**Palau Universal Periodic Review**

**General Session**

**UPR Opening Statement Report**

****

**By: Mrs. J. Uduch Sengebau Senior**

**Vice President and Minster of State**

**Office of the Vice President and Ministry of State**

**Republic of Palau**

**Palau Vice President Senior**

**Closing Statement**

Madame President,

Distinguished members of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Observer states,

The Troika,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure and profound gratitude that the Government of the Republic of Palau has successfully completed its Universal Periodic Review’s 3rd cycle report and presented it to this august body, today.

Madame President,

We feel that this 3rd cycle UPR process was a wonderful uniting agent for all the stakeholders in the Republic of Palau as we collaborated closely and shared experiences, highlights and most importantly the challenges faced with regards to the promotion, protection and realization of human rights practices and issues in our country. We extend our sincere appreciation to the 58 member states for their interventions, and for the questions and comments put forth. I do hope that my delegation was able to respond to their satisfaction; Otherwise, we hope that Palau’s National Report, itself, contained information that addresses those questions and/or concerns.

Madame President,

As you are aware, Palau received advance questions from some member states that were sent in three separate batches. We also hope that our National Report responds and addresses those concerns and questions raised or posed by those member states. However, we are willing and are happy to send responses to the UNHCR to share with the member states, especially those who posed the questions and/or comments.

Madame President,

I will conclude by reiterating our humble appeal to the international community, especially donors and partners, to provide us the much-needed assistance and support as we continue our efforts toward the ratification of the core human rights treaties that Palau has yet to ratify and to help us with the establishment of our National Human Rights Institution - to better address human rights situations in our country.

Finally, Madame President,

Palau looks forward to come in the next 4 1/2 years to report and to share our stories on tangible progresses made, hopefully, the ratification of at least half of the core human rights treaties.

Madame President, Mesulang, Merci Beau coup, Bula Vinaka and thank you very much for your valued attention and consideration!