Ms. Deborah Barker-Manase  
Charge d'affaires a.i. & Deputy Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations  
Friday, May 15 2015  
Main Committee I: Draft Chairman’s Report  
NPT/CONF/2015/MC 1/CRP 4

The Republic of the Marshall Islands appreciates the merged report and the tireless efforts of H.E. Ambassador Laggner of Switzerland, Chair of Subsidiary Body 1, and you.

Mr. Chair,

As a country, which has suffered from nuclear tests, we strongly believe that the Conference must acknowledge that nuclear weapons can never be used under any circumstances. Therefore, it is vital for the outcome document to convey the central message of the joint statement delivered by Austria. We regret that strong references to the unacceptable consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation, including its effects on multiple dimensions, are not prominently featured throughout this text.

Mr. Chair,

Similar to our colleagues’ concerns, we note and are concerned that the operative paragraph 8 does not state the slow pace of the implementation of disarmament commitments. We would insert slow before “pace.” We further request some clarity on the phrase “as perceived by some state parties.” Consequently, the proposed text should be: The Conference recognizes the slow pace of the implementation of disarmament commitments, concerns over breaches of the Treaty’s obligations, and the lack of universality undermine confidence in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is concerned about the current formulation of paragraph 28. We request deletion of acknowledgment and replace it with expresses its deep concern and remove “make every effort.”

Concerning Op 42 (1), the Republic of the Marshall Islands requests the insertion of any circumstances in the second sentence. Thus, the sentence would be: The Conference affirms that, pending the realization of this objective, it is the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never to be used again, under any circumstances.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands requests the Conference to recognize the necessity for greater and accelerated efforts to implement Article VI of the NPT and relevant frameworks through the specification of concrete benchmarks and timeframes. In this
vein, we welcome the language in OP 42 (6), but we propose the following change: deletion of “that are designed.”

The Republic of the Marshall Islands requests the insertion of **and eliminating** after substantively in OP 42 (7). Thus, the sentence would be: **The Conference calls upon all States concerned to continue to review their military and security concepts, doctrines, and policies over the course of the forthcoming review cycle with a view to reducing substantively and eliminating the role and significance of nuclear weapons therein.**

Concerning OP 42 (19), we welcome the references regarding the legal approaches to elaborate the effective measures for the implementation of Article VI. However, we propose some changes. We request the deletions of “encourages, engages, and “disarmament machinery” and replace with **calls, to begin, and within the framework of the United Nations.”** Thus, similar to suggestions from other delegations, the text would be: **The Conference calls on all states to begin, without delay, within the framework of the United Nations, in an inclusive process, to identify and elaborate effective measures for the full implementation of Article VI, including the legal provisions required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.**

Mr. Chair,

My people’s experiences with the impact of nuclear weapons underpin my delegation’s strong views that a legal framework must be established to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons as reiterated by additional delegations.

We will submit additional comments to you.

Thank you.