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Address by Hon. Kandhi Elieisar,

**at the High-Level Dialogue on Energy under the auspices of the
United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 24 September 2021

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today we are given an opportunity to take stock of where we stand in our global quest towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal #7 as it pertains to sustainable energy for all countries by 2030, and net zero carbon emissions.

As President David W. Panuelo said in his General Assembly Address this year, Micronesia is committed to tackling the existential threat of Climate Change. At the outset, it must be emphasized that part of our contribution to net zero carbon emissions is in the form of environmental protection. 92% of our country's land is forested. Through the Micronesia Challenge, we seek to protect at least 50% of our coastal and terrestrial territory. Through Blue Prosperity Micronesia, we seek to protect at least 30% of our ocean territory. In this way, the transition to a net-zero carbon society is a holistic, multi-faceted approach.

Our first National Energy Policy was developed in 1999, and our second National Energy Plan was adopted in 2012. These first plans were mostly concerned with keeping the lights on, and less concerned with how we do it. The fact is that much of our electrical generation currently comes from fossil fuels, sometimes using generators meant for emergencies and not daily use, and sometimes using counterfeit equipment which makes replacement and maintenance burdensome and difficult.

We knew we had to fix this reality. So, in 2018, we updated our Master Energy Plan, which provides a road map of renewable energy investments and options to rapidly provide clean, affordable electricity access to every household by 2027. This plan, implemented primarily through partnerships with the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank, and other partners, proposes to increase the Renewable Energy contribution to more than 50% of demand by 2030, doubling the share of renewable energy over the next decade. An important element of our success is dependent on the constructive and committed partnerships to continue to support our efforts.

Beyond this, the Energy Master Plan puts us on a more sustainable path toward reducing diesel usage and carbon emissions significantly, such as by increasing renewable energy production to 84% of electricity demand within the next 15 years.

Micronesia has, and continues to pursue, implementation of 100% renewable energy systems, using the latest technologies in photovoltaics and batteries for main island and outer island communities, with a focus on accessibility, affordability, and usability over time. Considering the frequency of power outages, the average price per kilowatt hour at more than 40 cents, and the bulk of Faichuk and other Micronesian islands presently without power capability, it is important that Micronesia reaches its energy goals for the common good of our People.

In conclusion, as renewable technologies advance rapidly, and costs for implementation drop, we hope to revisit our Energy Master Plan, so that we can ensure we are aligned to these changes. Our energy roadmap must be flexible, and reflect the national and global sense of urgency at this time of immense change. Power is important, because our lives are improved with hospitals, laundry machines, lights, computers, and air conditioning, but we must create a system of power generation that respects our environment, and a system that that is sustainable. Today, Micronesia's energy sector is unsustainable—but we aspire to sustainability, and we aspire to responsibility, and we explicitly, yet humbly, ask for support as we transition to ensuring every citizen can afford to have access to power without the mental blockage that such access contributes to Climate Change.

Thank you.