

## **MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)**

### **CEDAW**

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

*(Unless otherwise indicated, the reservations and declarations were made upon ratification, accession or succession)*

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 (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."

#### **OBJECTIONS MADE TO STATE PARTY'S RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

*(Unless otherwise indicated, the objections were made upon ratification, accession or succession)*

**Finland**, 7 September 2005

With regard to the reservations made by Micronesia (Federated States of) upon accession:

"The Government of Finland has carefully examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to paragraph (f) of Article 2, Article 5, paragraphs 1 (d) and 2 (b) of Article 11 and Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Government of Finland recalls that by acceding to the Convention, a State commit itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women.

The Government of Finland notes that the reservations made by Micronesia, addressing some of the most essential provisions of the Convention, and aiming to exclude the obligations under those provisions, are in contradiction with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of Finland also recalls Part VI, Article 28 of the Convention according to which reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

The Government of Finland therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Convention. This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Micronesia and Finland. The Convention will thus become operative between the two states without Micronesia benefiting from its reservations".

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**Sweden, 25 August 2005**

With regard to the reservations made by Micronesia (Federated States of) upon accession:

"The Government of Sweden is of the view that this reservation raises serious doubts as to the commitment of the Government of Micronesia to the object and purpose of the Convention. The reservation would, if put into practice, result in discrimination against women on the basis of sex. It should be borne in mind that the principles of the equal right of men and women and of non-discrimination on the basis of sex are set forth in the Charter of the United Nations as one of the purposes of the organisation, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

According to article 28 (2) of the Convention, and to customary law as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose, by all parties, and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

The Government of Sweden therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Convention to the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and considers the reservation null and void. The Convention enters into force in its entirety between the two States, without the Federated States of Micronesia benefiting from its reservations."

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**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 25 August 2005**

With regard to the reservations made by the Micronesia (Federated States of) upon accession:

"The Government of the United Kingdom have examined the reservations made by the Government of Micronesia to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979) on 9 September 2004 in respect of Article 11 (1) (d) on the enactment of comparable worth legislation.

The Government of the United Kingdom object to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Micronesia.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Micronesia."

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#### Note

In regard to the reservations made by the Government of Micronesia (Federated States of) upon accession, the Secretary-General received a communication from the following State on the date indicated hereinafter:

Portugal (15 December 2005):

The Government of Portugal has carefully examined the reservations made by the Federated States of Micronesia upon its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The first and second reservations concern fundamental provisions of the Convention and are not in conformity with its object and purpose. Articles 2, 5, 11 and 16 outline the measures which a State party is required to take in order to implement the Convention, cover the fundamental rights of women and deal with key elements for the elimination and discrimination against women.

Portugal considers that such reservations may create doubts as to the commitment of the reserving State to the objection and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international law.

It is in the common interest of all states that treaties to which have chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose by all parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic, therefore, objects to the above reservations made by the Federated States of Micronesia to CEDAW.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Portugal and Micronesia.

*(Note 71, Chapter IV.8, Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General)*