

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

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(Please use this reference in your reply)

10 October 2025

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 54/8, 57/31, 55/5, 55/2 and 54/10.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning **the ongoing harm and human rights violations experienced by the people of the Marshall Islands as a result of the United States of America's former nuclear testing programme.**

According to the information received:

Background

Between 1946 and 1958, the United States used the Marshall Islands as a nuclear weapons test site.

The first two tests (Operation Crossroads) were conducted in 1946, prior to designation as Trust Territory. Later, the Marshall Islands was under a United Nations trusteeship pursuant to Security Council resolution 21 (1947), with the United States designated as the Administering Authority. As the Marshall Islands fell within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (also referred to as referenced as a "strategic trust territory"), which the Security Council had designated as a 'strategic area', the United States had permission to militarize the territory.

The United States conducted 67 known detonations of nuclear weapons throughout the territory of the Marshall Islands, mostly in Bikini Atoll and Enewetak Atoll. Those tests had a total yield equivalent to 108,490,500 tonnes of dynamite.

On 1 March 1954, the Castle Bravo test was conducted on Bikini Atoll. This was the most powerful known nuclear detonation by the United States, with a blast 1,000 times the explosive power of the bombing of Hiroshima. The detonation

created a fallout cloud that spread more than 300 miles from the blast site, covering neighbouring Rongelap Atoll and Utrök Atoll. Many other atolls were also impacted, including at least Ailuk, Likiep, Mejit and other midrange atolls. Given the number and the power of tests made, it is very likely that the geographic area impacted is much broader.

The people of the Marshall Islands made repeated requests for the United States to cease the nuclear testing. They filed two petitions with the United Nations Trusteeship Council, in 1954 and 1956, highlighting their concerns regarding the danger posed by the testing and the removal of Marshallese people from their lands, and requesting no further testing of lethal weapons in the area. These requests were denied, and the testing continued until 1958.

Impact on Human Rights

The United States' nuclear testing program had immediate and continuing impacts on the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands. In particular, the testing affected and continues to affect their rights to health and housing, their cultural rights, and their right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which includes the right to live, work, study and play in a non-toxic environment.

As has been documented by numerous human rights bodies and mechanisms,¹ radiation from the nuclear testing resulted in fatalities and has been linked to both acute and long-term transgenerational health complications, including: radiation poisoning; increases in cancers and thyroid diseases; growth retardation in children; high rates of still births, miscarriages, congenital birth defects; and other reproductive problems. The Marshallese people also experienced psychological trauma as a result of the testing and its impact on them, as well as ongoing anxiety and fear due to the uncertainty and lack of information regarding their potential radiation exposure. The nuclear fallout contaminated local food supplies, causing illnesses and ultimately the stigmatization of these foods. The consumption of processed products over local produce has been associated with other non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity. There may be further unknown negative health impacts as a result of the testing programme.

Several Marshallese communities were displaced from their homes to enable the nuclear testing. They endured repeated relocations throughout the testing period, due to food shortages, malnutrition, and unsafe radiation levels, and were even

¹ See, eg, Calin Georgescu, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes*, UN Doc A/HRC/21/48/Add.1 (3 September 2012); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State's nuclear legacy*, UN Doc A/HRC/57/77 (24 September 2024); Statement by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue, 57th regular session of the Human Rights Council (4 October 2024) [https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1g/k1gbxeozjg?kalturaStartTime=7231&config\[playback\]={\"audioLanguage\":\"en\"}&config\[ui\]={\"locale\":\"en\"}](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1g/k1gbxeozjg?kalturaStartTime=7231&config[playback]={\); Marcos Orellana, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes*, UN Doc A/80/174 (16 July 2025).

misled into returning to contaminated sites. The ongoing displacement impacted the Marshallese people's connection to their indigenous way of life, cultural identity, and traditional knowledge, such as being unable to perform their traditional migratory practices to gather food, medicines, and materials. Women lost their role as custodians of the land and suffered humiliation during the relocations, including invasive radiation checks by male American personnel. Several women were stigmatized in this context, impacting their marriage and motherhood prospects. Many Marshallese, particularly those from the Bikini, Rongelap and Enewetak Atolls, remain indefinitely displaced from their ancestral homes, after nearly 80 years.

These nuclear-related harms are further compounded by climate change. Some Marshallese were displaced due to the nuclear testing to islands that are more vulnerable to rising sea levels. The Runit Dome in the Enewetak Atoll, which houses radioactive waste and debris from the nuclear testing programme, poses a risk of leaking radiation into the surrounding waters if rising sea levels push up groundwater. It is reported that most of the radioactive material deposited in Enewetak is in the lagoon neighboring Runit, and not in Runit itself. This could have catastrophic consequences for the people of the Marshall Islands and the broader region.

Remediation and Accountability Efforts

The governments of both the United States and the Marshall Islands have taken steps to rehabilitate the affected atolls and provide redress to the victims of the nuclear testing programme.

In 1986, the Marshall Islands and the United States entered into the Compact of Free Association, establishing the Marshall Islands as a sovereign State, with the United States retaining responsibility for security and defence, and military operating rights. Under Section 177 of the Compact, the United States accepted responsibility for compensating Marshallese citizens for loss or damage resulting from the nuclear testing.

In 1987, the Marshall Islands established a Nuclear Claims Tribunal, pursuant to the agreement reached under the Compact, and the United States established a \$150 million trust fund – the Nuclear Claims Fund – to provide compensation to claimants. The Nuclear Claims Tribunal has assessed more than \$2.3 billion of claims for personal injuries and damage caused at Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrök Atolls. Claims from other atolls were presented, but not assessed by the Tribunal. However, no claimant has yet received full compensation, and the Nuclear Claims Fund is now largely exhausted.

In addition, the United States has provided approximately \$700 million in funding to address the effects of the nuclear testing, providing cleanup, rehabilitation, resettlement and radiation-related healthcare services. The United States has also recently approved grants of \$5 million for a museum and research facility, and \$10 million to improve the accessibility of documents and information about the nuclear testing previously provided to the Marshallese.

The Marshallese people filed multiple legal suits in United States courts claiming, among other things, that the nuclear testing resulted in loss of property. Those actions were dismissed based on a lack of jurisdiction, pursuant to the Section 177 Agreement under the Compact, which the United States considers to constitute a full and final settlement of all claims relating to the nuclear testing program.

In 2000, the Marshall Islands filed a Changed Circumstances Petition to the United States Congress, requesting additional compensation under the Section 177 Agreement in light of newly declassified documents that revealed that the extent of the radioactive fallout had been underestimated. A working group established to evaluate the petition concluded that it did not meet the criteria in the 177 Agreement, and Congress has not yet acted on the petition.

In 2017, the Marshall Islands established a National Nuclear Commission to improve the coordination of the Government's efforts to address ongoing and unresolved issues arising from the nuclear weapons testing programme. In 2019, the National Nuclear Commission developed a domestic nuclear justice strategy (NNC Strategy) centred on five pillars: compensation; health care; the environment; national capacity; and education and awareness. The Marshall Islands has pledged to pursue transitional justice for the human rights violations and challenges stemming from the nuclear legacy.

We note the efforts the Marshall Islands has made to address the harm caused by the nuclear testing programme, despite not being the responsible State. We encourage your Excellency's Government to continue supporting the Marshallese people in addressing this legacy and the harm caused to victims.

We express our concern regarding the persistent gaps in information and data regarding the full extent of the negative impacts of the nuclear testing on the Marshallese people and their territory. To address this, the Marshall Islands has an interest in obtaining declassified records and relevant information pertaining to the nuclear testing period and its effects on the health and environment of the Marshallese people. In this context, the Government may find it useful to commission a comprehensive scientific assessment of the region to effectively study declassified materials, investigate and assess current radiation levels and health risks, and to establish a truth and reconciliation mechanism. The information gathered from these exercises will be vital in allowing the Marshallese people to understand and address the problems they face as a result of the nuclear testing, and establish a robust nationally held set of information that can empower Marshallese people and policymakers. The truth and reconciliation mechanism would provide a voice to those affected, and allow the society to heal from past trauma. We are also available to provide technical assistance where needed.

We emphasize the right to an effective remedy as established in international human rights law. As the responsible State, it is the obligation of the United States to fulfil this right for the Marshallese people, in relation to harms arising from the nuclear testing. The actions of the Marshall Islands, as the non-responsible State, are supportive and secondary. We welcome the Marshall Islands Government's facilitation of the Nuclear Claims Tribunal process and the inclusion of the full payment of past and future

awards of the Tribunal as a key pillar in the NNC Strategy.

Reparation and acknowledgement of the full extent of the harm caused by the United States' nuclear testing programme is essential, including through environmental remediation, the return of displaced communities to their homelands where possible, and complete settlement of the awards issued by the Nuclear Claims Tribunal for property damage and personal injury. The Marshall Islands should continue to provide support and information to the Marshallese people regarding their claims to reparation and any legal, medical, psychological, social, and administrative services available to them. In addition, memorialization can serve as a form of symbolic reparation, addressing past legacies, helping society to heal, and empowering future generations to address future challenges. We welcome the Marshall Islands' efforts to hold annual commemoration events in some atolls, and encourage the Government to continue working with civil society to implement memorialization and educational initiatives in the entire country, as set out in the NNC Strategy.

We express our concern regarding the ongoing health impacts of the nuclear testing, and the difficulties faced by Marshallese people in accessing comprehensive healthcare for cancers and other non-communicable diseases contracted as a result of nuclear radiation. We acknowledge the financial and capacity constraints within which the Marshall Islands Government operates. The Government should continue to use all resources available to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare services and facilities. It should continue requesting support from relevant stakeholders, including the United States, to improve medical infrastructure to address the harms caused by the nuclear testing, as envisioned in the NNC Strategy, and seek general support from the international donor community and non-State actors.

Finally, we are concerned by the living conditions of the community living in Enewetak today, including in terms of fishing and livelihood, as well as the risk that the Runit Dome may be leaking and causing further contamination. We encourage the Government to continue to strengthen systems for monitoring environmental risk in the Marshall Islands, and to establish contingency plans in case of further contamination. The Marshall Islands should seek financial and technical support from relevant actors, including the United States.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional details or comments you may have on the above-mentioned concerns, including any key information that you consider is missing from our description of the harm caused and the remediation steps taken.
2. Please provide information regarding any efforts you have made to obtain access to restricted documents addressing the nuclear testing period and

its effects on the health, environment (of) and negative human rights climate change impacts (on) the Marshallese people, as envisioned in the NNC Strategy.

3. Please provide an update on the progress towards the long-term, comprehensive research plan to conduct scientific studies in atolls envisioned in the NNC Strategy, with the support of the Marine Resources Authority and the Environmental Protection Authority. Please also provide information regarding any other plans to conduct a comprehensive scientific assessment of the current radiation levels, health risks in all Marshall Islands atolls and the compounded negative impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, on these elements.
4. Please indicate whether the Marshall Islands has plans to establish a truth and reconciliation mechanism in relation to the nuclear testing programme, and whether you have sought support from the United States in doing so.
5. Please provide an update on the progress towards seeking a resolution of the Changed Circumstances Petition with the United States Congress, and calling upon the United States to address ongoing nuclear testing impacts and provide reparation, as envisioned in the NNC Strategy.
6. Please provide information regarding the current level of healthcare provided in the Marshall Islands, and details regarding the progress towards improving the capacity of healthcare services nationwide in addressing all illness, including cancer, as envisioned in the NNC Strategy.
7. Please provide information on the measures taken by your Excellency's Government to enforce the Food Safety Act of 2010 and provide oversight of food distributions in Enjebi and Enewetak to ensure rights to food, to health and adequate conditions of living of the communities living there.
8. Please provide information on your Excellency's Government's plan to manage the risk of radioactive debris from the Runit Dome leaking into the surrounding area, including impacts of sea-level rise driven by climate change, and any requests for assistance to the United States you have made in relation to this issue since the Changed Circumstances Petition.
9. Please provide information regarding the environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out, including the measures to be implemented in relation to restoration, or – where restoration is not possible – the environmental remediation and compensation measures.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

Please be informed that a letter on the same subject has also been addressed to the Government of the United States of America.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with above alleged facts and concerns, we refer your Excellency's Government to the legal obligations owed by the United States and the Marshall Islands under the international treaties they have ratified, and to broader international human rights standards.

Right to an Effective Remedy

The United States ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ('ICCPR') on 8 June 1992. The Marshall Islands ratified the ICCPR on 12 March 2018. While the concerns raised in this communication precede the ratification of the ICCPR by both States, they set general principles of law, already existent in customary law. For instance, article 2(3) of the ICCPR obliges State Parties to ensure that any person whose rights have been violated has access to an effective remedy.

As clarified by the Human Rights Committee in its general comment No. 31, such remedies must be accessible and effective, must be adapted to the special vulnerability of certain groups, and must be enforced by competent authorities through judicial, administrative, or other mechanisms (para. 15). The right to an effective remedy requires States to make reparation to individuals whose rights under the ICCPR have been violated, otherwise the obligation to provide an effective remedy will not have been discharged (para. 16). Reparation may include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction (such as providing full and public disclosure of the truth concerning the violations, public apologies, memorials, and guarantees of non-repetition), and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Pursuant to the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, States should endeavour to establish national programmes for reparation and other assistance to victims in the event that the parties liable for the harm suffered are unable or unwilling to meet their obligations (principle 16). States should develop means of informing victims and the general public of their rights and remedies of all available legal, medical, psychological, social, administrative and all other services to which victims may have a right of access (principle 24).

The 24 guidelines laid out in the report of the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights (A/HRC/60/34) provide States with practical measures to overcome barriers in access to justice and effective remedy in toxics cases. In the Marshall Islands, groups and individuals have the right to seek justice and remedies for harm from toxic contamination. To be effective, the remedies must be accessible, enforceable and capable of addressing the full scope of harm caused by exposure to toxics from nuclear testing. For this reason, in toxics cases, including in the Marshall Islands, comprehensive remedies may involve more than compensation, and necessarily include truth, reconciliation and transitional justice mechanisms.

The report ‘Military Activities and Toxics’, authored by the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights (A/80/174), characterizes military-related contamination as a comprehensive lifecycle that encompasses not only conflict and post-conflict settings, but also activities conducted during peacetime. The human rights dimensions of toxic exposure require the development of robust legal standards and effective practical measures to prevent, mitigate and remediate the harm caused also by peacetime military activities, which may include weapons production and testing. Human rights due diligence obligations must be embedded in military manuals and environmental security doctrines, ensuring that the rights to life, health, water, food, and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment guide all military activities, including peacetime military activities.

Cultural rights

We would like to respectfully refer Your Excellency’s Government to article 15, paragraph 1(a), of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which recognizes the right of everyone to take part in cultural life. Under this provision, States Parties undertake to respect and ensure the enjoyment and development of cultural practices, as well as to safeguard the freedom indispensable for creative activity.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its 2009 general comment 21 on the right to take part in cultural life (E/C.12/GC/21) stressed that States must refrain from interfering with the exercise of and the access to cultural practices, goods and services. It further recalled the right of everyone to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds and forms including art forms; to enjoy the freedom to create, individually, in association with others, or within a community or group, which implies that States parties must abolish censorship of cultural activities in the arts and other forms of expression (§49 c). It also recalled the right of everyone to access to their own cultural and linguistic heritage and that of others (E/C.12/GC/21, paragraph 44, 48, 49).

Also, we wish to refer to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), which recognizes the vital role of communities, particularly indigenous communities, in the production, safeguarding, and transmission of intangible cultural heritage. Article 11, in particular, highlights that “Each State Party shall: (a) take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory; (b) among the safeguarding measures referred to in article 2, paragraph 3, identify and define the various elements of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations.” This provision underscores the importance of inclusive and community-led approaches to preserving cultural practices, expressions, and knowledge systems that are central to the identity and continuity of the Marshallese people.

The mandate holders in the field of cultural rights have further recommended that “States parties obtain the free and informed prior consent when the preservation of the cultural resources of concerned individuals or communities, especially those associated with their way of life and cultural expression, are at risk (E/C.12/GC/21, paragraphs 49(a), 52(f) and 55(e))...Concerned communities and relevant individuals

should be consulted and invited to actively participate in the whole process of identification, selection, classification, interpretation, preservation/safeguard, stewardship and development of cultural heritage (A/HRC/17/38, para. 80(c)).” The Special Rapporteurs have also underscored that States should make available effective remedies, including judicial remedies, to concerned individuals and communities who feel that their cultural heritage is either not fully respected and protected, or that their right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage is being infringed upon (para. 80(l)). States should also develop cultural heritage mapping processes within their territory and utilize cultural impact assessments in the planning and implementation of development projects, in full cooperation with concerned communities (para. 80(e)).”

Indigenous Peoples’ Rights

Under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (‘UNDRIP’), States have a duty to consult in good faith with Indigenous Peoples through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting or implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them (article 19). This obligation reflects the central principle that Indigenous Peoples must be active participants in decisions that impact their lives, lands, and resources.

Article 26 of UNDRIP underlines the right of Indigenous Peoples to the lands, territories, and resources that they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired. States are obliged to recognize and protect these rights, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples can maintain their cultural, spiritual, and economic relationship with their ancestral territories. Article 28 further affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to redress, including restitution or, when restitution is not possible, to just, fair, and equitable compensation for lands, territories, and resources that have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used, or damaged without free, prior, and informed consent.

The impacts of nuclear weapons activities must be understood in the context of the special relationship Indigenous Peoples have with their ancestral lands, territories, and ways of life. Such activities often cause irreversible harm to sacred sites, ecosystems, and subsistence practices, undermining cultural survival and self-determination. This has been recognized by human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Committee in *Oliveira Pereira et al. v. Paraguay*, which affirmed the fundamental connection between indigenous rights and the protection of traditional lands. In cases where environmental contamination or displacement has occurred, States have a heightened obligation to provide remedies that restore, as far as possible, Indigenous Peoples’ ability to live in dignity, security, and harmony with their environment.

Displacement

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement identify the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement and their protection and assistance during displacement, well as during return or resettlement and reintegration. In particular, principle 8 declares that displacement should not be carried out in a manner that violates the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those

affected, and principle 9 provides that States are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of Indigenous Peoples and other groups with a special dependency on, and attachment to, their lands.

Principle 18 affirms that internally displaced people have the right to an adequate standard of living, at minimum including access to essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, appropriate clothing, and essential medical services and sanitation.

A Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment and Access to Information

The Human Rights Council, in resolution 48/13, and the General Assembly, in resolution 76/300, have recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The United States voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution, and the Marshall Islands voted in favour of both resolutions. This right includes clean air and water, adequate and nutritious food, healthy biodiversity and ecosystems, a safe and stable climate, non-toxic environments, and participation, access to information, and access to justice in environmental matters.

The 2025 Advisory Opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal obligations of States in relation to climate change concluded that States are obliged under international law to prevent harm to the climate system by protecting human rights, including the rights to life, health, adequate standard of living, protection from arbitrary displacement, private life, and the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Advisory Opinion also concludes that a violation of this stringent obligation entails State responsibility and the provision of reparations for harm.

We would also like to draw the attention of Your Excellency's Government to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and general comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment, with a special focus on climate change, which clarifies that children have the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including include clean air, a safe and stable climate, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, safe and sufficient water, healthy and sustainable food and non-toxic environments. Relevant obligations include to: ensure access to safe and sufficient water; ensure a fair and just transition of energy sources; conserve, protect and restore biodiversity; prevent marine pollution; and closely regulate and eliminate the use and release of toxic substances that have disproportionate adverse health effects on children.

In particular, according to general comment No. 26, States have an obligation to effectively prevent, protect against and provide remedies for both direct and indirect environmental discrimination, considering the discriminatory effect of environmental harm on Indigenous children, particularly if they are living with disabilities and/or in disaster-prone or climate-vulnerable environments. States should collect disaggregated data to identify the differential effects of environment-related harm on children and to better understand intersectionalities, paying special attention to groups of children who are most at risk, and to implement special measures and policies, as required. States must ensure that all legislation, policies and programmes that deal with environmental issues are not intentionally or unintentionally discriminatory towards children in their content or implementation.

The Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment set out in the 2018 report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment (A/HRC/37/59) affirm the special connection between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional lands, territories and resources (principle 15) and the need to provide access to effective remedies for violations of human rights relating to the environment (principle 10).

Pursuant to article 19(2) of the ICCPR, principle 7 of the Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, and principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, States should provide affordable, effective and timely access to environmental information held by public authorities, particularly in relation to information on hazardous materials and activities in people's communities.

In addition, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change highlighted in A/79/176 that "(t)imely access to high-quality, trustworthy, evidence-based and accessible information on climate change and human rights is essential to ensure that public authorities understand the foreseeability and preventability of negative human rights impacts of climate change and response measures and make holistic, effective and inclusive decisions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The public must be informed about the magnitude of actual and potential negative human rights risks and impacts of climate change and response measures, and about the adequacy of States' and businesses' responses to effectively protect and respect human rights in the context of climate change. This is necessary to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of people in vulnerable situations to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change".

In this connection, we would like also to highlight OHCHR report A/HRC/57/77 on Addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State's nuclear legacy stressing that "(i)nadequate information hampers the efforts of the Marshall Islands to efficiently, effectively and fully address its nuclear legacy. It does not have "the human resources, nor technical capacity to monitor radiation in the environment or the effects on human health". Of the limited information the Marshallese have access to, most is sourced from the Government of the United States the actions of which, "shrouded in secrecy", have "contributed to a climate of distrust". According to the National Nuclear Commission, such practices "are not limited to the past, nor only to U.S. Government researchers". The Commission has thus developed a protocol and guidelines to curb the practice of "outsiders ... us[ing] the Marshall Islands to advance their own interests". The lack of a coordinated effort has also resulted in overlapping initiatives, contributing to sentiments of survey fatigue."

Health and Housing

Finally, we wish to recall that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the rights to health and housing (article 25).