

**RMI FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN SILK
OPENING REMARKS
V20 Ministerial Dialogue
World Bank, Washington DC
14th April 2016**

Chairman Purisima, Honorable Ministers of Finance, Distinguished Guests and Ladies and Gentleman.

Please allow me to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the CVF and V20 for welcoming the Marshall Islands to today's V20 Ministerial Dialogue.

A special thanks or as we say in Marshallese – Kommol tata - to our Philippines Chair and to the Honorable Ministers from Bangladesh and Ethiopia as the Troika.

Kommol tata also to all of you for so warmly welcoming me here - not least when you may have been expecting to meet my colleague Brenson Wase, RMI's Finance Minister! He sends his regrets and hopes to meet you in the future.

The Marshall Islands is one of five atoll nations in the world and is highly vulnerable to climate change.

I know many countries here worked very closely with RMI in the run up to Paris. Tony de Brum, my predecessor and now RMI's Ambassador for Climate Change, spoke extremely highly of the CVF's leadership.

We know that our shared commitment helped enshrine the limit of 1.5⁰ C into the Paris Agreement. It also helped deliver other ambition elements such as the five-year cycle of adjustment, the early stock take in 2018 and stronger rules on transparency of action and support, including new provisions on adaptation and on loss and damage.

We must make sure the spirit and letter of Paris are kept and implemented to the fullest.

We are doing our share.

Marshall Islands was the third country after Fiji and Palau to complete domestic proceedings necessary for our Parliament, *The Nitijela*, to approve the Paris Agreement at the end of March.

I know that many of you are also leaders on the ratification front. Nearly all the early ratifying countries come from the CVF.

But the truth is that the climate is changing more than we would like.

Loss and damage are occurring. Last month my country was put on high-alert for widespread king-tide inundation, and one of the first acts of the new Government was to declare a State of Disaster. Drought conditions threaten to leave our capital city, Majuro, without any fresh water supplies in less than three months' time.

So the work you have mapped out already on in the Work Program is much needed. We will gladly help take forward the work of the new Advocacy and Partnerships Focus Group.

The Marshall Islands will do all we can to support the next phase of the V20. Once again, I extend my thanks to you Honorable Secretary Purisima for all you are doing for the V20.

Kommol tata to you all and hope to see some of you in New York or in the Marshalls!