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Side Event during the Preparatory Commission Meeting Traditional Knowledge and State Action: A Roadmap for BBNJ Implementation

**Statement by H.E. Jeem S. Lippwe
Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia**

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Distinguished colleagues, esteemed participants, and valued knowledge holders,

As we come to the close of this insightful discussion on identifying spaces and opportunities for Traditional Knowledge within the BBNJ Agreement, we reflect on the richness of perspectives shared today. This dialogue has reaffirmed that Traditional Knowledge is not only a repository of wisdom but also a guiding force for the sustainable and equitable governance of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

The BBNJ Agreement presents a pivotal opportunity to integrate the respective knowledges of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities as well as facilitate the active participation of those groups in the international community's management of the Ocean, ensuring that conservation and sustainable use strategies reflect the lived experiences and expertise of those who have stewarded marine biodiversity for generations. Through meaningful engagement, capacity-building, and the establishment of robust mechanisms for knowledge-sharing, we can foster a governance framework that respects the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in a manner that fully respects the relevant rights of those groups, if those groups choose to share their contributions.

Let today serve as a foundation for continued collaboration, particularly between States and Indigenous Peoples. The pathways we have identified must translate into actionable commitments—ensuring that Traditional Knowledge is recognized, protected, and actively incorporated in decision-making processes under the BBNJ Agreement, in a rights-based manner.

As your co-host, Micronesia extends its deepest gratitude to all speakers, and participants who have contributed to this meaningful exchange. Micronesia is most grateful to its partners who co-host this event – the High Seas Alliance, Greenpeace, Ocean Voices Programme, the International Indian

Treaty Council and last but not least, the Pacific Ocean Commissioner for this wonderful partnership. May we all carry forward this momentum and work collectively to bridge knowledge systems, strengthen ocean governance, and uphold principles of equity and justice in the stewardship of our shared marine environment.

Thank you.