



Statement by the Representative of Kiribati Before the First Committee of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Kiribati wishes to extend its warmest congratulations to you, Mr. Chair, on your election as Chair of the First Committee of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as to the members of your Bureau.

Chair, As we mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, we are reminded of the enduring vision of this Institution: a peaceful world, free from the threat of nuclear weapons. Kiribati strongly believes in the aspirations and goals of this august body. It is worth recalling that the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly called for the elimination of atomic weapons.

Kiribati remains steadfast in its conviction that the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons must be grounded in our shared commitment to peace and security. It is therefore fitting that the work of this First Committee continues to center on international peace and security.

Chair, Kiribati is proud to have contributed, in our own modest way, to advancing global peace and security. In particular, we have been an active supporter of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) — especially in the implementation of Articles 6 and 7, efforts which we jointly coordinate with Kazakhstan. Kiribati also serves as a member of the TPNW Coordination Committee and looks forward to the establishment of an international trust fund to assist victims of nuclear weapons.

We fully recognize that the TPNW complements the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and we call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and

ratify the TPNW. We also look ahead to the forthcoming NPT Review Conference, where Kiribati will continue to advocate for recognition and support for victims of nuclear weapons use, testing, and production.

Before that conference, the international community will convene the first-ever meeting on victim assistance and environmental remediation, which Kiribati views as a vital step toward justice and healing for affected communities.

Chair, As we actively engage in nuclear disarmament discussions, Kiribati is also closely following developments concerning the dangers posed by artificial intelligence in the command-and-control systems of Nuclear-Weapon States.

Turning to lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), Kiribati was pleased to participate in the informal consultations held in New York during the summer of 2025. We warmly welcome this initiative by Austria and commend its leadership in facilitating opportunities for delegations to exchange perspectives on this pressing issue.

Chair, Kiribati believes that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also vital contributors today. The international community must continue to strengthen support for United Nations initiatives such as the Youth Leaders Fund for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons and the Youth for Disarmament Forum, in line with the Pact for the Future and Security Council Resolution 2250.

We also wish to emphasize the importance of uplifting the voices of young women. Greater efforts are needed to ensure they are given meaningful spaces to participate, particularly in disarmament affairs. Kiribati is proud that Ms. Oemwa Johnson, a fourth-generation survivor, addressed the General Assembly's High-Level Meeting for the International Day Against Nuclear Tests and has been selected to participate in the ODA's Youth for Disarmament Forum.

Together, we must continue to empower and amplify the voices of youth as essential partners in advancing disarmament and sustaining lasting peace. Thank you, Chair.