Ms. Deborah Barker-Manase  
Charge d'affaires a.i. & Deputy Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations  
Monday, May 18 2015  
Report of Main Committee I:  
Revised Draft Chairman’s Report (NPT/Conf.2015/MC.1/CRP.4/Rev.1)

Mr. Chair,

The Marshall Islands appreciates your tireless efforts on this revised report. However, there are some essential points we wish to make.

Mr. Chair,

Compliance

Regarding pp. 7, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is deeply concerned about the deletion of the phrase, “UN Charter.” We strongly believe that the UN Charter is the overarching global instrument with respect to international peace and security, and in turn nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are fundamental to international peace and security. Consequently, we urge the reinsertion of the reference to the UN Charter as in the previous draft and the 2010 Final Document.

Nuclear Disarmament

Concerning the references to nuclear disarmament,
In the current version of PP6, the Republic of the Marshall Islands notes that there has been a deletion of “at all times” from the reaffirmation of the strict observance of the NPT’s provisions. We contend that "at all times" should be reinserted

We welcome the current text of pp 8. We appreciate the Chair’s recognition of the strong views in the room about the current state of nuclear disarmament. We further welcome pp 9.

We take note of PP18’s formulation and are concerned about it. It can either be reworded or deleted. PP18 is based upon the 1995 Principles and Objectives, which are referenced in PP 16. Additionally, the current formulation highlights reductions in connection to Article VI.

Concerning pp. 24, we propose that “conflagration” is replaced with the term “detonation.” The Conference has focused on the wider impacts, not just those related to war. Further, evidence, which was presented at the humanitarian conferences, underscored the devastation of one single detonation. Moreover, we also have reservations about the term, “conflagration.”

We welcome pp 25.
Concerning pp. 30, the overwhelming majority of States have shown “a growing interest … in the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons” by joining these statements, therefore, we are of the view that the paragraph must, at very least, welcome the growing interest and must refer to the “overwhelming majority of States”.

In terms of paragraph 32, the conference should welcome instead of notes the Austrian Pledge.

**ICJ Advisory Opinion**

Regarding pp. 35, we would prefer it if the conference simply recalls, in its entirety, the International Court of Justice’s advisory opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons issued at The Hague on 8 July 1996. Thus the phrase “in its entirety” would be added.

**References to Nuclear Weapons**

The Republic of the Marshall Islands welcomes paragraph OP 1, but we would include “under any circumstances” at the end of the paragraph to make the point crystal clear and categorical.

We welcome op 2.

In OP3, the added reference to "way that promotes international stability, peace and security and based on principle of undiminished and increased security" for all should be deleted. The NPT provides no conditions for implementation of Article VI

While we welcome op7, this important paragraph would bear an important addition, to read "with a view to reducing substantively and eliminating the role and significance of nuclear weapons therein, [new language] and identifying specific milestones." While we are not prescriptive as to the nature of these "milestones" the international community deserves greater confidence and assurance, beyond generalized statements.

**Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

In terms of op. 18, the Republic of the Marshall Islands supports the text as proposed by Japan regarding the importance of visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the members of the international community.

**Disarmament and Framework**
Regarding op. 19, we do not accept the current language. We request the deletions of “encourages, engages, and “disarmament machinery” and replace with urges, to begin, and within the framework of the United Nations.

Mr. Chair,

The Marshall Islands reiterates our concerns expressed at the opening of this NPT Review Conference, that there may be different avenues towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons – but our worst fear is merely continuing the status quo - seeing no meaningful answer at all. Perpetuating the status quo, patting ourselves on the back and expecting accolades for making zero progress at this NPT Review Conference is totally unacceptable to all peoples and all nations. Surely we can, and must do better.

Thank you Mr. Chair