 Convention may only be submitted to arbitration or to the

9 International Court of Justice with the agreement of all parties

10 to the dispute;

11   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of this resolution

12 by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the

13 Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs shall lodge with

14 the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a

15 depository, an instrument of accession to the Convention;

16   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this

17 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States

18 of Micronesia.

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20 Date: 5/14/03   Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir
                                          Isaac V. Figir
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