



National Federation of Democratic Women
Annual Convention

Resolution Urging Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

WHEREAS: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world – addressing violence against women, the right to vote, sex trafficking, and access to education, among other issues; and

WHEREAS: Despite its adoption by 186 countries, 7 countries have not yet done so: Iran, Nauru, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, and Tonga, and The United States (despite having been signed by President Carter in 1980); and

WHEREAS: In November of 2010 the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, conducted a hearing -- the first such hearing since 2002. In order for the treaty to move to the Senate Floor for a vote, a vote must first be held in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS: We know that CEDAW has improved the quality of life for women in other countries, whether it be significant increases in literacy rates after improving access to education or incorporating Treaty provisions into constitutions and domestic legal codes; and

WHEREAS: It is disgraceful and long overdue that the United States has not yet ratified this United Nations Treaty, which happens to reflect our philosophy above that of the many countries who have signed on; and

WHEREAS: Ratifying CEDAW will be beneficial to the United States in many ways, but most importantly, it will make our country a more effective leader in helping women around the world regarding their health, education, employment, maternal and child mortality, female genital mutilation and poverty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Federation of Democratic Women believes that women's rights are human rights and hereby urges Senate approval of this important treaty during this 112th Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Secretary of the National Federation of Democratic Women forward a copy of this resolution to all chartered National Federation of Democratic Clubs throughout the country.

Introduced by the Woman's National Democratic Club