

Statement by Mr. Johnson Asher
Assistant Attorney General for the Federated States of Micronesia
On Consideration of General Status and Operation of the Convention
At the Ninth Meeting of State Parties
To the Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, Switzerland
26 November 2008

Mr. President,

Let me begin by joining previous speakers to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the President for the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) to the Mine Ban Convention. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) presents its highest confidence and trusts in your leadership. In the past two days, I have heard and read notable collective progress and achievements since the inception of the Mine Ban Convention. The Government of FSM presents its highest compliments to the State Parties, agencies and all other entities that have contributed to such accomplishments.

Mr. President,

The Government of FSM indicated its full support of the concept of universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty on December 5, 2007 by voting in favor of the UN General Assembly Resolution 62/41. However, FSM's initial interest to become a party to the Mine Ban Convention took shape in the Sixth Meeting of State Parties that was held in Zagreb in November 2005, which was the only treaty meeting FSM has ever attended prior to this 9MSP. The Government of FSM also participated in the August 2008 sub-regional workshop held in Palau which contemplated, inter alia, the implementation of the convention obligations in the Pacific, expediting accession and ratification for FSM and Marshall, and the development of legal regime to ban trafficking and transshipment of illicit small arms including anti-personnel mine in the exclusive economic water zone for Marshall, Palau and the FSM.

Mr. President,

Aside from explosive remnants of World War II, FSM considered herself as a mine-free state. Regardless, the aspiration of the Government of FSM to accede to the convention remains intact. Furthermore, its commitment and devotion to be part of the international humanitarian demining to save lives escalates. Much has been done by the Federated States of Micronesia internally to become a full-fledged party to the convention. With that, I am proud to say that the government of the Federated States of Micronesia is very close to fulfilling its internal legal requirements in order to accede to the Mine Ban Convention. Presently, there is a draft resolution before the Congress of FSM seeking approval to accede to the Mine Ban Convention.

It is expected that Congress will take favorable action on the resolution in the upcoming January 2009 regular session.

Thank you for this opportunity.