



KIRIBATI STATEMENT

for the 11th Review Conference of The States Parties to The Treaty on The
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
General Debate

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates

Mauri and thank you Mr. President. At the outset, I wish to extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on assuming the presidency of the 11th NPT Review Conference and to assure you of our full support.

Kiribati aligns itself with the joint statement delivered yesterday by Solomon Islands on behalf of the Parties to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and Pacific Islands Forum and by South Africa on behalf of the States Parties and Signatories to the TPNW.

We are gathered here today at this historic conference to review and take stock of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which remains a cornerstone of the international security architecture.

At the same time, we note with concern that the two preceding Review Conferences were unable to reach consensus outcomes. It is imperative that we work collectively to ensure a successful outcome at this Conference, given the significant implications for the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Mr. President

1, At this Review Conference, Kiribati will pay particular attention to the situation concerning the implementation of Article 6 (VI) of the NPT. As we are all fully aware, Article 6 (VI) of the NPT requires each State Party to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date, and the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

2, It is unfortunate that the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) have yet to fulfill their obligations, including the 64-points Action Plan and the 13 Practical Steps from the 2010 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences respectively.

3, We note with deep concern recent indications that a nuclear-weapon State is expanding its deterrence policy, while another is considering the resumption of nuclear testing developments that risk undermining the objectives and spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear-Weapons.

4, It is essential that the Nuclear Weapon States recognize the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and the historic 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

5, We call upon all States Parties to reaffirm the reference in the outcome document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President

6, Despite the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, many Non-Nuclear-Weapon States have taken concrete steps, including through ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear -Weapons.

Kiribati is a proud State Party to the TPNW and firmly believes that the TPNW complement the NPT by filling the missing legal gap in the NPT. It also expands upon the existing international security architecture by addressing

victim assistance, environmental remediation, international cooperation and assistance.

Mr. President

7, Between 1957 and 1962, 33 nuclear tests were conducted in Kiribati the 500 citizens of Kiribati living on Kiritimati Island at the time of the tests received little protection and inadequate warning. Many of these people complained about all sorts of untreatable illnesses and health complications, most of which resulted in death. There were cases of cancer, and abnormalities with newborn babies.

8, Therefore, we call on all States Parties to address the importance of nuclear justice and recognize the role of affected communities. We contend that addressing these impacts through enhanced transparency is essential to building trust and advancing nuclear disarmament.

9, Our commitment to nuclear justice is reflected in our support for a series of artworks by young people from Kiritimati, presented in collaboration with Thailand and the UNRCPD through the art competition entitled “Envisioning a World Free from Nuclear Weapons.”

10, Our own experience with the legacy of nuclear weapons also contributed to our decision to collaborate with Kazakhstan, another State that suffered from nuclear tests.

11, With Kazakhstan, we have been spearheading efforts on nuclear justice within this review cycle, UNGA, and in the TPNW context. We are proud that the first-ever international meeting on victim assistance and environmental remediation will take place later this year.

12. Due to our commitment to addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons, we initiated a working paper on this topic with Austria, Kazakhstan, Malta, Philippines, and Thailand. This is working paper 62, where we suggest that the outcome document should acknowledge the transboundary effects of nuclear weapons, including the intergenerational trauma; the responsibility of the User States, re-evaluation of pre-existing national policies to provide compensation to second- and third- generation victims; assistance from other states parties, in a position to do so, as well as the integration of gender

responsive approaches. We further contend that affected communities should be involved in the implementation of these measures.

Mr. President

13, The people of Kiribati live in an ocean-dominated environment and depend entirely on the resources of the Blue Pacific. The Pacific Ocean is central to our identity, grounded in peace, respect for nature, and one another. We remain firmly committed to protecting its health and integrity from nuclear and other environmental threats.

14, In this regard, we underscore the importance of international consultations, adherence to international law, and independent, verifiable scientific assessments in addressing activities that may impact the marine environment.

President and Distinguished Excellencies,

15, Kiribati stands ready to engage constructively with you and all States Parties to ensure a successful Review Conference in the interest of all nations and peoples.

We remain firmly committed to advancing peace at all levels, so that all can live in security and coexistence free from the threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you.