

HESA

ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

C.R. NO. 11-37

A RESOLUTION

Endorsing "The Rarotonga Agreement: Towards Healthy Islands, December 1997."

1 WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia is one of the 191
2 member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) and one of
3 the 16 member countries of the WHO Western Pacific Region; and

4 WHEREAS, as one of its global objectives, WHO strives to attain
5 the highest possible level of health for all people it serves; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1978, WHO member countries met in Alma Ata, Russia,
7 and declared the global initiative to attain "HEALTH FOR ALL BY YEAR
8 2000"; and

9 WHEREAS, since 1978, WHO has focused on a specific global
10 health issue each year and monitored the health status of all its
11 member countries every five years and realized that the Pacific
12 Island Countries are unique with unique health problems, and
13 concluded that there should be a health monitoring scheme that is
14 specific to the Pacific Island Countries; and

15 WHEREAS, in March 1995, a meeting of the Ministers of Health of
16 the Pacific Islands was convened at Yanuca Island, Fiji, in response
17 to the rapidly changing social and economic conditions in Pacific
18 Island Countries and the effect of these changes on the quality of
19 life and health status; and

20 WHEREAS, at the Yanuca Island meeting, a consensus was reached
21 on a course of action to place the health and well-being of Pacific
22 Islanders at the center of National Development Plans; and

23 WHEREAS, building on the positive experience from 1995-1997 in
24 implementing the Yanuca Island Declaration, the Ministers of Health
25 of the Pacific Islands met in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on August 6

1 and 7, 1997, and there:

2 (1) reaffirmed the importance of partnerships among
3 communities, government departments and other sectors in resolving
4 priority health issues;

5 (2) agreed to convene and facilitate national and local
6 meetings to develop national Healthy Islands Plans of Action and
7 associated coordination mechanisms, to promote application of the
8 Healthy Islands approach, and to strengthen efforts to attain health
9 and well-being for people living in rural and remote areas;

10 (3) agreed to strengthen the capacity for training and
11 educating health workers in Pacific Island Countries through the
12 development of a network of local training institutions and through
13 intensifying cooperation among existing training institutions;

14 (4) agreed to work to overcome obstacles to the bulk
15 purchasing of pharmaceutical and other health supplies and address
16 related issues through agreements between interested countries in
17 the Pacific; and

18 (5) determined to extend training in the practice of
19 traditional medicine; and

20 WHEREAS, the Rarotonga Agreement is a useful guide to health
21 promotion in villages, towns, homes, workplaces, markets, schools,
22 and islands and has been developed into a Pacific regional
23 initiative; and

24 WHEREAS, promotion of health and wellness from birth to old age
25 is achievable through the development of health-for-all campaigns;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia is involved with
3 other helpful WHO initiatives, due to ease of implementation into
4 the Federated States of Micronesia's political and social
5 environment; and

6 WHEREAS, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia
7 supports each of the measures inherent in the Rarotonga Agreement
8 that can be used to encourage and enhance what people can do
9 themselves, in conjunction with their families, communities and
10 nation, to improve and manage their own health, and believes that
11 Healthy Islands should be the places where:

- 12 (a) children are nurtured in body and mind;
- 13 (b) environments invite learning and leisure;
- 14 (c) people work and age with dignity; and
- 15 (d) ecological balance is a source of pride;

16 now, therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eleventh Congress of the Federated States
18 of Micronesia, First Special Session, 1999, that the Congress hereby
19 endorses the Rarotonga Agreement: Towards Healthy Islands; and

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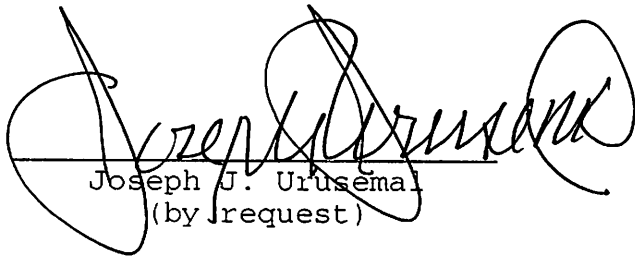
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia; the Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs; the Secretary, Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs; the Governors of the four States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; the Directors of Health of the four States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; and Dr. Shichuo Li, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines.

Date:

7/29/99

Introduced by:


Joseph J. Urusemal
(by request)