



**PALAU**



*PALAU MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

*866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 575, New York, NY 10017 Ph (212)-813-0310 Fax (212)-813-0317*

*(OPTIONAL - USE REVERSE)*

Statement

by

Ms. Imelda Bai Nakamura

Legal Counsel & Executive Director

VOICES Palau

at the

**53<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women**

Friday, 6 March 2009

New York

Mr. Chairman,

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

aligns itself with the statement made by the Pacific Island Countries at the 11<sup>th</sup>

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