



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Statement by

**The Hon. Ruben Zackhras
Vice Speaker of the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

[Check against delivery]

**61st SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
GENERAL DEBATE**

New York, 27 September 2006

Madam President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam President,

I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of this 61st session of the General Assembly. Please be assured of my country's support and cooperation during the session and throughout your tenure.

Marshall Islands commends all members of the General Assembly in their efforts, contributions, and cooperation throughout the 60th session towards achieving many of our common aspirations. Although we have achieved a good measure of success, there is still much work ahead. We must work together and pool our resources, our talents and our

While we realize the implications and adverse impacts of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region, including the consequences of over-fishing on the national and regional resources, we continue to develop and explore ways and means to strengthen our fisheries conservation and management measures, as well as the

development of our domestic fisheries. We seek a moratorium on bottom trawling until there are clear indications that it has no effects on the ocean biodiversity.

It is our hope that regional efforts, such as efforts being undertaken by Small Islands

goal of achieving general and complete disarmament. We urge those countries that have not already done so to become a Party to the NPT; and those countries that are a Party to the NPT to fully cooperate with the IAEA and fulfill their obligations under the Treaty.

Marshall Islands and French Polynesia know all too well that colonial powers are willing to use territories other than their own to conduct dangerous nuclear weapons testing. In this regard, we call on the United Nations to continue to press for the decolonization of all nations in the Pacific region.

We also call on the United Nations to admit the 23 million citizens of Taiwan to the United Nations family. Taiwan, who shares the Organization's view on the principles of universality and self-determination, has been enjoying a democratic government of its own for over half a century. Taiwan's denied membership into the United Nations again and again questions the legitimacy of the Organization. I, therefore, urge this body to welcome Taiwan into its membership. Furthermore, Marshall Islands wishes to express its disapproval over the General Committee's illegal action with regard to the amalgamation of Taiwan's two resolutions. This prevented the consideration of resolution item 41 and item 155 on their own independent merits-a clear violation of Rule 40. As a co-sponsor of these resolutions, we strongly protest the illegalities of limiting the number of speakers before the General Committee on each resolution and the combining of the two issues into one. Such arbitrary practice constituting political judgment, without transparency, of two entirely distinct issues should not be allowed to happen in this august body of sovereign nations.

Madam President,

Marshall Islands wishes to reiterate our support for the reform, restructure and expansion of the UN Security Council. In particular, we give emphasis to the inclusion of Japan for Permanent Membership in the Security Council and fully endorse Japan's proposal on the methodology to be used in the preparation of the UN scale of assessments for the period 2007-2009. We are convinced that the entire UN membership would benefit excessively from Japan's Permanent Membership and its proposed scale of assessment structure.

In the regional arena, last year, Marshall Islands joined two of our neighbors in requesting that the UN step-up its presence in the Northern Pacific to pursue various development agenda not only in our country but in the Pacific region as a whole. I am pleased to inform you today that three UN agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF have agreed to establish offices in various countries in the region, including the Marshall Islands.

Moreover, our government has been working extensively with others in the region to implement the Pacific Plan, endorsed at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in

Internationally, the Marshall Islands joins other Pacific countries in reiterating our interests and asking the international community to recognize the vulnerability of Small

Island Developing States (SIDS). SIDS need the continued support of the developed countries to build up their capacity to manage vulnerability, strengthen food security and build resilience to economic, social and environmental change. We appeal to the international community to support and enhance existing and new capacity building efforts of and across the SIDS. We need the assistance of the international community to

establish mechanisms to enable the SIDS to cope with and adjust to globalization and trade liberalization.