

ESCAP- 80th Session of the Commission

Country Statement

Chairperson,

I bring you warm greetings from the people and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. Chair, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on today's theme and I would like to submit to the record that FSM appreciates your able leadership in convening today's meeting and the extended generosity accorded to me upon entering this country.

At the outset, let me begin by expressing my country's utmost respect to the custodians of the land to which we stand on and gratitude toward the Royal Thai Government and its people for hosting today's meeting in this beautiful country, quite a scenic view that is pleasant to the eye and I am in awe for the arrangement made toward my country to be able to sit among you today and deliver few words in regard to the growing need of connectivity and Technology- that speaks volume across all communities in the Pacific as ascribed in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which our leaders had endorsed its implementation Plan in November 2023.

My fellow Colleagues and friends, FSM is among the 18 Countries in the Pacific that has foreseen the great potential in digital economy and It is one of the critical component of our existence as a sovereign state to have digital economy that provide reliable digital platform services and promotes opportunities across all sectoral agencies in government and most importantly, to deliver affordable and sound policy on

transformative digital technology within communities across the nation. I find no better place to do it with the support of this platform and I couldn't exaggerate enough of the fact that Small Island Developing States are at greater disadvantage due to number of criterias which can only be comprehended by our scattered-geographical isolation.

Chair, it is within this context that I find it appropriate to call your attention to my country's (FSM) commitment toward the issue of connectivity and access to sustainable digital transformation within the Micronesian Region (EMC Project) covering FSM, Republic of Nauru and Republic of Kiribati and bringing digital access to over 100,000 people in three countries in the Micronesian Region. This East Micronesian Cable project is a living testament of my country's contribution to our collective Sustainable Development Goals and it's expected to be completed in 2025. Therefore, I am excited and yet committed to sit among fellow countrymen today, and to discuss common values of sustainable development of inclusive digital economy that will accelerate our collective ambition toward our (SDG's). Again, I reiterate this sentiment to put value toward what we are trying to accomplish here today.

Like any other Small Island Developing States, FSM is the only country among others in the Pacific that consist of 607 low lying atolls and with a population of 104,832 residents to which 22, 693 are women of reproductive age. Similar to fellow countrymen that values principals of equal access to all its citizens, FSM is on the rise to digital access to low-income households and I like to expand on the statement made by FSM during the 78th Session of the United Nation General Assembly on Agenda Item 26; Advancement of Women, in New York October 2023.

Basic necessities to improve our livelihoods are what our Leaders in the Pacific has envisioned to accomplish. FSM is in complete support to what can improve a human life and that calls for the rights to life and the basic principal of our existence is to strengthen our collective approach to the betterment to all society within our regions.

Having said that, I urge our developing partners to align their views in our context of digital transformation and better understand the region to avoid duplication of work.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak.