

Day 3 Thursday, March 25, 2021
Agenda Item 3: Linking national, regional and global dimensions of the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development

Session 1: The UN Acting as one

Time: 9:00-10:00 (2:00pm -3:00 pm RMI/Fiji Time)

Meeting Papers:

https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/APFSD8_INF3_0.pdf

<https://undocs.org/a/75/79>

Country Statement:

Delivered by Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mrs. Anjanette Kattil

Thank you Chair

The Marshall Islands takes this opportunity firstly to express our gratitude to the UN for its continued assistance to the region, especially in supporting countries respond to and prepare for COVID-19.

The Marshall Islands notes the report of ESCAP, and acknowledges efforts undertaken by the entities of the UN development system in Asia and the Pacific, to implement and advance the reforms of the UN Secretary General and support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While we note these efforts, we also reiterate the need for island-tailored strategies and for further consideration towards the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States.

With the unprecedented disruptions caused by COVID-19, and the recent decision by the Micronesian countries to leave the Pacific Islands Forum, it is even more critical that we strengthen our coordination and collaboration with the UN system and other development partners. We are hopeful that the anticipated North Pacific Multi-Country Office will address the coordination challenges and the unique development challenges faced by countries in the North Pacific.

The Marshall Islands anticipates this new arrangement to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and strengthen UN-Marshall Islands partnership and coordination, while addressing the gaps and challenges found in our national development plan and priorities. We are also very keen to learn more about the transition between the Multi-Country offices and how we can ensure continued cooperation and progress without disruption.

Moreover we are expecting this new arrangement to address the fragmentation of the current assistance provided by the UN. Collaboration among UN agencies and regional organizations is just as critical to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure efficient and effective delivery of support to countries.

We do want to acknowledge the on-going technical support and assistance provided by the UN that complement national priorities and request further support from the UN to scale-up existing programs to ensure their sustainability. We are glad to see this highlighted throughout the report.

The Marshall Islands sees the UN reform as necessary for wider collaboration and partnership and we are happy to see the quick mobilization of the Asia and Pacific UN development system to assist countries through a more coordinated response at the regional level, and we look forward to seeing this applied at the country level.

Thank you Chair!