



PALAU



PALAU MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by

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Legal Counsel & Executive Director

VOICES Palau

at the

53rd Commission on the Status of Women

Friday, 6 March 2009

New York

Mr. Chairman,

It is an honor to present at the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women Palau

aligns itself with the statement made by the Pacific Island Countries at the 11th of

distinguished representative of Niue.

Mr. Chairman,

Palau is part of the Pacific sub-region of Micronesian Island Chains and consists of hundreds of tiny islands with a total population of 30,000. Traditionally, Palau's leadership structure was based on equal participation of decision-making by both men and women; this structure was slowly but surely eroded over the past eighty years, as a result of colonization. However, the 1981 Palau National Constitution provides for equal rights to both women and men and more

achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support within a human rights