

Micronesian Women's Conference

Title	<p>Micronesian Women's Conference – Navigating Change Date: August 8-10,2017 Location: Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands Host Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands</p>
Presented by	<p>The Office of the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), in collaboration with the RMI Ministry of Internal Affairs and Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)</p>
Detailed Description	<p>Women face unique challenges in the Pacific Islands, whether in the decision-making process in the home and family or in their quest to participate in leadership roles, employment, or entrepreneurial efforts. In March 2012, the Micronesian Chief Executives passed MCES Resolution 17-04, formally recognizing that 'political, social and economic equity, gender equality and environmental justice are the cornerstones for achieving a sustainable future, and that women are fundamentally linked to achieving success in this endeavor'. In August of that year, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders adopted the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration to "lift the status of women in the Pacific and empower them to be active participants in economic, political and social life" (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat). In that same month and year, an initial conference for women was held in Koror, Palau to focus attention on the role of Micronesian women in the development of all aspects of the islands.</p> <p>In partnership with the Office of the President in collaboration with the RMI Ministry of Internal Affairs and Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Marshall Islands will convene a forum for women in leadership roles or seeking leadership roles within governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), business, and civic organizations throughout the Micronesian islands. Some of the pressing issues and challenges to discuss are those that women, in particular, face and those that impact women's livelihoods and their ability to provide and protect their families.</p> <p>The Conference will bring together women representatives and leaders from all sectors from Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and U.S. territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Also, the host country will invite interested guests from international and regional organizations and other supporting development partners and embassies. The invitation will be submitted to the following target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political representatives • Gender development country representatives • Civil society representatives, including Non-Governmental Organizations, faith-based institutions, youth groups, disability rights groups, etc. • Representatives from the educational sector or academia • Private sector representatives <p>The Conference strategic objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invigorate alliances among the Micronesian countries, • increase knowledge on various issues facing women and men in Micronesia, • develop targets and approaches to intensify efforts towards gender equality in Micronesia, and

- deliver a collective statement reflecting Micronesian women’s priorities on key issues to address to progress gender equality for presentation to national, regional and international spaces in the discussion.

The conference sessions will be framed around key national, regional and international commitments including the such as the SDGs, the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the proposed revised Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights (PPA) which remains grounded in the Beijing Declaration. Discussions and recommendations will focus on the implementation of policies, plans and programs to accelerate implementations of commitments made at national, regional, and international levels to achieve gender equality. This includes measures such as building partnerships between government, civil society, private sector and faith-based organizations; increasing investments to address gender inequality issues; addressing concerns of women and men across all legislation and governments’ programs and services; putting in place mechanisms to monitor progress and making governments accountable for implementing their commitments to gender equality and women’s human rights.

In addition, the following principles will be used to ensure the fruitful sessions:

- Attendee-driven process
- All-inclusive process with special attention to the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as people with disability, youth, etc.
- Safe and supportive environment
- Interactive process
- Mixture of presentation methods such as speech, panel, work groups, etc.

The Conference will identify strategies and targets in the following proposed thematic areas:

1. Eliminating Violence Against Women – increase women in all levels of the justice sector; improve access to justice for survivors of gender based violence.
2. Realizing Economic Empowerment of Women – access to safe and equitable employment opportunities.
3. Ensuring Political Empowerment of Women (SDG Goal 5, 10) – constitutional provisions, such as parliamentary and executive branch quotas, that guarantee women’s participation in all branches and at all levels of government; skill building and leadership training for women.
4. The effect of Climate Change on the role of women (SDG Goal 13) –the impacts of climate change on women’s human rights; monitoring and evaluation of measures and initiatives on climate change.
5. Women’s Health (SDG Goal 3) –reducing morbidity and mortality from communicable and non-communicable diseases, persistent and emerging health issues.

The tentative conference structure is presented as following:

August 8, 2017	August 9, 2017	August 10, 2017
Registration and Opening Ceremony	Topic 2- Economic Empowerment of Women	Topic 5- Women’s Health
Orientation and General Sessions	Topic 3- Political Empowerment of Women	Conclusion and Communique endorsement
Topic 1- Eliminating Violence Against Women	Topic 4- The effect of climate change on the role of women (food security, water security,	Closing Ceremony

disaster response and preparedness)

A Conference Arrangements Committee will be established to plan, organize, and oversee the Conference arrangements, including conference planning/local arrangements, invitation and communication, program planning, publicity, etc.

The Conference planning process is summarized as below:

- Definition and clarification of the Conference purpose
- Determination of the audience profile
- Estimation of participant numbers
- Determination of the Conference events, presentation methods, and event scheduling, and side events

There are three phases necessary to make this conference possible, effective, and meaningful. Pre-conference activities will require both sub-regional and regional reviews and meetings on conference topics and related selection and preparation of participants and related resource persons. The host country with its agencies will make the necessary preparations within country and conduct communication and networking activities with the involved Micronesian countries. The Conference itself will witness the arrival, participation, and the return of the invited country participants, as well as the hosting activities, Conference activities, and the participation of the RMI representatives. The third phase will review the outcome of the Conference in following up with the Conference Communiqués/ Recommendations and Action items.

Pre-conference activities and organization – as much as possible - will be conducted electronically and through social media contact with external organizers and directly with national partners. Local and regional press will be kept informed of preparations with periodic press releases. Local television and local/regional press will be invited to cover the events at that time. Conference Procedures/ recommendations and proposed actions as the results of the Conference will be published within 6 months of the conference end and be distributed to all participants for their sharing within their countries, and local and regional press.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is collaborating with the Pacific Community (SPC) and technical assistance will be provided by the SPC to further establish the capacity to ensure proper preparation and successful implementation. Also, technical advice and comments related to the selected Conference topics will be provided to ensure meaningful discussion.

Project Justification

In his introductory message to the proceedings of the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, then Minister of Internal Affairs, David Kabua wrote, “in the Marshallese matrilineal culture, women have traditionally been respected as decision makers and owners of land resources.”... “While our cultural values remain one of our greatest strengths, the reality is that too many women and girls are met with tremendous hardships in their daily lives, including facing violence at home; limited access to justice and protection; exclusion from decision-making processes; difficulty to access productive assets and financial resources; and limited job opportunities.”

Overview of gender-related statistics in Micronesian countries					
	Kiribati	FSM	Nauru	Palau	RMI
population	108,800	103,000	10,500	17,800	54,200
Rural/urban %	56/44	78/22	0/100	33/77	35/65
partner violence	68%	33%	48%	25%	51%

Total fertility rate/woman	3.9	3.4	3.9	2.0	4.1
Adolescent fertility rate	49	44	94	33	85
% of seats held by women in congress/parliament	9%	0	5%	10%	10%
Female/male labor force participation rates % working age	52% 67%	48% 66%	49% 79%	60% 77%	53% 72%
Age dependency ratio	69	67	73	48	81
Political Representation of Women	8.7%	0%	N/A	0%	3%

Delegates from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau and the U.S. territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam attended the 2012 summit and enriched the discussions and results.

Objectives

- Prioritize key issues and barriers affecting the lives of Micronesian Women and their ability to reach their full potential and how to address these
- Identify stakeholders and partners to support country-level action plans
- Prepare Micronesia for the Pacific Platform for Action Review discussion in the Pacific Triennial Conference for Women in October 2017
- Provide a safe space for dialogue among leading women and women's rights activists in the Micronesian Islands

Estimates

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is seeking funding support in the amount of USD \$96,426. The budget will cover all the costs associated with the project implementation, including conference venue rental, refreshment, support personnel, on-ground transportation, honorariums and stipends, materials and supplies, travels (inter-island, regional and international), printing and publications, official ceremonies, visibility materials and advertisements, and contingency expenses.

Item	Unit description	Unit cost	Total
Conference rental	Main conference	0	0
	Breakout and support meetings	50 x 3 days x 2 venues	300
	Transport for Officials	\$85 x 7days x 6cars	3,570
	Vehicle Drivers 1 (Officials)	\$4 x 20 hrs x 6 drivers	480
Support personnel	IT support	500	500
	Logistic support	500	500
Honorariums and stipends	Guest speakers	\$500 x 2ppl	1000
	Facilitators	\$50 x 4ppl	200
	Note takers	\$50 x 6ppl	300
Materials and Supplies	Refreshments – (morning & afternoon tea)	\$10 x 65ppl x 3 days	1,950

	Water	\$.50 x 1000bottles	500	
	Notebooks	\$3 x 65 books	195	
	Pens	\$16 x 5 boxes	80	
	Markers	\$6 x 5boxes	30	
	Folders			
	Conference Bags	\$8 x 100 bags	800	
	T-shirts	\$8 x 100shirts	800	
	Marshallese lanyard	\$3 x 250lanyards	750	
	Flipcharts	\$32 x 5 charts	160	
	Misc.		500	
Computers and IT	Videography/Photography of proceedings	\$500 x 3ppl	1500	
	DVD copies	\$10 x 100 copies	1000	
	PR/Communications		1000	
Travel	Inter-island	Tickets	\$500RT x 2ppl	1000
		Per diem	\$125 x 7days x 2	1,750
	Regional	Tickets	\$1,300RT X 33ppl	42,900
		Per diem	\$125 x 7days x 33	28,875
	International	Tickets	\$1500RT x 2ppl	3,000
		Per diem	\$125 x 7days x 2ppl	1,750
Printing and publications	Invitations	1.25 x 100	125	
	Agenda and presentations	1.25 x 100	125	
	Educational materials	1,000	1,000	
	Conference Proceedings	750	750	
	Communique Drafting Committee	250	250	
Official ceremonies	Opening	3,000	3,000	
	Closing	3,000	3,000	
Other direct Costs	venue arrangements, garlands, entertainment	2000	2000	
Total Conference Costs			105,640	
Contingency		10%	10,564	
Total budget request			\$116,204	

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