



Republic of the Marshall Islands
STATEMENT by H.E Doreen deBrum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
World Health Organization - 150th Executive Board
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Geneva

Item 15.2: Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response

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Director General, Distinguished Colleagues,

The Marshall Islands wishes to extend its most sincere gratitude as well as its support to the World Health Organization and its partners striving to ensure the health of people everywhere.

We now start our third year struggling with COVID-19, but unlike the previous two years, with vaccines being distributed worldwide, global awareness and medical breakthroughs, hope of a new dawn is before us.

When we see the disproportionate effect on our citizens abroad, we recognize more than ever the necessity to prioritize the health of our people over any other considerations. As a result of strong and protracted containment measures, the Marshall Islands remains one of the few countries with no record of local transmission of COVID-19.

The development of a WHO convention, agreement or instrument on pandemic preparedness and response as discussed during the Second Special Session of the World Health Assembly is the culmination of our common efforts in building back a healthier global community.

Over the past two years we have been continually reminded that viruses know no borders. With one of the most effective and successful pandemic responses in the world, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has proven itself to be a valued partner and ally to countries in need, including the Marshall Islands. Battling this pandemic, it is our duty to ensure we all, without exception, heal our communities, contribute to our common recovery and collaborate for a healthier and safer future. This is why the Marshall Islands joins other nations in calling for inclusion of all countries and territories in all of the WHO's work program irrespective of political views and differences. The WHO should allow The Republic of China (Taiwan) to engage constructively and systematically in COVID-19 related meetings and mechanisms, the International Health

Regulations, the Western Pacific Regional Office, and the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System, including at the upcoming 75th World Health Assembly in May.

Kommol tata and I thank you.