

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-161

RE: C.R. No. 17-160/EDUCATION & EXAFF

SUBJECT: TO RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS  
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION CONVENTION FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE

NOVEMBER 21, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir  
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fourth Special Session, 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was jointly referred  
C.R. No. 17-160, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS  
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee held a joint hearing with the Committee on  
External Affairs regarding the above-captioned Convention on  
November 15, 2012. Witnesses in attendance at this hearing  
included the Secretary of Education and his staff, the Secretary  
of Foreign Affairs and his staff, the Acting Director of National  
Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation and her staff and the  
representative from the President's Office.

Witnesses present were in agreement that ratifying this  
Convention would enhance our country's ability to safeguard our  
intangible cultural heritage, which includes, but is not limited  
to: dancing, carving, weaving, chanting, cultural story telling,  
sailing, navigation and fishing.

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The advantages and benefits identified by the witnesses to ratifying the Convention include:

- ensuring the safeguarding of the cultural heritage at the international and national levels regarding continuity, transmission, development and scientific study;
- Making a socio-cultural contribution to the sustainable development of the country;
- Strengthening both local and national identity, ensuring openness towards other cultures and respect for cultural diversity;
- Fostering socio-cultural continuity between past, present and future generations;
- Promoting and guiding forms of tourism which respect the intangible cultural heritage as a source of identity and social cohesion; and
- Benefiting from a network of States Parties among with there is a genuine international cooperation, assistance and exchange of experience.

When asked if the membership to this Convention could mean additional funding for preservation of the intangible cultural heritage both the Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Education stated that additional grants would likely be available. Your Committee also inquired as to the responsibilities the country would be taking on if the Convention was ratified, and if the relevant offices had the capacity to fulfill these without additional funding or personnel. The Secretary of Education advised that according to the terms of the Convention we would be required to make a complete inventory of intangible cultural heritage, produce two reports per year, take preservation measures and document those measures, and pay additional nominal annual fee of under \$25. The Secretary stated he believed that this was possible with the current funding and personnel levels. All witnesses enthusiastically recommended the ratification of this Convention. In turn your Committee is very supportive of ratifying this Convention as it will further enhance preservation of our cultural heritage and promote tourism.

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Your Committee on Education recommends the following amendments to C.R. No. 17-160:

1. Page 1, line 16, delete "Fifth Regular" and insert "Fourth Special" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-160, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 17-10, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon  
Bonsiano F. Nethon, vice-chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian  
Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert  
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Tony H. Otto  
Tony H. Otto, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina  
Wesley W. Simina, member

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