

Mr. Chair,

To the government of the Federated States of Micronesia

Rananim, Lenwo, Kaselehlie and Mogethin,

We recognize the FSM government's initiatives in ensuring that youths are included in Pacific subregional leadership policy engagements such as at the recent political forum in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

We acknowledge and embrace the FSM's second Voluntary National Review and we commend the FSM's dedication to people-centered development and sustainable ocean stewardship.

Speaking of people-centered development - we welcome the opportunity to partner with the government in strengthening inclusive development strategies where youth, women, persons with disability and other marginalized groups are consulted and included in the planning, monitoring and implementation of the SDGS.

In the absence of an inclusive national policy framework, where the participation of all groups is mandatory, our emphasis on support for youth-led empowerment in economic, social and leadership development cannot be overstated.

We encourage the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to renew its expired youth policy in full consultation with the young people and other marginalized groups ensuring that no one is left behind, ensuring relevant, targeted and effective implementation of our shared priorities.

Our key question is: *How will FSM institutionalize civil society participation, including from youth, women, disabilities and other marginalized groups in planning, monitoring and implementing its SDP and SDG commitments ensuring a whole of society consultation is mandatory at all levels for accountability, transparency and meaningful partnerships?*