



Republic of the Marshall Islands
STATEMENT by Ambassador Doreen deBrum
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Item 15.2 Maternal infant and young child nutrition
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Mr. President, Director-General, Excellencies,

The Marshall Islands is one of only 5 atoll nations in the world. In total, we comprise a total of over 1,000 islands. Out of this, 24 atolls are inhabited. Our average coastal elevation is about 2 meters above the sea. You can image the challenges that our natural features pose in terms of communications, response to natural disasters and well-being of the population in the context of infectious diseases such as Covid-19.

Early Childhood Development continues to be a significant challenge in the Marshall Islands owing to a number of resource constraints. As a result, maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the Pacific region. On a brighter note, we have been able to address this problem with assistance from international partners.

The Government is expanding public sector delivery of essential ECD services by providing targeted support and increasing coverage for vulnerable families. To this end, efforts are underway to further strengthen our capacity and capability to institutionalize and sustain a multisectoral ECD program.

To bridge the gap in the global health system, we need strong commitments to help with Early Childhood Development. This is why we need active WHO participation, and we need it to bridge partnerships with all actors; leaving no one behind including our most important partner Taiwan.

Thank you.