



Republic of the Marshall Islands
STATEMENT by H.E Doreen deBrum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
World Health Organization - 152nd Executive Board
30 January 2023
Geneva

Item 12.1: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Marshall Islands wishes to extend its sincerest gratitude and unequivocal support to the WHO and its partners striving to promote and protect the health and well-being of people everywhere.

Despite the increased global distribution of vaccines, 2022 proved to be a challenging year for the Marshall Islands with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. In August, we experienced a rapid and severe outbreak of COVID-19 in our capital city of Majuro. After two years without any community transmissions, we were suddenly confronted with a surge of local infections.

As we shifted our national health policy from prevention to mitigation, the support we received from our allies in the form of the provision of vaccines and PPE, access to hospital facilities, and financial support proved to be invaluable in combating this public health crisis.

To achieve our goal of advancing the 10 proposals included in the report, particularly Proposal 6, we believe it is critical that our HEPR architecture be as inclusive as possible. The WHO is responsible for the health and safety of our global society, which means no country or territory should be left behind. Indeed, no one will ever be truly safe until everyone is safe.”

All public health security stakeholders worldwide must work together to counter global health threats, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan has proven itself to be a valuable partner in this regard and we call for their inclusion in all technical meetings, activities, and mechanisms of the WHO, including as an observer to the WHA.

Kommol tata and I thank you.

