

57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva

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Enhanced ID on nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands

German Statement

Mr./Madam (Vice-)President,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement, and thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for its report on the human rights implications stemming from the Marshall Islands’ nuclear legacy.

Germany is a proud co-sponsor of the resolution that mandated this report, and will continue to support the Marshall Islands in addressing their nuclear legacy.

The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is one of Germany’s foreign policy priorities, and we cannot thank the Marshall Islands enough for having brought this topic to the Human Rights Council during their previous membership. Multiple elements of this right are affected by the nuclear legacy which the report describes in detail.

This is a topic that clearly belongs within the Human Rights Council – as expressed in our Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action. Moreover, permanent displacement, threats to life and health, equality and non-discrimination, the right to housing and Indigenous Peoples’ rights are all topics this Council discusses on a daily basis – and all of these rights are also affected by the nuclear legacy.

A nuclear legacy that is not just a chapter in history, but a continuing reality for the Marshallese people.

Mr./Madam (Vice-)President,

what can we all do in order to support the Marshall Islands – and other small island states – to deal with this legacy in a just way? Thank you.