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 Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW") was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1979, and entered into force in September, 1981; and

2. WHEREAS, since joining the United Nations in 1991, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia has consistently taken positive action on issues affecting human rights; and

3. WHEREAS, Article IV, section 4 of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia guarantees the equal protection of the laws to all citizens, regardless of gender; and

4. WHEREAS, discrimination against women violates the principles of equal protection of the laws, and respect for human dignity; is an obstacle to the participation of women on equal terms with men in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries; hampers the prosperity of society and the family, and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity; and

5. WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia continues to be committed to human equality; and

6. WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women condemns all forms of discrimination
against women, and parties to the Convention agree to pursue without delay a policy eliminating discrimination against women; and

WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia supports the global effort to end all forms of discrimination against women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Thirteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 2003, that pursuant to section 2(b) of Article IX of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, and subject to the reservations specified below, the Congress hereby ratifies the "United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (December, 1979);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ratification of this Convention is subject to the following reservations:

1. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia advises that it is not at present in a position to take the measures either required by Article 11(1)d of the Convention to enact comparable worth legislation, or by Article 11(2)b to enact maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits throughout the nation;

2. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, in its capacity as trustee of the heritage of diversity within its States under Article V of its Constitution, reserves the right not to apply the provisions of Articles 2(f), 5, and 16 to the
succession of certain well-established traditional titles, and to marital customs that divide tasks or decision-making in purely voluntary or consensual private conduct; and

3. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Article 29, paragraph 1 of the Convention, and takes the position that any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention may only be submitted to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice with the agreement of all parties to the dispute;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of this resolution by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs shall lodge with the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a depository, an instrument of accession to the Convention;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Date: 5/14/03

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir

Isaac V. Figir