



Federated States of Micronesia 10th National Women's Conference

Weno, Chuuk – September 27, 2025-October 4, 2025

Outcomes Document

Preamble

1. The 10th FSM National Women's Conference, hosted by the State of Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, was held at the Governor's Auditorium, commencing on September 27, 2025 through October 04, 2025. The guiding theme for the 10th FSM Women's Conference "**KIEKI**" metaphorically symbolizes **"strength, unity, resilience, and the cultural richness across all sectors and generations in building an inclusive and equitable society."**
2. The 10th FSM Women's Conference, attended by more than 500 participants, was graced by the following dignitaries:
 - His Excellency, Wesley S. Simina, President of the FSM;
 - The Honorable Aren P. Palik, Vice President of the FSM;
 - The Honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, Governor, State of Chuuk;
 - The Honorable Mekioshy William, Lt. Governor, State of Chuuk;
 - The Honorable Herolyn S. Movick, Lt. Governor, State of Pohnpei;
 - The Honorable Perpetua S. Konman, Chuuk Representative to the 24th FSM Congress;
 - The Honorable Yoslyn S. Sigrah, Kosrae Representative to the 24th FSM Congress;
 - The Honorable Merlyn Abello-Alfonso, Pohnpei Representative to the 24th FSM Congress;
 - His Excellency, Wu Wei, China Ambassador to the FSM;
 - Her Excellency, Jennifer Johnson, USA Ambassador to the FSM;
 - Her Excellency, Jenny Grant, Australia Ambassador to the FSM;
 - Aki Ito, Japan Embassy Representative;
 - Jayne Flores, Director, Bureau of Women's Affairs, Guam;

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- Her Majesty, Merlynn Hebel, Likend Kelekel Madolenihmw;
 - Her Royal Highness, Piliana Adolph, Nahnkeniei Madolenihmw;
 - Marie Pablo Martin, Nahnep Sokehs;
 - The Honorable Tendy Liwy, Senator of the 11th Pohnpei State Legislature;
 - The Honorable Ann Marie Laamar, Senator of the 11th Yap State Legislature;
 - The Honorable Ruthsina Jonah, Senator of the 11th Kosrae State Legislature;
 - The Honorable Marcus Samo, Secretary, FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs;
 - Ancelly Simina, First Lady, FSM;
 - Adelita Palik, Second Lady, FSM;
 - Dr. Aina Garstang, First Lady, State of Pohnpei;
 - Eileen Narruhn, First Lady, State of Chuuk;
 - Marine Shirai William, Second Lady, State of Chuuk;
 - Mary Palik, First Lady, State of Kosrae;
 - Senyorina Nena, Second Lady, State of Kosrae;
 - Anna Itimai, First Lady, State of Yap;
 - Alex Gilfiley, Director, Department of Youth & Civic Affairs, State of Yap;
 - The Honorable Anna Akira, Mayoress, Parem Municipal Government, State of Chuuk;
 - Chief Executives of the Weno Municipal Government;
 - Chief Executives of the Chuuk State Government;
 - Representatives of United Nations Agencies for the Northern Pacific Region;
 - Officers and members of the Chuuk Women Council;
 - Officers and members of the Kosrae Women Council;
 - Officers and Members of the Pohnpei Women Council;
 - Officers and Members of the Yap Women Council;
 - Officers and Members of the Neechuumeres Chuuk Women Network, Guam;
 - Officers and Members of Faith-based Organizations;
 - Representatives of the Chuuk Youth Council;
 - Staff & Students of Xavier High School, Chuuk.
3. The 10th FSM National Women's Conference convened with the generous support of:
- FSM Telecommunications Corporation;
 - FSM Development Bank;

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- Vital FSMPC (FSM Petroleum Corporation/Vital Energy, Inc.)
 - Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia;
 - Bank of Guam;
 - Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM;
 - Embassy of Australia in the FSM;
 - Embassy of the United States of America in the FSM;
 - World Bank;
 - The Pacific Community (SPC);
 - House of Senate, 18th Chuuk State Legislature;
 - House of Representative, 18th Chuuk State Legislature;
 - Chamber of Commerce, State of Chuuk;
 - Truk Transportation Company, Inc. (TRANSCO), State of Chuuk;
 - Family Clinic & Pharmacy, State of Chuuk;
 - iSolutions Micronesia, State of Chuuk;
 - 7 Star Island Mart, State of Chuuk;
 - Chuuk Youth Council;
 - Pohnpei Women Association Council;
 - Chuuk Women Council;
 - Kosrae Women Association;
 - Yap Women Association;
 - Kasuo & Joan Akinaga
4. The 10th FSM National Women's Conference's theme, "KIEKI", has 4 thematic areas:
- a. Empowering Women Through Culture;
 - b. Women's Economic Empowerment, Education, and Training & Women in Decision Making;
 - c. Women and Health and Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and
 - d. Women & Climate Change;
5. The 10th FSM National Women Conference acknowledges the generous and professional technical support of the Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunication and the I-solutions company for conference coverage services ensuring this platform is made virtually available and further documented for other purposes including future referencing and resourcing.
6. The 10th FSM National Women's Conference presentations, discussions and recommendations made reference to international commitments made by the FSM government leaders including: the FSM Strategic Development Plan (2024-2043) and

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associated Gender Matrix; Agenda 2030 and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Key gender equality commitments in the Pacific region referenced included the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED), the outcome statement from the Micronesian Women's Conference (2023) and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Micronesian island Forum (July 2025) and many other global, regional, subregional and national commitments.

7. The 10th FSM National Women's Conference also acknowledges the progress made towards gender equality and implementing Human Rights since the previous National Women's Conference in the State of Kosrae 2023, including:
 - 4th FSM Constitutional Convention nine constitutional amendments inclusive of the establishment of Independent Prosecutor and Right to a Healthy environment.
 - Pohnpei and Kosrae and moving into implementation processes of Family Protection Law and Domestic Violence, Chuuk and Kosrae is progressing in the direction to get their FP/DV and age of consent laws are currently reviewed with the intention to work on amendments to increase age of consents in Chuuk and Yap.
 - The FSM Infrastructure Development Plan- The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) 2025–2034 is a 10-year strategic roadmap for capital development, approved by the FSM Congress in January 2025
 - The FSM Government FSM launched the FSM National Energy Policy 2024-2050 in May 2025.
 - FSM Strategic Development Plan 2024-2043 and States Strategic Development Plans provides the road map on the government priorities for the next 20years, which is inclusive of all the thematic areas.
 - FSM National Gender Policy Launched on October 03,2025.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Empowering women through Culture

The Conference acknowledge the different cultures in Micronesia and recognize the deep power and responsibility women hold within them. The conference heard that the family structures define our culture. The conference also recognizes the different roles and responsibilities each group plays in our society. The conference heard that culture plays a strategic role and often plays a complex role in advancing women's empowerment. The conference encourages identifying and applying cultural strengths to address relevant challenges in the field of education, work force engagement and the issues around climate change. The conference also acknowledges women's cultural role in addressing Domestic violence issues, promoting health and economic development. The conference heard the need to engage traditional leaders in advancing gender and addressing Domestic violence. The conference heard the important roles women leaders plays in family land.

The conference recommends:

1. Recommends the Department of Education to include cultural learning into school curriculums,
2. Recommends the passing of intellectual property (IP) and provide protection of cultural innovations laws and encourages the full implementation of these laws to protect cultural literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images.
3. Recommends outreach and awareness and inclusive participation to the younger generation on positive cultural practices that reinforce the protection and wellbeing of everyone in our society.
4. Recommends the support of traditional leaders in addressing the increasing numbers of NCD and working closely with Department of Health and Social Affairs
5. Recommends the inclusive participation of Women and Empowering Women Through Culture By development of cultural frameworks, policies that guides multi-sectoral development.

2. Women's Economic Empowerment, Education, and Training & Women in Decision-Making

The Conference recognizes the need for greater attention to women's livelihood activities, the needs of women in business, and the progression of women in employment through education. Greater economic empowerment of women is vital to the sustainable development and economic growth of FSM. The Conference also recognizes that women are 'agents of change' and they play critical roles in the development of FSM. The Conference realizes the need to support and create pathways that will advance women, by creating opportunities for increased access to education, trainings, and capacity building programs. The Conference acknowledges the significance of including women in decision-making platforms, including conferences and meetings.

The Conference also recognizes current youth issues as presented by the Chuuk Youth Council in Chuuk, FSM including outmigration, unemployment, education gaps (limited vocational training, dropout rates), loss of culture & language, violence, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, technology dependence, disability inclusion, lack of facilities for sports and recreation, and environmental education. There is also a need to facilitate discussions on youths and contraceptive use, NCD prevention, youths in decision-making, and the need for partnerships between key national and state stakeholders and youths.

The Conference also acknowledges that the culture can also be an enabler for the economic empowerment of women and youths. A very wise woman stated, 'Don't just speak of change, Be the change.' The Conference realizes the need for policies and laws to be established, to ensure inclusivity, and protection for women and youths. The Conference acknowledges the need to work collaboration between the FSM Chamber of Commerce, private sector, NGOs, and all marginalized groups.

The Conference therefore:

1. Recommends that FSM and state governments recognize the need to give young mothers opportunities to further their education by connecting with more colleges and universities, through online schooling.
2. Recommends both state and national governments to create intentional spaces with comprehensive policies for youth to voice their concerns, and be allowed to participate

- in conferences, decision-making, and other platforms.
3. Recommends the Chamber of Commerce be formally recognized as a procurement tunnel for Government purchases.
 4. Recommends the Government to reintroduce school feeding and lunch programs.
 5. Pursue the update of data for development and gender indicators for FSM.
 6. Reinforce parental guidance and family involvement in youth development, include youth in decision-making processes from planning to implementation, and conduct a youth health survey to guide future actions and resource allocation.

3. Women and Health and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

3.1. Women and Health

FSM is experiencing health crisis, particularly targeting non communicable diseases (NCD) (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease) are the leading cause of death in FSM. From 2014–2024, over 80% of premature deaths (ages 30–69) were due to NCDs diabetes alone contributes to nearly 1 in 5 deaths among adults. FSM spends millions annually on overseas referrals due to NCD complications. One of the most common cancers among FSM women. The conference shared common health care barriers and challenges includes the fear of medical checkup, culture barrier, language barrier, financial, misbehaviors at the hospital, lack of resilience and trust, staff shortage, and believe in traditional healing practices over healthcare attention. The conference acknowledges that healthcare access remains a challenge in the FSM particularly that remote islands and isolated highland communities.

The conference therefore recommends:

1. Awareness platforms should be strengthened and support screening and make screening available to all.
2. Venture into expanding into Telehealth and Telemedicine Services and Implement Mobile Health Units and Outreach Services
3. Incentivize Healthcare Workers in Rural Areas and community members
4. Advocate for policy change for example, NCD Bill.

3.2. Women and Gender-Based Violence

The conference heard that almost one third (32.8%) of ever partnered women in FSM experienced physical and/or sexual violence. The conference heard the gender-based violence has serious and long lasting impacts on victims of domestic violence, and the lives of the people. GBV results in deteriorating physical and mental health, along with perpetuating inter-generational violence. A lack of adequate focus on violence against women contributes to increased suffering for women and their children, the infringement of their rights, and significant economic and social costs.

The Conference heard that physical and sexual violence is linked to controlling behaviors, as well as financial and psychological abuse. The Conference acknowledges the need to address gender bias, and encourage the support of community, traditional, and faith leaders to address gender-based violence in communities. The Conference heard that primary intervention should be a key approach for prevention efforts. The implementation of domestic violence laws should be supported by all relevant stakeholders. The Conference also heard the need to support Chuuk and Yap to progress their domestic violence bills. The Conference supports the ongoing and full implementation of domestic violence laws in Kosrae and Pohnpei. This includes resourcing implementation plans for domestic violence laws.

The Conference also recognized the need to build safe houses in all the FSM States to support GBV victims. The Conference acknowledges the need to develop and finalize referral mechanisms for responding to GBV.

Data collection is an ongoing challenge. The Conference heard of the need to improve data collection. This includes the need for training and development of data mechanisms in all the offices. The Conference supported the need for strengthening of coordination and referral pathways in all the States. This includes setting up counselling frameworks, policing and financing initiatives.

The Conference recognized that prevention work should also include interventions with children from a young age and working closely with the schools. GBV should be a topic for discussion with children to tell them that it is wrong. The conference also recognizes the need to update the Family Health and Safety Study.

The Conference discussed the increasing problem of digital gender and cyberbullying, particularly its impact on youth and children in FSM, highlighting the unique vulnerabilities and challenges that arise when gender inequality intersects with cyberbullying. Cyberbullying has mental health and social impacts, and girls and women are more vulnerable as victims.

The Conference recommends:

1. Encourages Yap State and Kosrae State to pass laws to raise the age of consent laws and encourages Yap State and Chuuk State Leadership to prioritize the passage of Family Protection Acts in their States before the 11th National Conference. It further recommends that the Pohnpei State and Kosrae State women's groups support Yap and Chuuk on advocacy campaigns for the development of domestic violence laws.
2. Recommend the establishment of a fully operationalize safe houses, referral pathways, provide capacity building for domestic violence victim and service providers, in all the FSM States.
3. Recommend and strengthen referral pathways, and to ensure joint capacity building between all stakeholders to support and strengthen delivery of services.
4. Recommends to create a multisectoral comprehensive coordination and awareness with all the relevant partners including government, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, disability groups, NGOS, women groups, youth grounds and senior citizens in all communities.
5. Recommend the withdrawal of the reservations under CEDAW before the next State Party Report to the CEDAW Committee.
6. Prioritize gender-responsive actions in schools, in government and in communities including cyberbullying education and mental health support schools across FSM, awareness in communities to challenge harmful gender norms that perpetuate online abuse, and digital safety policies.

4. Women and Climate Change

The conference recognizes Women as Pillars of Sustainability across the Pacific and beyond. The conference acknowledge role women played in managing natural resources. The conference that waste is not just garbage. The conference heard that climate change and sea levels reduce land for food production. It is the front line of the climate fight. It is the test of our leadership. And it is the opportunity for women everywhere to show that when we take charge, nothing, not even trash, stands a chance. The conference encourages women's participation in climate related disaster training and climate-smart solutions. The conference also heard the importance of women's participation in farming and encourage climate smart practices.

The conference commits to transforming our development models to be inclusive, respectful, and rooted in equity. The conference honor the women who have sustained our lands, and waters, and empower those who will shape our future. The conference notes the oil spillage from the second world war wreckage in Chuuk and encourage everyone's collective participation in seeking ways to address this serious environmental issue.

The conference encourages everyone to work in the spirit of unity and encourages everyone to walk forward together with all the relevant stakeholders. This includes women and men, elders and youth, communities and leaders toward a future where sustainability is not just a goal, but a way of life.

The Conference therefore:

1. Recommends coordinated collaboration amongst all multi-faceted sectors amongst the communities and government and support organizations to access food security, water security and conservation and preservation of the environment and ecosystem efforts to compliment the parallel needs to sustain our environment to ensure food security and water security is sustained.
2. Recommends to strengthen women's inclusive participation and access to renewable energy, and all other climate resilient awareness and development initiatives.
3. Recommends to strengthen community collaboration to pass down cultural knowledge on preservation, conservation, and climate adaptation
4. Recommends to expand policy and funding support by government donors and stakeholders for climate initiatives and local climate resilience programs

5. FSM Women's Conference Secretariat

The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs shall serve as the Secretariat for all FSM National Women's Conference.

The Secretariat therefore:

1. Recommends that the FSM Government create an annual fund in the amount of \$280,000.00 for the purpose of supporting the operation and activities of the next upcoming FSM Women Conference in 2027.

6. Promulgation of Conference Outcome Statement

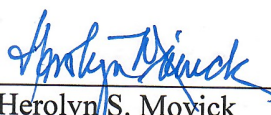
The FSM National Women Council commit to the circulation of the 10th FSM National Women's Conference Outcome Statement in their respective States and to initiate discussions with their State.

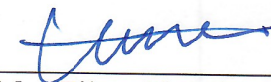


Mrs. Kenye Livae,
Head of Delegation
President, Kosrae Women's Association



Mrs. Anna Itimai
Head of Delegation
First Lady, State of Yap


Mrs. Herolyn S. Movick
Lt. Governor, Head of Delegation
State of Pohnpei


Mrs. Eileen Narruhn
Head of Delegation
First Lady, State of Chuuk

 *Oct. 08, 2025*
Hon. Marcus Samo
Secretary
FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs

Leadership to adopt and take actions to achieve the Conference recommendations and resolutions.