



Republic of the Marshall Islands
STATEMENT by Hon. Ota Kisino, Minister of Health and Human Services
78th Session of the World Health Assembly
19 May 2025
Geneva

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Item 3: General Discussion

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1. Mr. President, Director General, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,
2. The Republic of the Marshall Islands aligns fully with the theme “One World for Health” and looks forward to the historic adoption of the Pandemic Agreement.
3. As a small island nation, we carry the burden of a nuclear legacy that continues to have transgenerational impacts on the health and well-being of our people, especially as our women were disproportionately affected. This summer, we aim to launch a nationwide cervical cancer mass screening initiative- a testament to our commitment to prevention and early detection as a path toward a cancer-free future.
4. Let us be clear: One World for Health must mean that no community is left behind—whether due to geography, history, gender, or politics. From

the Marshall Islands, we lend our voice to the collective call for a healthier, more inclusive, and more peaceful world. We, therefore, urge all Member States to support the draft resolution Effects of Nuclear War on Public Health.

5. The suggestion that nuclear weapons keep the peace, runs contrary to the health principle of nonmaleficence. We cannot claim a cure by developing and possessing the disease. Accordingly, the Health Assembly must unite for a World free of nuclear weapons, through a timely reminder and comprehensive review of their dire consequences to public health.
6. Finally, Mr. President, we must emphasize to member states the universality and inclusiveness that this body stands for. In this regard, the Marshall Islands reaffirms that global health cooperation must include the 23.5 million people of Taiwan, as it did by inviting them to participate as observers from 2009 to 2016. Our commitment to “One World for Health” is the very justification that speaks to their inclusion, to ensure that all voices are heard.
7. Kommol tata and I thank you, Mr. President.