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**Intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
Statement by the Micronesian delegation**

New York, 25 March 2022

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Co-facilitators,

My delegation first likes to thank you for the updated zero draft which we feel is going in the right direction. We align ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, AOSIS, the Pacific Islands Forum and PSIDS.

We support the various comments on restoring stocks to levels that can produce at least maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in paragraph 11. The language in the zero draft is less ambitious than target 14.4 and we request that we stay with the agreed language.

In paragraph 11 (c), we thank you for including language on marine pollution from shipwrecks.

In the chapeau of paragraph 12, we welcome the focus on LDCs and SIDS as it is targeting those who will benefit most from Ocean Science in line with paragraph 11(f) of the 2017 declaration, "Our ocean, our future: Call for action". We would not support any expansion of the list with any other categories of countries.

We do propose to tweak the reference to "traditional knowledge" in 12(h), to read "relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities." This is in line with the standard terminology used in various international fora.

Finally, we support the comment by Fiji in its national capacity to send a positive encouragement for the conclusion of the negotiations to finalize the BBNJ agreement.

I thank you!