



**UN Watch Statement
Delivered by Ms. Francesca Lawi
United Nations Human Rights Council, 16th Session
UPR Report of Marshall Islands
March 17, 2011**

Thank you, Mr. President.

United Nations Watch wishes to thank the Marshall Islands for its report.

We welcome and encourage its commitment to accept virtually all of the report's recommendations, which concern the promotion and protection of human rights within the Marshall Islands.

In particular, we note the following:

- Number 13: To ensure that human rights are afforded full legal protection.
- Number 15: To prioritize legislation on women's rights and domestic violence, and implement domestic policies aimed at eliminating violence against women.
- Number 19: To facilitate the active involvement of human rights organizations in the follow-up to this review, especially to address violence against women and children.
- And number 23: To review and revise existing laws, to ensure that they are non-discriminatory, in accordance with international standards.

Mr. President, no less important are actions that concern the promotion and protection of human rights within the international arena.

We have witnessed numerous votes on human rights, in the UN General Assembly, which confronted member states with a choice: between aiding and abetting selectivity, politicization and double-standards — or upholding equality, non-discrimination, and the promotion of peace.

Only a small minority of member states have chosen the right path. Time and again, the Marshall Islands has stood among them.

Mr. President, we therefore wish to commend the Marshall Islands for contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights within the United Nations and the international arena.

Thank you, Mr. President.