



**Honorable Kessai H. Note**  
**Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor Division**  
**Republic of the Marshall Islands**  
**Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**  
**Kyoto, Japan, 7-8 March 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Participants,

It gives me great pleasure to come to you remotely from Majuro, the capital city of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I bring greetings from President David Kabua and the RMI Ambassador to Japan Mr. Tom Kijiner. It is a great honor to be invited to address the 14<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in your beautiful city of Kyoto, Japan.

I know the organizers have been considerably delayed by the world wide pandemic and my congratulations go out to them and the host country of Japan for eventually being able to host this very important event in some form.

I am proud to say that the Marshall Islands has not been directly affected by COVID19 and it is a credit to our Government and officials that a swift closure of our borders and proactive measures have kept us all safe. We have now received and distributed much of our vaccine and look forward to some level of normalcy returning this year.

Like many Pacific Island states we suffer from isolation and a lack of crime prevention resources. While our isolation is an attractive element of our life, it can also make us a target for international criminal activity.

Like our neighbors we are concerned with illegal fishing, money laundering, people trafficking and illicit drug supply. It is only with international cooperation and assistance that we can try to do our part in preventing this kind of crime.

Like every country we have some domestic crime but our Police Services and Attorney General's

Office keep it under control and keep the Marshall Islands a safe place to raise a family. It is the international crime that we can hopefully use conferences like these to enhance our skills and develop cooperation pathways.

To that end I wish to thank the United States of America which under the Compact of Free Association allows for co-operation on criminal matters. I would also like to thank the Government of Australia and Taiwan for their assistance specifically aimed at our maritime enforcement and search and rescue all performed by our Sea Patrol.

With that I would like to wish the organizers and honorable attendees all success at this conference. I wish you all the best! Thank you!

