**Human Rights Council – 57th Session**

Earthjustice, Geneva, 4 October 2024

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands

Thank you Mr. President,

The Marshallese were not at war with the United States. Still, they suffered from about 67 nuclear tests. Still, they were removed from their homeland for “the good of mankind and to end all world wars”. Still today, they are victims of this nuclear legacy, without an appropriate remedy.

The Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights has insisted that States must ensure that victims of toxic exposure are not forestalled from realizing their right to a remedy by systemic obstacles.

Several Human Rights Council mandate holders thus describe the legacy in the Republic of the Marshall Islands as not only nuclear but colonial.

Does such an issue fully belong to the HRC ? Is it too technical ? The report of the Office of the High Commissioner provides a clear answer. It’s an issue of transitional justice.

Therefore a truth mechanisms must be established to obtain a comprehensive and accurate factual accounting of this nuclear legacy, for the present and future generations.

The Swiss Peace Foundation digitalization and archiving of the records of the Nuclear Claims Tribunal is thus very welcomed.

Guarantees of non-recurrence are needed to identify and fund the required infrastructure and measures to avoid, mitigate and prevent repeated or continuing radiological exposure.

Finaly, the Government of the United States must now declassify all their records to the fullest extent possible and formulate an apology, similar to the one given to its own citizens subjected to radiation experimentation.

We look forward to the adoption of the resolution to continue to assist the Republic of the Marshal Islands in ensuring to its people the full right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Thank you.