

## **Joint Statement on behalf of Kiribati and Kazakhstan**

**Chair,**

At the outset, Kiribati and Kazakhstan would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee and to the members of the Bureau on their election. Rest assured that both States will strive to work with you and your team.

**Chair,**

Kiribati and Kazakhstan stand together as two states that have suffered immensely from the devastating legacy of nuclear testing. Kiribati experienced 33 nuclear tests while Kazakhstan witnessed 456 nuclear tests respectively. These tests left deep and lasting scars inflicting physical and psychological harm, including long-term health impacts. Yet both states have shown great resilience and remain united in their commitment to ensuring that such tragedies never occur again.

Due to the harrowing legacy of nuclear testing in both States, we have been championing the cause for nuclear justice in all multilateral forums.

At multiple conferences, including the Meetings of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, survivors and victims shared their testimonies about the destructive power of these nuclear tests and have awakened our conscience to reflect on the horrors of the atomic age for all of us. As a result, we continue to call on the international community to take collective action towards addressing the remnants of nuclear testing.

We also recognize the special responsibility that the relevant nuclear-weapon States have in helping to overcome the immense harm caused by the development and testing of the most destructive weapons known to humanity.

Due to our recognition of the need for collective action, Kiribati and Kazakhstan are coordinating efforts towards establishing an international trust fund for victim assistance through the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Both States are continuing to co-chair the informal working group on Articles 6 and 7 of this historic treaty.

**Chair,**

In 2023, Kiribati and Kazakhstan presented the first ever resolution on “Providing Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation to Member States Affected by the Use or Testing of Nuclear Weapons.” In 2024, we modified the version to call for the Secretary-General to convene the first ever international meeting on victim assistance. An overwhelming number of States co-sponsored and supported it – a solidarity for which we are very grateful.

This year, we are once again presenting the updated resolution, containing concrete modalities of next year’s international meeting. Aware of the current UN budgetary struggles, we strive to reduce the financial burden to a minimum. We thank all delegations who gave their constructive inputs during consultations so far.

It is finally time for all States to confront the realities of both the humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons and find common ways to address them jointly in the spirit of the UN Charter.

Finally, as we approach the forthcoming 2026 NPT Review Conference, we contend that the States Parties should recognize the importance of victim assistance and environmental remediation within the context of pillar 1 discussions on nuclear disarmament.

We will continue to advocate for international support to help those who have suffered from the impact of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.