Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegations of member states of the United Nations; Representatives of International Organizations and Civil Society Organizations; Friends, Colleagues, and all distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen gathered:

Before I proceed I wish to take this time to thank our hosts – the Government and people of Austria for their gracious hospitality extended to each of us since our arrival in their beautiful country.

Mr. Chairman, I have the great privilege of representing the country in this most esteemed Forum. One that I feel will save us from ourselves, and ensure what happened to us Marshallese, more than 60 years ago is never repeated again under any circumstances. You see, Mr. Chairman, our people’s lives were forever changed, when the UN Trusteeship granted our "administrators" the right to test nuclear weapons on our islands for what was to be labeled "For the good of Mankind".

Mr. Chairman, my ancestors were exiled to Kili Islands from Bikini Atoll, the site of the largest nuclear detonated during the testing. I've grown up to witness the social and health impacts on my relatives and fellow community members. These have been inter-generational impacts.

Today, we have yet to feel or see any good out of that era. This is why we feel the need to come back, to any forum that will listen, to say, enough is enough...if a nuclear zero lawsuit is what it will take to put the dangers of nuclear impacts on humanity front and center, so be it! We risk a lot by doing this, but we risk more if we fail to do it. It's our moral responsibility, and one that should be taken seriously by any nuclear armed country! In Lima, the world is debating the future of coastal communities, including that of the Marshall Islands, from Global Climate Change....in Vienna, we are calling for the survival of humanity from nuclear weapons.

Let me reiterate my Minister's previous statement and reassure all in this conference, that the Marshall Islands will stand strong and resolute in our determination to rid the world of nuclear weapons. We lived through this, and wouldn't want to see any other humans go through it. We call on all to stand behind us as we embark on this challenge. We are small, but not mute...we will continue to fight for our human race.

Let me conclude my statement by thanking the Government of Austria by hosting this very important forum and those who've worked tirelessly to bring all these countries together to speak, discuss and deliberate on this very important issue. Komol Tata