**Official VNR session: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Pakistan, Palau, United Kingdom**

Tuesday, July 16th

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Palau** - Intervention from the floor by civil society delivered by Laisa Vereti, *Pacific Disability Forum*

Thank you Mr. President.

I also represent the Pacific Disability Forum who is the peak body for the Disabled Persons Organisation in Palau.

We welcome the collaborative spirit in which the national VNR report was prepared.

We also thank the government of Palau for including civil society in the government delegation, which shall serve as a good example for others.

The High-Level Political Forum, including the VNRs are not the end of dialogue, but rather the beginning. We hope that the issues addressed highlighted here will be taken up at the national level and discussed further in the spirit of partnership and collaboration.

Civil society of Palau stands ready to work with the government of Palau to achieve and realize the SDGs for all, including marginalized communities, e.g. persons with disabilities. But we can’t do this alone. Government has an important role in supporting us to fulfil our role. We are calling on the Government to commit to supporting the CSO umbrella (Belau Association of NGOs) around the implementation of SDGs. In particular, we would like to see a coordinated mechanism for funding CSO engagement in the national SDG framework, to streamline consultation and provide funding and other support. Civil society should be consulted throughout the design and establishment of this mechanism, through Belau. Implementation of the SDGs in Palau should be financed not only by donors, but also through domestic resource mobilization

Our question to you today is what your plans are to ensure civil society is effectively engaged once you return home? Will civil society be engaged from the planning to design, implementation, monitoring and review of SDG?

I thank you.