

Statement of the Federated States of Micronesia

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Sixty-Second Session

Ministerial Segment

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Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Delegates, good afternoon.

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered yesterday by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the distinguished representative of China on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, and wishes to expound further in our national capacity.

2. At the outset, allow me to take the opportunity to join previous speakers in extending our warm congratulations on your election as Chair as well as the remaining officers of the 62nd Session of the CND. My delegation wishes to reassure you of our full support; and we are confident

on your ability to lead this 62nd Session of the CND to a successful conclusion.

3. Micronesia attaches great importance to the global fight against illegal drugs. Coming from a small jurisdiction of only 100,000 people, we must take every reasonable step possible in order to preserve and conserve our limited human resources, as they are vital towards building our economy and projecting a better future for our young people. Illegal drugs destroy the future of the youth and emasculate the vitality and the productivity of human population. And Micronesia acknowledges the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations in addressing drug-related matters.

4. Small island states, such as Micronesia, face many significant challenges, not the least of which is the existential challenge posed by climate change and the consequential drowning of low-lying islands, many of them are found in my country. Whereas, the magnitude of drug-related problems might be not as acute in Micronesia as those experienced by much larger states, there are growing vulnerabilities at home that are associated with the entry, exit and transit of commercial vessels across the vast national maritime zone of Micronesia, which is over one million square miles.

5. My island state relies upon fishing industry as a major source of national revenue, and it is a priority consideration for Micronesia to keep this industry drug-free and safe. Building a national capacity to monitor major activities in the maritime space and to effectively enforce law and order in this zone is important to the security of our people and the preservation of our sovereignty. Yet, inadequate number of national assets,

in particular, patrol boats, hampers our present capability at sea.

6. Nevertheless, in response to this growing vulnerability, the Micronesian Presidents' Summit—comprised of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru and Republic of Kiribati— established the Micronesian Transnational Crime Unit (or “MTCU”) that would provide a platform for cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the areas of combatting transnational crimes, such as human trafficking, cybercrime and illegal drugs. This MTCU analyzes trends in transnational crimes, shares information among members, and cooperates in apprehending criminal activities. This MTCU needs support and cooperation in order to further expand its network and build further capacity and partnerships across the Pacific region and beyond.

7. In closing, my delegation wishes to emphasize the urgent need of small countries, such as Micronesia, for technical assistance and support to be able to detect and identify illegal drugs, enhance cooperation among border control authorities, and be able to comply with rigorous reporting requirements under the relevant Conventions.

Thank you.