



Department of Foreign Affairs Federated States of Micronesia

DFA/KAE-041-21
February 17, 2021

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji and has the honor to transmit the present Note Verbale on the Denunciation of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum by the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Department has further the honor, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article XI of the Agreement, requiring for a member to notify the depositary, with a written statement of reasons for its denunciation included, and to take effect one year after the day upon which the depositary has received the notification, to enclose herewith a Statement of Denunciation, for the relevant body or authority in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji to convey to the attention of the other parties or participants to all conventions/agreements/arrangements to which the Pacific Islands Forum is a signatory, party or participant, and for which the Government of the Republic of Fiji is the depositary or Chair.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji the assurances of its highest consideration.

Palikir, Pohnpei





The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

**Statement of Denunciation of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
by the Federated States of Micronesia**

1. On 30 September 2020, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Government of the Republic of Nauru, Government of the Republic of Palau, and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati, through their respective Presidents, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the President of the Republic of Kiribati participating virtually, convened the Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) Special Leaders' Meeting in Koror, Republic of Palau. The outcome of the Meeting, the Mekreos Communiqué, endorsed by all Presidents of the Micronesian sub-region, or the North Pacific countries, reiterated their firm commitment to the appointment of Micronesia's candidate, Ambassador Gerald M. Zackios, in line with the '*Gentlemen's Agreement*' for sub-regional rotation. It was during this Meeting that the Presidents agreed that the solidarity and integrity of the Pacific Islands Forum is strengthened by the Gentlemen's Agreement, that this issue is one of respect and Pacific Unity, and that it is non-negotiable for Member States. The Presidents agreed that the in the '*Pacific Way*', a '*Gentlemen's Agreement*' is an agreement, and if this agreement is not honored, then the Presidents see no benefit to remaining in the PIF.
2. On 3 February 2021, during the virtual Special Leaders Retreat, an election of Polynesia's candidate for the post of secretary general of the PIF, a selection process that defied the '*Gentlemen's Agreement*', a long-standing convention that dictated it was Micronesia's turn to provide a leader for the PIF.
3. On 8th February 2021, during a virtual MPS Leaders Meeting, the Micronesian Presidents collectively expressed great disappointment with the PIF Secretary General appointment process. The Presidents jointly agreed that all five nations will initiate the formal process of withdrawing from the Pacific Islands Forum, as set out in the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum. It was further agreed that each nation will undertake this process with respect to its own internal legal and procedural requirements and final decision rests with respective governments.
4. In order to address the specific situation of the denunciation of the Federated States of Micronesia of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum, the Statement of Denunciation provides for a one-year transition period during which, the PIF policies shall be applicable to and in the Federated States of Micronesia and that any reference to Member States in the PIF, including as implemented and applied by Member States, shall be understood as including the Federated States of Micronesia.



5. It is understood that the meaning of the Statement of Denunciation in the context of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum encompasses international agreements concluded by the PIF, or by Member States acting on behalf of the PIF, or by the PIF and its Member States jointly.
6. Subject to the conclusion of the Statement of Denunciation, the PIF is to notify parties to the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum referred to in point 5 above that, during the transition period, the Federated States of Micronesia is treated as a Member State of the PIF for the purposes of this Agreement.
7. The contents of Statement of Denunciation and the provisions relating to the transition period are laid down in Article XI of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands.
8. The transition period starts on February 17, 2021 and ends on February 14, 2022, unless the notification of denunciation is withdrawn earlier, as stated in paragraph 8 of Article XI of the Agreement.
9. At the end of the transition period, the Federated States of Micronesia will no longer be covered by the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum referred to in points 6 and 7 above. This is without prejudice to the status of the Federated States of Micronesia in relation to multilateral agreements to which it is a party in its own right.

Endorsed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "David W. Panuelo", is written over a horizontal line.

His Excellency David W. Panuelo
President of the Federated States of Micronesia