



Republic of the Marshall Islands
WRITTEN STATEMENT
World Health Organization - 156th Executive Board
04 February 2025
Geneva

Item 7: Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Reflecting on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, the Republic of the Marshall Islands wishes to highlight the unique situation of Small Islands Developing States, which are faced with distinct health issues that pose a disproportionate burden on our communities, including the impacts of climate change on health, nutrition and the prevention of NCDs.

The Pacific islands region, including the Marshall Islands, has some of the highest NCDs incidence rates in the world, and current prevention and control measures are sadly inadequate. Like other SIDS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands continues to be challenged with a plethora of technical and capacity constraints in our ongoing efforts to address the health problems facing our atoll nation.

In particular, diabetes is a major concern in the Marshall Islands, which has one of the highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the world. The unique hospital of the country is overburdened with diabetes patients, often presenting at late stages and requiring amputation and dialysis, which is not available in-country.

In this regard, cross-cutting efforts from all actors must be strengthened to directly address the distinct health needs of SIDS. We call on the WHO to include the Republic of China (Taiwan) in all technical meetings, activities, and mechanisms and invite Taiwan to participate as an observer in the World Health Assembly. Taiwan has collaborated with the Marshall Islands, to help combat one of our nation's biggest health threats, by offering regular diabetes screenings to communities and contributing to the development of teaching material promoting a healthy diet, which is key in the prevention of control of diabetes.

Kommol tata and we thank you.