

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Federated States of Micronesia is honored to address this vital agenda item on strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion.

As a small island developing state, Micronesia faces unique challenges that underscore the urgency of this discussion. Our communities are deeply vulnerable to external shocks—be they economic, environmental, or health-related. Yet, we remain resilient and committed to building a society that leaves no one behind.

First, on poverty eradication: Micronesia recognizes that poverty is not merely the absence of income, but the absence of opportunity. We are investing in rural development, sustainable agriculture, and community-based programs that empower families to become self-reliant. We call for enhanced international cooperation to ensure that SIDS have access to financing, technology, and capacity-building tailored to our realities.

Second, on employment and decent work: Our youth represent both our greatest asset and our greatest responsibility. We are expanding vocational training, promoting entrepreneurship, and working to align education with labor market needs. However, decent work must also mean safe work, fair wages, and dignity. We urge partners to support labor mobility schemes that respect human rights and foster mutual benefit.

Third, on social inclusion: Our traditional values teach us that every person has a role in the community. We are strengthening protections for persons with disabilities, advancing gender equality, and ensuring that indigenous knowledge is respected and integrated into development planning. Inclusion is not a luxury—it is a necessity for peace, stability, and progress.

Mr. Chair, the three pillars of social development are interdependent. We cannot eradicate poverty without decent work. We cannot achieve decent work without inclusion. Micronesia stands ready to work with all partners to build a future that is equitable, sustainable, and just.

Thank you.