

**Committee:**  International Atomic Energy Agency

 (IAEA)

**Country:** Marshall Islands

**Agenda item:** Technology Infrastructure for Prevention, Detection and Responses Regarding Nuclear Security

**BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE**

The Marshall Islands became an independent country on October 21, 1986. Prior to this, the islands were part of the United States of America. A Compact of Free Association was signed in 1983; however, the United States continues to bear responsibility for their defense.1 The Marshall Islands served as a nuclear test site from 1946 to 1958.1 In addition to eleven nuclear bombs tested, the United States detonated a bomb originally intended to yield 5 megatons, which ultimately produced an explosion three times greater than anticipated. This explosion left the Marshall Islands vulnerable and profoundly affected the environment. Nuclear waste persists in our air, water, and soil, raising significant human rights concerns. The tests resulted in forced displacements, environmental degradation, and long-term health consequences, including cancers, birth defects, and psychological trauma.

Our country continues to contend with a substantial amount of nuclear waste. Despite some improvements, approximately 60–70% of our citizens remain affected by the detrimental decisions made by the United States.

**POSITION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

As a nation, we are not highly developed in terms of technology and require assistance from countries experienced in nuclear testing that are committed to preventing further tests and the misuse of nuclear power. We are willing to collaborate with other nations that have also served as nuclear testing sites, such as Kiribati, Algeria, Kazakhstan, French Polynesia, and many others, where innocent lives have been sacrificed. These nuclear tests infringe upon human rights, particularly for countries that have advanced through unethical means, treating participants as subjects of experimentation.

The consequences of these tests extend beyond advocacy. Many communities, including ours, continue to face health and food crises to this day, demanding urgent attention. While we acknowledge our technological limitations, we implore the assistance of other nations. The suffering only intensifies as we speak. For progress to occur, all nations must be treated equitably. We demand an end to nuclear power, an end to testing, and finally, an end to deception. The United States has misled us since the beginning, claiming these tests are harmless. However, the truth is that by 2020, up to 2.4 million2 people had died as a result of nuclear bomb testing, a figure reported four years ago. How many more lives will be lost to this tragic reality?

The Republic of the Marshall Islands strongly opposes nuclear testing anywhere in the world. These tests have devastating effects on vulnerable communities like ours, providing little protection against their catastrophic consequences. For decades, our people have endured the painful realities caused by nuclear fallout, including:

* Forced displacement from our ancestral lands.
* Lifelong health issues, including cancers and radiation-related illnesses.
* Environmental destruction that complicates our ability to sustain our way of life.

We would like to discuss ways to prevent the misuse of nuclear testing with the support of technology. Countries such as Russia, the United States, China, Israel, Iran, and others possess nuclear power, and they need to be educated about the historical consequences of their actions and the potential ramifications of continuing this reckless approach. Another topic we would like to address is strengthening regulations surrounding the use of nuclear power. I have heard that China has stated that using nuclear energy can be a great way to obtain cheap power. In the 21st century, there are more alternatives than just nuclear power.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Below are several recommendations to enhance the safety of nuclear energy using today’s technology.

**Treaty Endorsement and Acknowledgment**: Encourage all countries to officially endorse the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

**International Compensation Fund**: Establish an international compensation fund for countries adversely affected by nuclear testing, to be financed by nuclear powers.

**Research and Implementation**: Investigate the lingering health and environmental effects of nuclear detonation and utilize this data to support future disarmament and restoration efforts.

**Empower Disenfranchised Local Communities**: Enable communities most affected, such as those from the Marshall Islands, to determine appropriate remediation and reparations.

**CONCLUSION**

The Marshall Islands is a nation that has demonstrated resilience in overcoming formidable challenges. However, survival alone cannot be the solution. The international community must recognize and hold accountable all offenders of crimes related to nuclear testing disasters and work to prevent any further weapons development. Although we can never undo the past, we must strive to create a safer future.

 done, we can, for all vulnerable populations moving forward, give them the promise of peace, justice, and appropriate treatment.

1) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshall_Islands> independence paragragh

2)

This global fallout was one of the main drivers for the ban of nuclear weapons testing, particularly atmospheric testing. It has been estimated that by 2020 up to 2.4 million people have died as a result of nuclear weapons testing.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_testing#cite_note-s257-41)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_testing#:~:text=This%20global%20fallout%20was%20one,result%20of%20nuclear%20weapons%20testing>.