Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, and Friends,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands recognizes the incredible progress, which was achieved during the first round of negotiations. We further welcome the draft convention.

Regarding the preamble, it introduces and sets out the vision of this treaty. It provides us with the directions to move towards the global goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

In relation to our strong conviction about the significance of the preamble, we believe it is necessary for it to include the following elements:

i. The humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons use should be rightfully acknowledged as a fundamental underpinning of the instrument. This must be accomplished in a means which does not point fingers nor erode whatever trust exists with nuclear-armed states. Focusing on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is not a pathway to vilifying any actor; rather, it is about our collective judgment of how to deal with the inhumane and indiscriminate weapons. This should be done in a manner which points to something which should be plain and obvious to everyone in the room -- that there are devastating human and environmental consequences resulting from the use of nuclear weapons. We have a moral obligation to our youngest and future generations. We should highlight the incredible risks faced every day that these weapons remain in existence, and underscore that these risks must be reduced and ultimately eliminated, and will remain as long as nuclear weapons exist.

ii. Include references to the UNGA Resolution on the Ethical Imperatives for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World (A/RES/71/55), which received the support of almost all states involved in the present negotiations. Specifically, we suggest that the state parties should indicate that they are convinced that “nuclear weapons serve no legitimate purpose given their indiscriminate nature, inherent immorality and potential to annihilate humanity and the planet as a whole.

iii. Nuclear testing around the world has had, and continues to have, a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities causing harm that can be considered widespread, long term, and severe.
iv. Our experience shows how important it is for both terrestrial and marine environments to be considered when it comes to environmental remediation, and this should be mentioned in the preamble and in the operative part of the treaty.

In light of our experience, it is our fervent hope that such weapons of mass destruction shall never again be tested or unleashed.

Thank you