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**Security Council Open Debate on
“The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”**

**Statement by Universe Y. Lawrence, Deputy Permanent Representative
New York, 30 April 2026**

Mister President,

I thank the Kingdom of Bahrain for convening this important open debate and for its leadership of the Security Council during the month of April.

Micronesia remains gravely concerned by the evolving and interconnected crises across the Middle East. The continued escalation of violence, including attacks that threaten the sovereignty and security of States in the region, risks further destabilizing an already fragile situation. In this regard, Micronesia strongly condemns attacks by Iran against its neighbors, as well as its continued support for armed groups that contribute to instability across the region.

We are equally alarmed by any actions or threats by Iran to disrupt or close the Strait of Hormuz. Such actions would constitute a serious violation of international law and pose a direct threat to global peace, security, and economic stability. For small island developing States like Micronesia, the free flow of energy and commerce through international waterways is essential. We underscore that freedom of navigation must be fully respected and safeguarded.

Micronesia unequivocally affirms Israel’s right to defend itself against attacks and threats to its security. This right is fundamental and non-negotiable. Israel cannot be expected to tolerate ongoing attacks against its territory or population. At the same time, we emphasize that all measures taken in self-defense must be consistent with international humanitarian law, and ensure the protection of civilians.

We are also deeply concerned by the escalating situation along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, including continued attacks by Hezbollah against Israel. These actions risk provoking a broader regional conflict with devastating consequences. We call for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), the cessation of hostilities, and for the Lebanese State to exercise effective control over its territory.

Turning to the Palestinian question, we reaffirm our support for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on relevant United Nations resolutions and the two-State solution, with Israel and a State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

Micronesia emphasizes the urgent need for de-escalation across all fronts and calls on all actors to refrain from actions that further inflame tensions or undermine regional stability.

As a small island developing State, Micronesia places strong faith in multilateralism, respect for sovereignty, and adherence to international law. We urge the Security Council to act with unity and resolve in addressing these serious and interconnected challenges.

I thank you.