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**77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
First Committee, Cluster 5 (action)**

Point of order by the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia

New York, 3 November 2022

Check against delivery

Chair,

My delegation raises a point of order in regards to action on Cluster 5, also on behalf of the delegations of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

Yesterday, we completed Explanations of vote after adoption on Cluster 4, followed by general statements on Cluster 5 and EoVs before action. Our delegations came prepared to register our positions on the various drafts. We waited for 2 hours and 45 minutes to be told that action would be postponed.

Chair,

Many competing meetings are happening during the main part of the General Assembly. Yesterday was an opportunity where no Committee except ours, nor the plenary had scheduled action. Instead we find ourselves in a situation today where we have to scramble from this room to the GA plenary where a recorded vote is also expected this morning. Our delegations do not have the luxury of calling up additional staff, as we have none. A significant part of Missions are out of town to attend either the International Seabed Authority or the UNFCCC COP27 meeting, whose preparatory meetings for SIDS and G77 and China are underway at the designated venue.

The advice you were given by the Secretariat, to postpone action does put small delegations, like ours, at a serious disadvantage. Not only did we wait for votes that did not happen, now we have to service two meetings with recorded votes at the same time. We find being put in a situation where we might have to choose which votes we can be present for and which we cannot unacceptable. While we do not have control over how many delegations want to speak, we did have enough time yesterday to start with action. If we had not finished, then at least we would have given it our best try. We could have followed Friday's example; get as far as we can, then suspend rather than adjourn the meeting and resume with the remainder immediately in the morning today.

We are concerned with a wider pattern that shows a lack of coordination between the Committees and the Plenary at the expense of small delegations. Otherwise, how can it be that some days are without any action being scheduled, while on others as many as 4 are set within the same time window? Our delegations do not have that many people and this needs to be better understood.

Chair,

We cannot change what happened yesterday, but we can request your good services to bring those concerns to the attention of the other Committees. In previous years we never had the same amount of overlap and we want to make sure that it will not happen again in the future.

Given the rules of First Committee, we expect that the point of order be reflected in the provisional verbatim records of the meeting.

I thank you!