



National Statement  
First Committee Cluster 3 – Conventional Weapons  
Delivered by Moote Korina Anata, Third Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the United Nations  
Delivered on 23 October 2025

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Chair

At the outset, Kiribati wishes to align itself with the joint statement delivered by the Solomon Islands on behalf of PIF members that are state parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Kiribati, as a small island developing state, does not believe in using weapons to address conflicts.

This is why we highlighted the importance of *te kaioki*, our traditional way of reconciling conflicts, at last year's First Committee. Through this customary process, disputing parties come together before the community to discuss their differences, forgive past wrongs, and restore peace and harmony.

Chair,

Even though Kiribati is not a member to the Cluster Munitions Convention (CCM), we recognize the impact that this convention has had on advancing the principles of humanitarian disarmament, in particular its provisions on victim assistance. We acknowledge that its provisions helped mold humanitarian provisions in other treaties, including the TPNW.

Chair,

I would like to briefly turn our attention to lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS). Last summer, here in New York, we actively participated in the informal consultations on LAWS. In particular, we contributed to discussions on both the

humanitarian and security considerations, where we expressed concerns about the possibility of introducing artificial thinking machines into command-and-control systems of nuclear weapons. This is an issue that concerns us as a small state that has been impacted by 33 nuclear tests.

In addition, we highlighted the urgent need for states to consider the environmental impact of LAWS and the significance of the Indo-Pacific Conference that was held in the Philippines in 2023.

Chair,

In September 2025, we endorsed the joint statement that was delivered at the meeting of the Convention on CCW, the Group of Governmental Experts, on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (CCW GGE LAWS) which held in Geneva. We appreciate the joint statement's recognition that the rolling text contains a set of elements that could serve as the basis for negotiations of an instrument on addressing LAWS.

Due to our active participation in the informal consultations last summer and decision to endorse the joint statement, Kiribati is proud to be co-sponsoring Austria's resolution on lethal autonomous weapon systems. We attach great importance to op. 3 of the resolution, which calls for "the High Contracting Parties to work towards completing the set of elements for an instrument being developed within the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts, with a view to future negotiations."

I thank you.