

**STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE REDLEY KILLION
VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
AT THE HIGH LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
OF UNFCCC, COP 9
MILAN, ITALY 1-12 DECEMBER 2003**

MR. PRESIDENT, CO-CHAIRS, DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THE URGENT NEED FOR ALL PARTIES TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE. IN MY ISLAND COUNTRY, THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE FOR US, CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTS A GENUINE THREAT TO THE VERY SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLES, AND THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR YOUNG NATION.

THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, LIKE THE OTHER SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, IS EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS, INCLUDING TYPHOONS AND STORM SURGES. IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS, WE HAVE SEEN MORE FREQUENT AND MORE SEVERE TYPHOONS THAN EVER BEFORE. AS RECENTLY AS LAST WEEK, WHILE WE WERE NEGOTIATING HERE IN MILAN, MY COUNTRY WAS DEVASTATED AGAIN BY ANOTHER TYPHOON, WHICH STRUCK THE WESTERN PART OF MY ISLAND NATION, AND DESTROYED FOOD CROPS, CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLIES, AND DAMAGED HOMES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES. BECAUSE OF MORE FREQUENT AND UNUSUAL WEATHER EVENTS, OUR TRADITIONAL ABILITY TO COPE WITH SUCH CALAMITIES IS NO LONGER ADEQUATE.

WE REALIZE NOW THAT TO SURVIVE, NEW FORMS OF ADAPTATION HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN. BUT FOR US, MITIGATION IS MORE PREFERRED AND WE HAVE TAKEN EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

ALTHOUGH OUR EFFORTS MAY SEEM INSIGNIFICANT IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT, MY COUNTRY IS SINCERE ABOUT ITS COMMITMENTS TO

TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS TOWARDS MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE. RENEWABLE ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOW BECOME A PRIORITY POLICY FOR MY GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, OUR GENUINE EFFORTS TO PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENT THESE EFFECTIVE MEASURES IS HAMPERED BY OUR EXTREMELY LIMITED RESOURCES. MY COUNTRY CAN ONLY DO THIS IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FULFILL THEIR COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION, SPECIFICALLY THAT FUNDS SHOULD PRIORITIZE ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES FOR SMALL ISLANDS STATES BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE SUFFERING THE MOST FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT ARE LEAST ABLE TO COPE WITH IT, GIVEN OUR LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS OUR FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, NOT ONLY ARE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES SUFFERING FROM THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER REGIONS, THE ARCTIC REGION FOR ONE, WHOSE GEOGRAPHICAL CIRCUMSTANCE IS EXTREMELY DIFFERENT FROM SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, IS ALSO SUFFERING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THIS IS TRULY A GLOBAL PROBLEM THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL.

THE IPCC HAS REPORTED THAT CLIMATE ACTION MUST BE DRIVEN BY THE AIM OF KEEPING GLOBAL WARMING AS FAR BELOW 2°C AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID DANGEROUS INTERFERENCE WITH THE CLIMATE SYSTEM. AND FINALLY MR. CHAIRMAN, I CALL UPON THOSE COUNTRIES WHOSE RATIFICATION OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL ARE NEEDED FOR THE PROROCOL TO ENTER INTO FORCE, TO DO SO SOON, SO IT CAN COME INTO FORCE. THE PROTOCOL IS THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE OF AVERTING THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

THANK YOU.