



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Press Release

For Immediate Information

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Core group of Pacific SIDS tables draft resolution on the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands at the Human Rights Council

GENEVA - This morning, at the 51st session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), the core group comprising Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) who have Permanent Missions based in Geneva, namely, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, and Vanuatu tabled their draft resolution titled "Technical assistance and capacity building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands".

As presented, the draft resolution is seeking the assistance of the United Nations through the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) to help the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in addressing their nuclear legacy with the key "ask" being technical assistance and capacity building for the RMI National Nuclear Commission (NNC).

As an HRC resolution, it is the first of its kind to specifically address the human rights implications of nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands or anywhere else. The draft resolution is inspired in part and guided by the recommendations contained in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications of human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes that was released back in 2012.

HRC initiatives are member-driven and the nuclear legacy issue has been and continues to be a priority for the RMI and the Pacific region. The RMI has been telling our story and advocating our nuclear legacy throughout the establishment of our Permanent Mission in Geneva as one of our key priorities and HRC membership pledges. It has continuously raised the profile of the issue in the HRC throughout its membership, most recently at the High Level Segment (HLS) of the 49th session of the HRC in March 2022 and followed up just last week during the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly where H.E. President Kabua spoke about "[t]he exposure of our people and land has created impacts that have lasted – and will last – for generations. These impacts to our human rights, land, culture, health, and lives, are burdens that no other nation or country should ever have to bear".

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