



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Statement by Mr. Samuel K. Lanwi Jr.
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Item 25: Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

Check against delivery

The Republic of the Marshall Islands wishes to highlight the unique challenges facing maternal and child health and nutrition in the Pacific Islands region, where we face the dual burden of high stunting rates alongside some of the highest maternal obesity rates in the world.

Recent statistics indicate that three in four mothers in the Marshall Islands are overweight or obese and one in four households has both an overweight or obese mother and a stunted child. This represents a serious public health crisis, placing both our mothers and our youth at heightened risk. In response, we are collaborating with the World Bank and UNICEF in implementing the Multisectorial Early Childhood Development Project, which aims to strengthen access to essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition services.

Cross-cutting efforts from all actors and partners must be strengthened so we call again on the WHO to invite the Republic of China (Taiwan) to all technical meetings, activities, and mechanisms and participate as an observer in the WHA. Taiwan is a leader in promoting healthy mother-child nutrition, including through the promotion of breastfeeding pursuant to their Public Breastfeeding Act.

Kommol tata and we thank you.