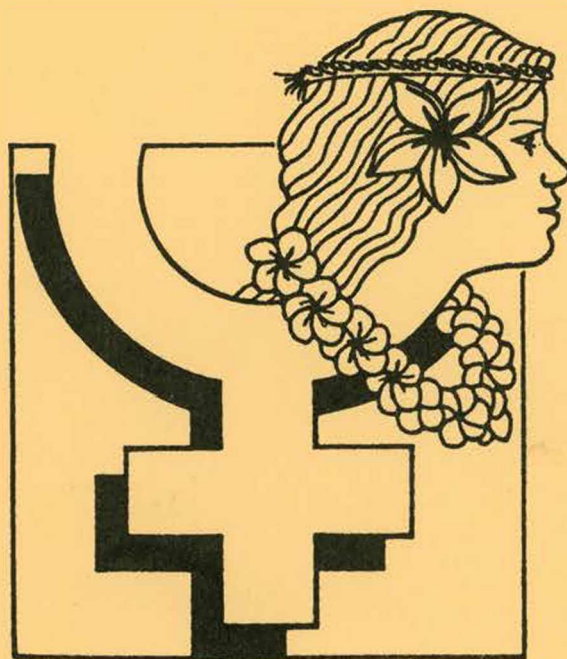


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# FOURTH SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUS FOR MICRONESIAN WOMEN

Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia  
22 June – 1 July 1995

*'Women in Development  
—A Quest for Sustainable Development'*



## REPORT

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Noumea, New Caledonia

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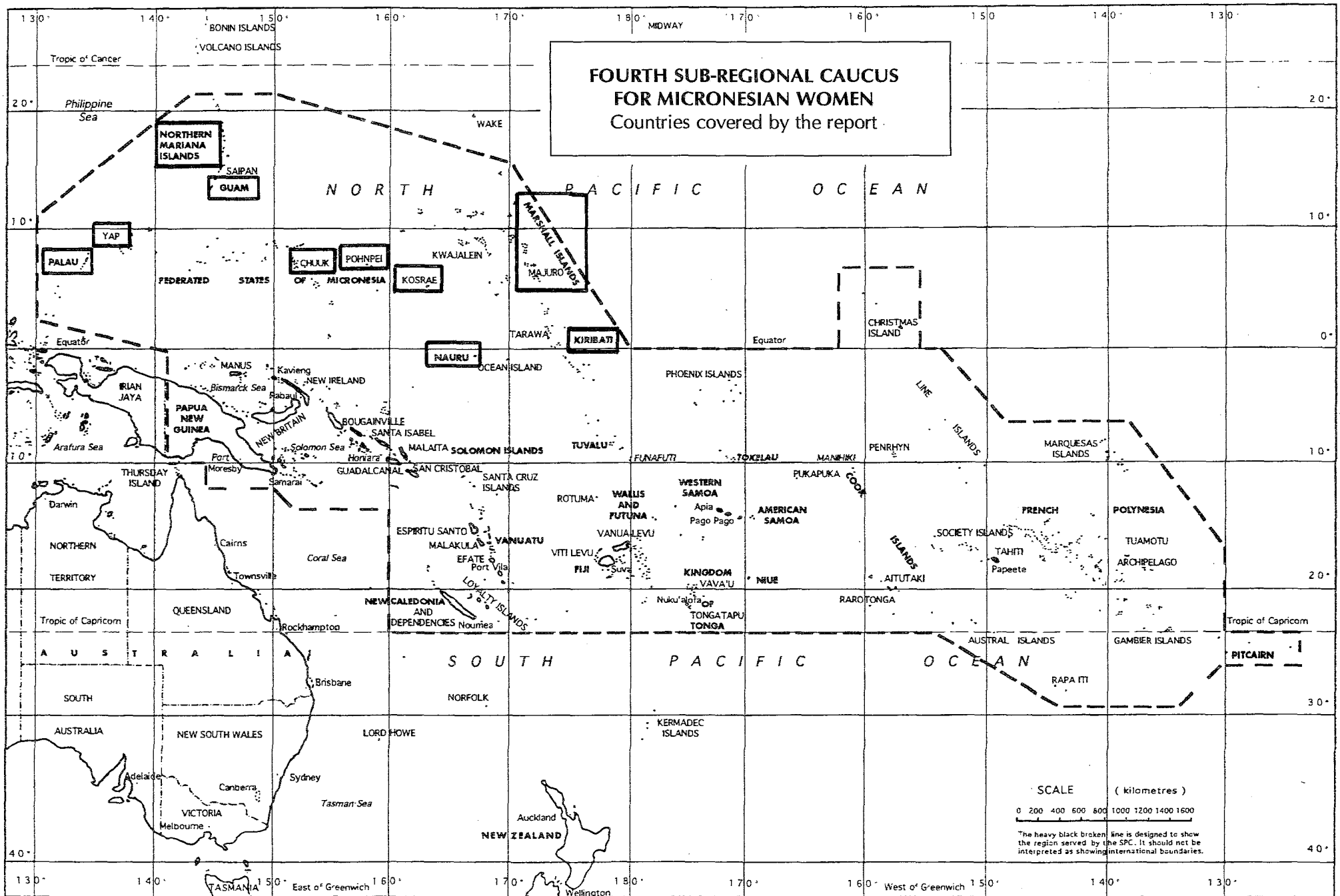
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# I. INTRODUCTION

His Excellency Sasao Gouland, the Governor of Chuuk State, welcomed the participants in the Sub-Regional Caucus of Micronesian Women to Weno Island, the seat of the Chuuk State Government in the Federated States of Micronesia. All the countries and territories of Micronesia, namely the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, were able to send government and non-government representatives.

The theme of the Micronesian Caucus was: 'Women in Development—A Quest for Sustainable Development'.

The Caucus objectives were:

- To critique the Global Platform for Action (GPA) in the light of the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) and National Platforms for Action (NPA), with a view to incorporating in the GPA the interests of Micronesian women;
- To develop a medium-term Micronesian Women's Strategy (MWS) addressing sub-regional plans and activities for Micronesian women, including preparatory and post-Beijing arrangements;
- To provide training for Micronesian women planners on gender concepts, women's project design and management;
- To provide training for Micronesian women planners in basic statistics for women in development (WID).

## II. AGENDA

- Thursday 22 June**      Registration
- Official opening
- Election of officers
- Adoption of agenda
- Caucus plenary
- Country reports
- Update on Pacific preparations for Beijing
- Micronesian women's issues in relation to the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) and the Global Platform for Action (GPA)
- Friday 23 June**      Caucus plenary
- Critique of the Global Platform for Action [PrepCom III outcomes] Working groups on the GPA
- Design and management of women's projects
- Saturday 24 June**      Caucus plenary
- Continue in working groups on the GPA
- Reporting back from groups
- Monday 26 June**      Design and management of women's projects (cont'd.)
- Caucus plenary
- Institutional arrangements for implementation of the PPA
- Panel Discussion 'Lessons and directions for women in development discourse in the Pacific for the 21st century'
- Tuesday 27 June**      Caucus plenary
- Micronesian Caucus strategies/recommendations
- Adoption of Caucus Report
- Venue for the next Micronesian Caucus
- Closing of Caucus
- Wednesday 28 June—** Statistics Workshop
- Saturday 01 July**

### III. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

#### 1. Official opening

The Honourable Sasao Gouland, Governor of Chuuk State, addressed the Fourth Sub-Regional Caucus for Micronesian Women.

Other dignitaries also addressed the Caucus, before the Hon John Mangefel delivered his keynote address and declared the meeting open.

In his address, the Hon Senator John Petewon, Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs, emphasised the importance of women in Micronesian society. Amongst their many roles, women's role in sustainable development, including environmental sustainability, was pivotal.

The Hon Senator Roger Mori, President of Chuuk Legislature, stressed the concepts of women's empowerment and fostering partnership with men as the indispensable ingredients for advancing women towards greater equality with men. It was essential to culture commitment first and for women and men to first believe first, in their hearts, in the virtues of a greater gender equality, before tangible results could eventuate in terms of enlightened and more liberal policies and on-the-ground projects for women.

The Director of Programmes of the South Pacific Commission, Mafaituuga Vaasatia Poloma Komiti, thanked the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and particularly the Government and people of Chuuk State, for hosting the Fourth Caucus for Micronesian Women. He gave a brief outline of preparations by the countries in the region for the Fourth Global Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

The Hon. John Mangefel, Chairperson of the FSM National Preparatory Committee for Beijing, then delivered the keynote address. He urged all to co-operate in efforts to develop the women of Micronesia, which he saw as possible only with the collaboration of men. He recognised the need for a greater involvement by women in decision-making at all levels and urged them to advance. He wished everybody well in their preparations for Beijing and in the deliberations that were to follow, and then declared the meeting open.



Hon Senator Roger Mori, President of Chuuk Legislature making his opening address

## **2. Election of officers**

The following country representatives were unanimously elected to the offices of the Fourth Caucus for Micronesian Women: Christina 'Kiki' Stinnett of Chuuk, Chairperson; Evelyn Lanki of Marshall Islands, Deputy Chairperson; and Maria Pangelinan of the Northern Mariana Islands, Rapporteur.

The Drafting Committee was composed of Taboneao Ngaebi (Kiribati), Angie Itsimaera (Nauru), Christina 'Kiki' Stinnett (Chuuk), Maria Babauta (Pohnpei), Katherine Kesolei (Palau), Elfrieda Koshiba (Guam), Maria Pangelinan (CNMI) and Bernadette Pereira-Xulue (SPC).

## **3. Adoption of agenda**

The provisional agenda for the Fourth Caucus for Micronesian Women was adopted.

## **4. Country reports**

### **4.1 Nauru**

In 1993, the focal point for women's concerns in Nauru, which was under the management of the Senior Administration Officer in the Department of the Chief Secretary, had received a government allocation to fund a Women-in-Development (WID) Officer position. The position would be responsible for organising and co-ordinating the activities of women in the Republic of Nauru, and would be filled later in 1995. Further grants from Government in aid of WID programmes on Nauru were constrained by the lack of unity and of a unified direction in the activities of women on Nauru. This would be a prime target for WID activities on Nauru: to mobilise, unify and set common goals for all the women on Nauru.

### **4.2 Kiribati**

Six training courses had been held recently in Kiribati for women. They covered a variety of useful and needed skills, including community skills, home management, handicraft production, marketing local food, nutrition education, communication and an immunisation programme. Course participants came from a cross-section of Kiribati society and had returned to their communities to continue training other women in their villages.

### **4.3 Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)**

While FSM was widely scattered, with fairly autonomous state governments, there had been some good progress achieved in women's development in all the four states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae. Activities included formation of women's groups, national, state and grassroots training workshops and conferences, and wide participation in a number of programmes, including family planning, nutrition, youth programmes, environmental and historical preservation, maternal and child health care, primary health care, agriculture, mental health programme and population education.

### **4.4 Palau**

Palauan women were beginning to take an active role in the traditional economy of the islands and made an important contribution through food production and other productive activities. Palau's social and economic growth was being affected by developmental projects, which were beginning to cause social, cultural and economic imbalance. Other issues being faced were importation of

non-resident labour; dependence on imported products; drug trafficking; alcohol and drug abuse; commercial development by outside investors; teenage pregnancy; and violence against women.

#### **4.5 Republic of the Marshall Islands**

For many years the Ministry of Social Services and other government ministries in the Marshall Islands had seen the importance of women's role in the development of the Marshall Islands. Women had become a potent force in improving the health status of the members of the household through their active participation in health and nutrition education programmes. Women had also been visible in many small enterprises, which showed women's potential for developing the economy of the country. It was also the women who recognised the importance of forming organisations to serve the community.

However, efforts in advancing women's interests needed the support of other members of the family, the community and the government. In order to help women participate more actively in economic activities, the male members in the family should also recognise their equal role in home maintenance. Women also needed to be continuously recognised as equal partners of men in any government-sponsored projects and programmes. Most important, women needed to be more visible in important positions in the government and in the private sector.

Thus, the National Women's Policy stressed the importance of mobilising the resources of the government, community and the family to respond to women's needs in such areas as health, education, culture, business and national development planning. The Policy would serve as a guiding principle for all individuals and groups concerned with women's advancement in the country.



Maria Pangelinan of CNMI addresses the Caucus

#### **4.6. Guam**

The issue of education was a recurrent theme throughout all discussions of the 13 issues raised in the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA). Although legislation mandated compulsory education, equal access to education did not necessarily exist. The rise in the incidence of unplanned pregnancies in the middle-to-high-school levels had caused young women to drop out of school to care for their babies. Young men involved in unplanned pregnancies continued their educational pursuits uninhibited. What was lacking was the provision of quality and accessible child-care programmes that would allow young mothers to complete their education requirements. A positive alternative, which could be tried at the beginning of the next school year, was an on-site child-care facility at one of the high schools. There were plans to lobby with the newly-elected Board of Education for the comprehensive development of preventive sex education, targeting the middle-school level.

Although many good programmes and services for women existed within Guam's community, there was an evident lack of co-ordination, and redundancy abounded in programme objectives, functions and budgets. The limited resources were under-utilised and the lack of continuity and consistency undermined efforts to provide good programmes and services to women.

The overall health of Guam's women had improved in some areas and deteriorated in others. Again the problem was the lack of awareness and education, which was culturally sensitive.

The management of Guam's solid waste had reached crisis level. A commitment to lobby Guam's elected official to spearhead and assist in efforts to raise public awareness was needed.

#### **4.7 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI)**

CNMI identified a couple of major problems that affected the health, education, social and economic well-being of the CNMI women. Many of the needs identified could be ascribed to a shortage of information appropriate and relevant to CNMI. Women needed information to help them in identifying achievable goals, to support them in achieving a positive sense of identity, to guide them in establishing a healthy lifestyle, and to help them in gaining more meaningful roles in the community.

Greater education and training opportunities should be provided for women in the various communication media and the information industry as a whole, through formal and informal avenues. Alternative sources of information, particularly those relating to women's social, political and economic well-being, should be actively pursued.

### **5. Update on Pacific preparations for Beijing**

The Women's Development Adviser of the South Pacific Commission briefed the Caucus on the status of the Pacific's preparations for Beijing. The preparations began in 1993 with the commissioning of national reports on the evaluation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. Since then there had been:

- sub-regional caucuses to provide input to the draft PPA,
- a draft overview/situational analysis of Pacific women since Nairobi,
- endorsement of the Noumea Declaration and the PPA,
- a Ministerial Conference on Women and Sustainable Development,
- a second Asia/Pacific Ministerial Conference, Jakarta, Indonesia,
- tabling of the PPA at Asia/Pacific Meeting,
- a submission to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 1995,
- Pacific Technical Support Team critique of the draft Global Platform for Action (GPA),
- visit of Pacific Team to New York, final PrepCom for the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW),
- input by sub-regional caucuses to the draft GPA and development of strategies for participation in Beijing.

All government delegations to Beijing needed to be accredited in advance. All NGOs approved by governments to participate as Governments also required full accreditation. NGOs needed to comply with the strict accreditation process through the global NGO organisation in the UN secretariat in New York.

SPC had secured funding for ministerial participation only for Micronesia. Officials from Micronesia, with the exception of those from FSM, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, needed to locate their own funding.

## **6. Micronesian women's issues in relation to the PPA and the GPA**

Each of the key issues identified in the PPA was confirmed by the delegations, except for poverty, which delegations thought was not an issue in Micronesia.

The delegates divided into five groups and examined the GPA in depth, confirming, amending or deleting provisions with which they did not agree.

The working groups noted that quite a number of sections in the GPA were alternatives and options which they could pick or reject. Many of the sections, or parts thereof, were bracketed, meaning that the wording in the bracket was still contentious. Groups focused mainly on bracketed texts, either removing brackets where they wanted the text to stand as part of the GPA, or leaving text as bracketed in confirmation of the contentious nature of the text. In a few cases new wording was introduced even to unbracketed provisions, reflecting the group's desire to have the Micronesian situation reflected in the text.

## **7. Critique of the GPA : Preparatory Committee outcomes**

The Caucus noted that the GPA was based on three principles:

1. Women are human beings with rights and responsibilities;
2. Women's lives extend from childhood through adolescence and adulthood and into old age. The obstacles women face also run a course through their life-cycle, and solutions to them must recognise the needs at each stage of life;
3. Women's humanity is complex and holistic; physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually. As we respond to women's humanity and needs, no single aspect exits, or should be stressed, at the expense of others.

The Caucus also noted the following points:

- The GPA reflected the deep discussions on all aspects of development;
- The brackets contained in the documents in most cases signalled the necessity for further negotiations to reach an agreed language commonly understood by all. The draft text made it very clear that one issue—i.e. the issue of equality between women and men—was an accepted principle which was non-negotiable and permeated the entire Platform. It was also clear that there was no longer a need to debate women's role. International consensus had been reached that women's roles and equality were pivotal;
- Work was now needed for change, to translate the principles into action. The Beijing Conference therefore concerned a transformation of attitudes and practices that had been entrenched over thousands of years. This was not an easy task and sometimes called for patience and respect for the diversity of opinions. While the dialogue continued to reach consensus, those concerned should not lose sight of the women on whose behalf they were fighting.

## **8. Design and management of women's projects**

The Chief Economist of the South Pacific Commission presented the topic 'Design and management of women's projects' to the plenary session of the Caucus. He began by referring to a statement made in the opening session by the Hon Roger Mori on the importance of believing first in the virtue

of gender equality. Only on the foundation of belief and conviction could lasting (sustainable) projects and efforts in favour of women's development be achieved. When this condition was firmly established in the hearts of both men and women, the time would be ripe for the study of gender planning, tools and management techniques as covered in the Course.

The Chief Economist stated that global summits and the visions often associated with such lofty international gatherings would be to no avail without local, on-the-ground capability to translate dreams into reality. To succeed in the transition, local planners must be able to design projects and procedures and possess appropriate skill in managing projects.

A project was an investment of economic resources. This meant that some section of society would have to forgo its claim on the finite resources available in order for women's projects to be implemented and their goals realised.

The Chief Economist gave a brief history of the evolution of women in development as a subject in the aid industry in the world, and then went on to discuss the concepts (gender roles, WID, Gender and Development (GAD), triple roles of women, practical and strategic needs of women, gender imbalance, etc.). He highlighted the importance of understanding the mechanics of the social and political environments of women's projects, which he defined as a purposeful use of resources for achieving women's practical and strategic needs. He discussed why women's projects had 'misbehaved' in the past in many islands in the region, pointing to the tendency to 'welfarise' economic projects.

The Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) matrix and the Logframe for projects were then described and the groups taken through hypothetical projects to illustrate how the concepts could be applied in real life. The groups were assigned exercises; they worked on these and made their presentations in subsequent sessions.



Kiki Stinnett (Chuuk) and  
Bernadette Pereira-Xulue (SPC)  
at Caucus closing



Chuuk women listen  
attentively to plenary  
discussions

## IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Caucus made the following recommendations:

### **Micronesian Strategies**

The Caucus recommended that:

1. Governments be urged to make conscious efforts to develop women's policies;
2. Governments be urged to allocate new and additional resources to women's issues;
3. Dialogue and discussions be initiated regarding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
4. Lobbying efforts to make governments responsible be strengthened by strengthening women's focal points and mainstreaming women's concerns in governments.

### **NGOs**

The Caucus recommended that NGOs:

1. Strengthen lobbying efforts for the National Plans of Action (NPA) and the PPA;
2. Strengthen their networking;
3. Mobilise resources by identifying specific institutions to work closely with focal points;
4. Support, respect and be tolerant of each other.

### **Delegations**

The Caucus recommended that:

1. Delegations disseminate information about the Caucus and share the skills learnt from the workshops;
2. Agenda for the next Micronesian Caucus, tentatively scheduled to be held in Kiribati in July 1996, focus on priority issues in the PPA;
3. The SPC/Pacific Women's Resource Bureau be invited to provide skills training and to continue to provide resource information.

## V. STATISTICS WORKSHOP

The Caucus was divided into two components—the plenary Caucus sessions held each day from Thursday 22 June to Tuesday 27 June, followed by the Statistics Training Workshop from Wednesday 28 June to Saturday 1 July..

The South Pacific Commission's Assistant Statistician conducted the statistics training workshop.

### 1. Purpose

The statistics workshop was designed to:

- (a) Show participants the usefulness of statistics in understanding women's issues;
- (b) Build up participants' skills and confidence in analysing data, using simple but powerful statistical methods;
- (c) Show participants how to present their views effectively in reports and proposals through the use of statistics.

### 2. Topics covered

The following topics were covered :

- how to use a pocket calculator efficiently,
- arithmetic and simple calculations,
- the calculation and proper use of the range, mode, median and arithmetic mean,
- the calculation and use of percentages,,
- the calculation and use of ratios in the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA),
- data collection,
- interpreting statistical tables,
- drawing and interpreting statistical charts,
- understanding the Consumer Price Index.

### 3. Organisation

The nineteen participants were organised into four groups, which appointed a leader for each session. Exercises were mostly worked on a group basis, and the leaders were responsible for seeing that all members participated, and for calling for help when needed. At the beginning of each session a review was conducted by a group leader. The review appraised the presentation, summarised the main points of the previous session, and invited comments. This ensured that participants' views on presentation and subject matter were taken into account. Each participant had the opportunity to demonstrate at the blackboard several times during the workshop. Participants were encouraged to work together and learn from each other.

#### **4. Workbook**

Workshop activities were supported by a workbook designed to be used actively during the course. The workbook contained the session objectives, subject matter outline, background material for individual and team-work exercises, cases and diagrams.

Almost all participants found the workbook interesting and easy to read, with a clear layout and relevant and interesting exercises. They commented that they would have liked more exercises.

The workbook was also designed to use as a reference when participants returned to their countries and territories.

#### **5. Output**

The expected output of the workshop was that, on return to their countries, participants would be able to use a pocket calculator efficiently, develop arithmetic skills, understand and calculate averages, percentages, rates and round large numbers, analyse data using simple statistical methods, draw up and interpret statistical tables and charts and use them in reports and proposals, understand the process of data collection, use statistical tables and charts in reports and proposals, understand the statistical terms and rates mentioned in the PPA, and understand the Consumer Price Index.

#### **6. Evaluation**

The workshop was conducted over three and a-half days (Wednesday to Saturday). The facilitator's comments were that this was too short a time to cover the material, and this is supported by the evaluations of the participants, all of whom said the time was too short. The course was originally planned for Wednesday to Monday, which would have given five workshop days and a break on the Sunday. However, participants had already spent two weeks on Chuuk and were anxious to return home. They therefore asked the organisers to shorten the workshop.

In their evaluations, all but two participants found the workshop very interesting. All but one recommended the workshop be continued, and all recommended that it be conducted for women in their country.

## VI . LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### A. CAUCUS

#### COUNTRIES

#### Federated States of Micronesia

##### Pohnpei

Maria Babauta

Anne B. Luior

Jane Jimmy

##### Chuuk

Christina Stinnett

##### Yap

Rosa H. Tacheliol

##### Kosrae

Ropina D. Aloka

#### Guam

Elfrieda Koshiba

Conchita Taitano

#### Kiribati

Utieni Ioane

Taboneno Ngaebi

#### Marshall Islands

Evelyn Lanki

Helen Capelle

#### Nauru

Angie Itsimaera

Joy Heine

#### Northern Mariana Islands

Rosa T. Palacios

Maria T. Pangelinan

#### Palau

Roberta Louch

Gloria Salii

Katherine Kesolei

#### OBSERVERS

#### Federated States of Micronesia

Tina Takashy

Laura T. Ngaden

Naty Fasong

Bernie Tiningmow

Clara A. Eliam

Bwerech Amaraich

Shru W. Tulensru

Penina P. Mackwelung

Lydia Timothy

Carsina Sigrah

#### Marshall Islands

Veronica Kilovie

Kiorong Sam

Dolores Muller

Elizabeth Aisia

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<b>Palau</b>	Tutoad Ngiralmu Sylvia M. Tandelbad
<b>SPC Secretariat</b>	
Director of Programmes	Mafaituuga Vaasatia Poloma Komiti
Pacific Women's Resource Bureau	Bernadette Pereira-Xulue Luana von Reiche-Boyer
Statistics Programme	Don Hunter
Economics Programme	Siliga Kofe

### **B. STATISTICS COURSE**

#### **Federated States of Micronesia**

<b>Pohnpei</b>	Maria Babauta
<b>Chuuk</b>	Christina Stinnett Tanseny Reynold Emeren Kata Helen Welle Berty Irons Linda Hartman Ann Moses
<b>Yap</b>	Rosa H. Tacheliol
<b>Guam</b>	Elfrieda Koshiba
<b>Kiribati</b>	Utieni Ioane Taboneno Ngaebi
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	Evelyn Lanki Helen Capelle
<b>Nauru</b>	Joy Heine
<b>Northern Marianas</b>	Rosa T. Palacios Maria T. Pangelinan
<b>Palau</b>	Roberta Louch Angeles Takasi

## VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Women's Development Adviser acknowledged with gratitude the invaluable support given by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia in hosting the Fourth Micronesian Sub-Regional Caucus. Special mention was made of the Chuuk State Government and the women of Chuuk for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to the participants throughout the Caucus.

The participants also conveyed their appreciation to the women of Chuuk State for their gracious hospitality and for the excellent arrangements which all contributed to the success of the Micronesian Women's Caucus.