



H.E. Mr. David Kabua
President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDG Moment 2021
New York 20 September 2021

Check against delivery

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies

Iakwe from the Marshall Islands and let me begin by expressing the Marshall Islands' appreciation of the convening of this important event. We find this a well-timed opportunity to express our commitment to the continued implementation of Agenda 2030.

As a small island state, our country faces unique challenges, including geographic isolation, rising sea levels and climate change impacts among many others. To mitigate these challenges, we have developed a National Strategic Plan. We have integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into our National Plan.

In addition to our unique challenges, we have also faced the challenge of COVID 19. The RMI has successfully ensured the safety of our people from the pandemic and have supported our people and local businesses to ensure our economic and social fabric remains resilient. However, despite these efforts, COVID-19 continues to negatively impact our economy.

We are committed to the health of our people. We embrace the value of "Kumiti Ejmour" or "health is a shared responsibility". The "kumit" lifestyle is one where every Marshallese supports one another in every effort to improve healthy lifestyles.

Private sector inclusion remains a cornerstone of long-term sustainable economic growth. We continue to implement plans to increase employment opportunities and trade while minimizing social inequalities and environmental impacts.

An inclusive, "One Nation Concept" aims to integrate the unique development needs of each RMI atoll. The NSP exemplifies how we address outer island development through this One Nation approach.

Sea level rise combined with more frequent and severe periodic wave surges create tipping points for tolerability of habitation in the RMI. Accelerated adaptation measures

for well-being and livelihoods of atoll communities are being pursued with resources dedicated to support climate proofing and resilience building. Our Climate Change Directorate continues to work to implement the National Environmental Management Plan and integrate this with our National Adaptation Strategy.

We are committed to fully implementing the NSP, which integrates the SDGs. We acknowledge that reaching the targets remains a challenge. This will require the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including those working on issues such as marine resource management and climate change which depend on global leadership and action.

Thank you and Kommol tata.