



Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the UN

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70th United Nations General Assembly

High-level event "Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action"

Statement by President Peter Christian

New York, 27 September 2015

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Mr. Co-chair,

Let me join previous speakers in thanking President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Women for organizing this important event.

The post 2015 development agenda styled Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development passed two days ago. And we have looked back to see how well we have done. Having noted our success thus far today, and seeing that the goal year 2030 is only a decade and half away...we must now insist upon ourselves, the current leadership, that the Beijing Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goal must become a regular agenda of note and not relegated to "when there is time." Let us commit ourselves to another homework in addition to those already suggested,, - and that is that we reach our goal before its time.

A man of note once lamented " what a shame that we have done so much, and yet so little."

Mr. Co-chair,

My government adopted a Strategic Development Plan (2004-2023) that encompasses the participation of women in all spheres of our nation building efforts. A Gender Strategic Planning Matrix guides the work of the nation in this important area. Our approach has to be harmonized, but such attempt at harmony cannot be achieved in isolation and by a yearly coordinated review. Could there be more extended effort from the United Nations to the review the process?

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will pursue with more vigor the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals while focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 5 and its cross cutting effort. While we are determined to progress with more speed in achieving our stated goals there are those of us, governments, that lack adequate resources and human capacity to match step by step our collective effort forward. We ask that those who are better endowed hold our hands as we travel the path of this noble and worthy challenge so that we may reach our goals together in time. This empowerment we speak of has already shown that its success so far ignores the line we so despise between man and woman, boys and girls, whether young and old.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You must stay vigilant, and continue to remind us of our part in this noble effort to right a wrong. Let us together promise to do the right thing. Thank you very much.