



FROM THE DESK OF THE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
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PSIDS will lobby for a long-term commitment to decarbonize shipping sector at the next round of IMO Negotiations

Meetings during the 79th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) and the Inter-Sessional Working Group on Greenhouse Gases (ISWG-GHG 13) are going to be key for Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) in ensuring a 1.5 agenda is built into the revised International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Strategy, which will be adopted during MEPC 80, in 2023.

A bundle of four submissions has been submitted to ISWG-GHG 13 and MEPC 79 in December, building up to MEPC 80.

RMI Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, H. E. Albon Ishoda:

"We need to use the meetings at MEPC 79 and the Inter-Sessional Working Groups to steadily advance ensuring a 1.5 agenda is built into the Revised Strategy in 2023 and to advance the adoption of mandatory measures to ensure that the agenda is fulfilled."

Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu are among the 31 countries signed to the Declaration on Zero Emission Shipping by 2050 and committed to a 100% reduction no later than 2050 at IMO.

In addition to being the most vulnerable nations due to the climate crisis and having the highest shipping costs per capita, Pacific Island states are already the most disadvantaged by increases in transportation costs or any decline in transportation services.

Ambassador Ishoda:

"Achieving the highest possible ambition at IMO requires a single international response with a 1.5°C compatible vision supported by a basket of concrete measures including a universal GHG levy and global fuel standard."

A strong price measure by 2025 and an early adoption of stringent mid-term measures will be critical to minimizing the overall cost.

Ambassador Ishoda:

"Going hard and early will always be the lowest cost option. This is a "trillions transition" opportunity for shipping but we have to get it right"

"We are in a climate emergency. Time is not our friend. We need urgency, and we need leadership at IMO."

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Background:

The Marshall Islands was first SIDS to set targets to decarbonize shipping in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

It was also the first SIDS to lodge a National Action Framework with the IMO in 2015. In 2021 the national framework was reviewed and endorsed by Cabinet as Rebbelib 2050. <https://www.mcst-rmiusp.org/index.php/mcstgovernanceboard/mcstframework>

The Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST) is a unique research program for addressing the need for Pacific states to transition to low carbon transport pathways. MCST is charged by the government of the Marshall Islands with implementing Rebbelib 2050.

MCST offers a venue for willing participants to work together on research, analysis, and execution of practical projects within a shared program. The MCST frequently formalises and combines project and research networks that already exist and have been engaged in this area since 2015.

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