

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-78

RE: C.R. NO. 21-232/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING A \$1,000,000 GRANT FROM THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

JANUARY 22, 2021

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty-First Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Sixth Regular Session, 2021

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was  
referred C.R. 21-232, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION WITH  
DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE OF GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA, TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT ENTITLED:  
“STRENGTHENING FSM’S GENDER MACHINERY, INCLUDING  
ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT.”,

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in  
its title.

Your Committee held a hearing on January 20, 2021. The  
witnesses present included: Acting Secretary of Health  
Marcus Samos, Stuard Penias from the Department of Health  
and Jun Bacalondo representing the Justice Department, and  
others.

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Chairman Perman welcomed the witnesses and members and asked the Department to provide a summary of the grant. It was noted that this a new grant for funding of \$1M and the program encompasses all aspects of gender parity. The funding will be utilized over 3 years. It will be administered through UNDP in Fiji.

The funding is help support women in the FSM. The proposal lists specific activities that will be supported. In Pohnpei they will be helping women who are sewing and making handicrafts, etc.

Chairman Perman inquired as to what women's organizations there are in the FSM. The department responded that there are over 50 registered, each state has the umbrella Women's Council, and each council helps many woman's groups in the community.

The Department shared that the Chuuk Women's Council has had the most impact. They are very active advocating for women's rights, community services. They offer counseling services at the Chuuk's Women's Center.

The funding will deal with the umbrella organizations in each States, the state women's council's, and they will deal directly with the women in the community.

DOJ noted that they had assisted with the writing of the resolution and they are in support. Acting Secretary of Health Samos noted that the UN Mission in NY identified the grant, and he reported that CEDAW is the impetus to address some of the issues and obligations to fulfill the obligations the FSM has under the convention.

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Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-232, and recommends its adoption, in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

Florencio Harper, member

/s/ Derensio S. Konman  
Derensio S. Konman, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses  
Esmond B. Moses, member

Aren B. Palik, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member