



Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Department of Health and Social Affairs
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**Written Statement of the FSM Delegation
To the 73rd WHA Assembly
18-19 May 2020**

**Mr. President and Vice Presidents of the 73rd World Health Assembly.
Director-General of the World Health Organization: Dr Tedros.
Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

As this is perhaps the first World Health Assembly held virtually, I take advantage of this opportunity to submit a written statement of solidarity and acknowledgment of the great work you members states, WHO, and all our partners, have done to alleviate the crisis and human suffering caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. President,

1. Our country is one of the few countries that is still free of COVID-19. With our fragile healthcare system and physical isolation, we cannot help but lament what life might become of us if in fact COVID-19 reaches our shore in the worst of time. Fortunately, it has not. Our preparation and mitigation response planning continue as we meet; we are not complacent.
2. While we continue to learn from the COVID-19 as it evolves, I can say we are more prepared now than we were five months ago. Now, we can test for COVID-19 in country. We can identify those at greater risks and care for them appropriately. In the event hospital care is required, we have access to medicines and ventilators, along with the proper PPEs.

3. This is not by accident. The goodwill and support of our partners, many of them are in attendance of this virtual conference, make this possible. Our government acknowledges your support.
4. Specifically, we acknowledge with appreciation support from the Governments of the United States of America, Japan, China, Australia, and India along with the many UN technical agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNDP; and the financing institutions such as World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and our own partners in the region such as the Pacific Community and the Pacific Island Health Officers Association.
5. Perhaps our physical isolation is also our asset in this COVID-19 pandemic. When we decided to close our border, we did so to protect the health and welfare of our people and in solidarity with our region and the world. It is just a matter of time our borders will soon open to the rest of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Yes, there is negative consequential impact of our border closure on our economy. We are willing to let go of profit opportunity. But we are NOT willing to lose a single life of our people due to COVID-19, when public health measures are available. The support from WHO and our development partners to keep FSM COVID-19 free is greatly appreciated.
7. When and if COVID-19 reaches our shore and being a new disease we need assistance from technical experts in clinical case management.
8. To all of you, thank you for your resolve in working together in solidarity to fight the COVID-19 pandemic for our planet and humanity. We look forward to the time advancement in science and medicine makes COVID-19 a disease of the past.

*-Dr. Livingston Taulung, Head of Delegation & Secretary/Minister
FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs*

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