

TD 1.3 - GST  
Marshall Islands Statement – Mitigation  
7 June 2023

- Thank you co-facilitators. First I wanted to agree with everyone who has stressed the importance of ambition, the urgency of action and the many solutions available for keeping 1.5 in reach - particularly the intervention from my colleague from Grenada stressing the dreadful impacts that countries like the Marshall Islands and other small island developing states face, and the importance of phasing out fossil fuels and even more urgently, fossil fuel subsidies.
  
- I also want to thank the delegate from Re-Earth Initiative for making this real for everyone in the room. I wish I was able to say I won't be around when the climate catastrophe hits, but as a low-lying atoll nation we are already suffering the impacts of climate change. It's not my existence I'm concerned about, but that of my entire nation.
  
- For those Parties who are still reluctant to act with the urgency required, I wanted to provide some reassurance to everyone here that it is possible for every country to come forward with ambitious NDCs and net zero strategies. We've managed this in the Marshall Islands. You can too. There are implementation challenges of course, particularly with accessing finance, as Grenada set out.
  
- In 2018 as well as our second enhanced NDC and net zero strategy, we published our Electricity Roadmap. But though we have a strong plan in place, we've struggled to attract the investment needed for implementation. Our power plants' generators are old, our distribution grids are unstable, and because of this, we cannot have more renewable energy implementation.
  
- Frustrations like this - the struggle to find and implement technology solutions tailored to island communities - and to access finance and capacity support are impacting many small island developing countries. While the private sector can and will do much around the world, international support is still required where the returns on investment aren't there - for example in small island communities, so that we too can access the health and environmental benefits of clean energy.
  
- Turning to one area where more could be said in the report, international shipping is responsible for some 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. While this may not fall under the direct responsibility of the UNFCCC, we can't have a comprehensive Global Stocktake, and a comprehensive response to it, if we aren't considering international shipping and aviation emissions.
  
- The Marshall Islands, along with our Pacific Island allies, is pushing for a zero emissions target by 2050 at the International Maritime Organization this summer, along with 1.5-aligned interim targets and a universal greenhouse gas levy that could not only help fund shipping's transition to a fossil fuel free future, but also help address climate impacts in developing countries. I hope you will all join us in that push. Thank you.