

Statement by Abacca Anjain-Maddison
Former Senator of Rongelap, Marshall Islands
at the International World Conference Against A&H Nuclear Weapons
Hiroshima, Japan August 3, 2025

Mina san Konichua,

It's an honor and privilege to be back in Hiroshima to joining you at this very important annual International World Conference. An opportunity to pay our respect to Hibakushas those who have passed on and those still with us today, A time to come together to renew our strengths as we continue to carry out our commitment and taking bold steps to make this world a safe and peaceful place to live in for all humankind and for our children and generations to come.

I bring greetings from the people of the Marshall Islands especially the people and women from Rongelap.

The Marshallese people and Government have made great achievements this year in and around our nuclear legacy in which I'm happy to share with you. Since the RMI has become a member of the Human Rights Council in Geneva for the 2nd time, our efforts in meeting our commitments have been taken quite remarkably.

Late last year, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons visited the Marshall Islands. Her report pinned point challenges and strongly recommended that the United States to acknowledge the sufferings and injustice inflicted on the displaced populations caused by the US Nuclear testings which include people of Rongelap, Bikini and Enewetak, etc. and provide necessary compensations. Also to provide full payment to settle all unpaid NCT claims including environmental remediation of the nuclear effected atolls. The new Compact of Free Association between RMI and the US has \$800M Re-purpose funds will be available. The Government has also started to

This year, the RMI is due to submit its Universal Periodic Report (UPR) progress for the last five years. The report includes progresses on 1) Non-Proliferation Treat (NPT) - As a nuclear-affected state, RMI has been a strong voice for the advancement of nuclear disarmament and demonstrated sustained

leadership in integrating humanitarian principles into international dialogue. On the occasion of the 37th Memorial Anniversary of Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day on 01 March 2025, RMI signed the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, marking a historic step in strengthening RMI commitment to a nuclear-free Pacific; and 2) the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) - The RMI was an active participant in the UN negotiating process on the Treaty of the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons and joined other nations in voting its adoption. As a country that has experienced firsthand the devastation of nuclear weapons, RMI supports the underlying premise of the Treaty and continues to call for the abolition of all nuclear weapons from Earth. This requires partnerships and commitment, especially from Nuclear Weapons-States. RMI is carefully studying the implications of the Treaty and is still considering the victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions to assess their compatibility with the national position that the Government of the United States of America retains primary responsibility for victim assistance and environmental remediation for the nuclear weapons tests conducted on RMI territory. RMI would welcome technical assistance from all relevant stakeholders to confirm this interpretation of Article 6 and advance its assessment of the Treaty.

Climate Change is equally an important issue to the Marshall Islands considering that its one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. It cannot be separated from our Nuclear Legacy since they overlap in terms of the danger poses to the environment, health and livelihood of the Marshallese. Last month, the frontliner countries in the Pacific including the Marshall Islands won their case at the International Court of Justice on Climate Change. The historic win by the Pacific Island countries could trigger global climate lawsuits, compensation claims, and force major polluters to act.

In April this year marked the 40th anniversary of people of Rongelap living in displacement, the Greenpeace jointly participating on Mejatto islet. It was a time of sadness but more importantly a time to celebrate life. In our humble way How we've come together as a community, a family to share our nuclear legacy leading the fight against injustices initiated by our elders and leaders who died of cancer done remembering our elders and leaders who have have be grateful for the friendship of good and from the ashes of nuclear injustice and have Many media coverages from this event involving Mrs Kathy Joel, one of the last survivor from the hydrogen bomb denotated on Bikini atoll. This was the last trip for Kathy, she died 3 days after she returned from Mejatto. She was

also one of the people who 40 years ago was on Greenpeace boat with her husband and children and grandchildren leaving Rongelap to start a new life on Mejjatto, Kwajalein atoll. Today, there are 9 survivors left 5 males and 4 females.

It is important to share the knowledge and experience with the younger generations and that's why the Nuclear Victim's Remembrance day will be hosted on Ebeye for the very first time on March 1st next year. The paramount Chief of Ebeye has given his blessing and further supports the idea of building a mini museum on Ebeye.

In conclusion, I wish to extend the people of Rongelap's gratitude to Gensuikyo and Japanese Hibakusa's for your ending support. No words can be said enough to mount up to your kindness and caring for world peace. We would like to invite you to attend the March 1st event on Ebeye.

Kommool tata and Arigato kodaimasu