



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the

**36<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Marshall Islands**

*Geneva, 9 November 2020*

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Madame President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Marshall Islands for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

- To review, update and strengthen access to family planning commodities, information and services, including updating the Reproductive Health Policy, which expired in 2018.

As newly elected member to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), starting in January 2020, we noted that Marshall Islands have been a vocal and public member on the HRC, particularly around human rights issues on climate change. They have also presented a number of joint statements on behalf of Pacific island countries and other ACP countries.

The biggest human rights concerns in the Marshall Islands remain gender-based violence, domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking. There are also issues related to respect for the integrity of the person in Marshall Islands' prison system.

Whilst domestic violence remains one of Marshall Islands' greatest human rights challenges, we expect positive measures will be implemented in order to combat the issue since Marshall Islands is the new State party to UNCAT.

For the other challenges in addressing the human rights issues outlined above, recommendations towards forming a dedicated, independent human rights agency should be renewed in the current review cycle.

Thank you.