



Kiribati National Statement
First Committee Cluster 1 – Nuclear Weapons
Delivered by Moote Korina Anata, Third Secretary.

Chair,

At the outset, Kiribati wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the TPNW States and the joint statement delivered by Austria on New START.

Chair,

At this year's high-level meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, the Secretary-General remarked that "The shadow of nuclear annihilation is still with us and spreading fast, fueled by divisions and mistrust, along with rising military spending, growing stockpiles, and countries rattling the nuclear saber as a means of coercion. Humanity is headed in the wrong direction. It's time to chart a new course for lasting peace through disarmament."

Kiribati is deeply concerned that Nuclear-Weapon States continue to modernize their arsenals, contrary to their obligations under Article 6 of the NPT.

It is time for Nuclear-Weapon States to honor the NPT's grand bargain and the 2010 Action Plan. We expect concrete progress at next year's Review Conference, as the world cannot afford another failure.

Our highest priority is centering the discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons at the forefront at the NPT Review Conference. We must have a dialogue on helping the victims of nuclear weapons.

This is why Kiribati and Kazakhstan have tabled a modalities resolution on the 2026 meeting on victim assistance and environmental remediation. We recall that a majority of states voted on the mandate for such a meeting and now we call upon all States to support this year's resolution.

Chair,

In these challenging times, we must remain hopeful. Kiribati has co-sponsored the CTBT, TPNW, humanitarian consequences, and NAC resolutions, and supports South Africa's on ethical imperatives, Malaysia's on the ICJ Advisory Opinion, and Mexico's on AI risks in nuclear command and control. Together, these efforts advance our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Chair,

Nuclear Weapons Free Zones are an essential regional approach to strengthening global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidating international efforts towards peace and security. They complement both the NPT and the TPNW. We attach great importance to our regional zone, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone and the Treaty of Rarotonga.

Chair,

The TPNW is our ray of our hope. We congratulate our good friend, Kyrgyzstan for signing the Treaty and Ghana for ratifying it. We are almost at 100, which will be a significant milestone for the international community.

The TPNW continues to be our beacon towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.