



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Session

Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

30 November to 5 December 2025

HEADQUARTERS MATTERS

FAC19-2025-07

30 October 2025

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide updates on current operations at Commission Headquarters (Secretariat) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Updates cover Secretariat property and staff housing, security, telecommunications, travel, environmental responsibility, medical care, and utility services.

Operations Updates

Headquarters Building

2. The Secretariat building remains in good condition due to ongoing maintenance. Due to a degradation in performance of the current solar system at the Headquarters building, a proposal to replace and upgrade the current solar panels is presented in [FAC19-2025-07](#). The Secretariat continues to work with the host government on upgrades to the building. These upgrades include repairs to the ground floor tiling, and improvements to the parking area.

Professional Staff Housing

3. As stated in previous years, there continues to be considerable pressure on the housing market in Pohnpei. With limited inventory and the establishment of a sub-regional UN office in Pohnpei, along with additional staff from other organizations, the demand for housing remains high. The presence of these organizations has further increased pressure on available rentals. Fortunately, the Secretariat has established strong relationships with landlords and secured long-term leasing arrangements for current professional staff.

Security

4. The Secretariat compound maintains 24-hour security through direct contracting of security guards. There were several security incidents reported at Headquarters storage rooms on the compound in the past year with the police making an arrest and pressing charges.

Telecommunications and Internet

5. Communication systems performed with minimal downtime throughout the year. The Secretariat's primary fibre-optic connection, provided by FSM Telecommunications Corporation, now delivers significantly higher bandwidth at no cost to the Secretariat. A Starlink satellite connection serves as a backup, providing redundancy during fibre outages and supporting low-priority internet traffic.

Travel

6. United Airlines continues operations in Pohnpei with continued regular disruption in service. Air Nauru also operates a once weekly service connecting Brisbane, Australia to Palau, via Nauru, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei. Early booking is recommended for all travel to Pohnpei.

Environmental Responsibility

7. The Secretariat continues to be mindful of the environmental impact of its operations. Solar energy now generates around 75% of the Secretariat's electricity, significantly reducing environmental impact and costs. Additionally, the Secretariat seeks to minimize the use of non-recyclable items and maximize waste recycling.

Medical Care in Pohnpei

8. Medical services in Pohnpei are limited and many essential procedures and tests are unavailable on the island. Most staff members must travel overseas for routine medical tests, treatments, and care. This remains a concern for both support and professional staff, as overseas travel adds to costs and logistical challenges.

Utility Services

9. Electricity has been inconsistent throughout the year, with periods of rolling blackouts and frequent daily outages. The backup generator for the office is in good working condition and has helped in minimizing disruptions to daily Secretariat operations.