

The Republic of Palau – Statement

TPNW – 1MSP

Vienna, Austria

June 21 -23, 2022

Mr. President, Excellencies, Colleagues, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all today.

Palau, although a small island nation, became the first nation in the world to have adopted in 1981 a constitution banning nuclear weapons.

The Republic of Palau located in the western pacific is also the first pacific island country to sign the (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) on September 20, 2017, and subsequently the national congress of Palau then ratified the treaty on May 3, 2018.

Because of the nuclear testings in our neighboring island countries (Marshall Islands and Tahiti) as well as the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WWII, we enacted such nuclear free constitution and later joined all disarmament and non-proliferation regimes such as NPT, IAEA, CWC, CTBTO, BWC, Treaty of Rarotonga (also known as the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty) and of course TPNW. With threats currently increasing, we are greatly concerned with the nuclear and missile development that is happening in our region. Palau considers the non-proliferation regime to be a key safeguard in protecting our common humanity. It is an essential aspect of our broader struggle to end violence and encourage unity and friendship among the peoples of the world.

Palau is delighted to attend this 1st Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and looks forward to working with all member states and the international community in promoting the treaty and ensuring global peace and security as well as a nuclear free world.

I thank you Mr. President.