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FSM Represents Pacific States Parties at OPCW Conference in The Hague

The Hague, Netherlands – The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) participated in the 31st Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), held in The Hague from 22 to 27 November, with Permanent Representative Ambassador Jeem Lippwe representing FSM and delivering a joint statement on behalf of Pacific States Parties.

Speaking on behalf of Pacific countries, Ambassador Lippwe reaffirmed the region's strong commitment to the goals and principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the complete elimination of chemical weapons worldwide. The statement underscored that Pacific nations remain united in supporting global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, while continuing to uphold the vision of the Blue Pacific as a region of peace, security, and prosperity.

The Pacific States Parties welcomed the leadership of newly appointed OPCW Director-General H.E. Sabrina Dallafior and expressed their commitment to working closely with her to advance the implementation of the Convention. The statement also highlighted the importance of continued OPCW engagement in the Pacific through capacity-building initiatives, technical cooperation, training programs, and support for national implementation efforts.

Pacific countries reiterated concerns over the reemergence and use of chemical weapons in conflicts around the world and called for the full, effective, and faithful implementation of the Convention by all States Parties. The statement stressed the need for accountability, adherence to international law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The region also highlighted the ongoing impacts of historical conflicts in the Pacific, including unexploded ordnance, degraded munitions, and chemical remnants in marine and terrestrial environments. Pacific States Parties welcomed continued international cooperation and technical assistance to address these legacy challenges.

In addition, the Pacific welcomed renewed cooperation between Syria and the OPCW Technical Secretariat toward the elimination of remaining elements of Syria's chemical weapons program, and reaffirmed support for the OPCW's independent efforts to investigate allegations of chemical weapons use wherever they may occur.

The statement further noted the importance of addressing emerging challenges arising from advances in science and technology, including artificial intelligence, and welcomed the OPCW's work to assess their implications for the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Concluding the statement, Pacific States Parties reaffirmed their vision of the Pacific as an "Ocean of Peace" and their shared determination to protect the region's people, lands, and oceans from the threat of chemical weapons, while contributing to global peace and security.