



National Statement  
Main Committee I  
2026 NPT Review Conference  
General Exchange of Views  
Delivered by Josephine Moote, Charge d'affaires  
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**Mr. Chair,**

At the outset, Kiribati extends its sincere congratulations to Ghana on your assumption of the Chair of Main Committee I. We assure you of our full cooperation and support as you guide our deliberations on this critical pillar of the Treaty.

Throughout this review cycle, Kiribati has consistently raised the need for the international community to address the situation of affected communities as an integral extension of Article 6(VI) commitments.

This is why, we are championing **nuclear justice**, with our good friend Kazakhstan in both the NPT regime, the United Nations General Assembly, and within the framework of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear-Weapons.

**Mr. Chair,**

Kiribati recalls that between 1957 and 1962 the **33 nuclear tests were conducted on Kiritimati Island**, where approximately **500 of our citizens were present during the testing period**. These events left a lasting imprint on our people and environment, the effects of which continue to be felt across generations. This history is central to our understanding of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

In this context, Kiribati stresses the importance of **full disclosure by user States of information relating to contaminated and affected areas**. Such transparency is essential to understanding the full extent of environmental and human impacts. It is also a necessary foundation for informed decision-making and responsible international cooperation.

Our intention is clear: to ensure that Kiritimati Island is fully positioned as a national development priority. Strategically located along emerging trans-Pacific routes, the island holds a significant potential to enhance regional connectivity, including logistics and air and marine linkages and to support sustainable economic cooperation across the central Pacific. This ambition requires a comprehensive understanding of environmental conditions, as well as appropriate measures for

redress and compensation where warranted. These elements are essential to inform effective remediation.

In this connection, Kiribati calls on States Parties to support the inclusion of **victim assistance and environmental remediation** in the outcome document.

**Mr. Chair,**

Kiribati underscores that progress on nuclear disarmament under Article VI remains insufficient. We therefore call for **concrete, measurable, and time-bound steps** toward the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear arsenals. Strengthened transparency and accountability are essential to rebuilding trust in the disarmament framework.

The Pacific continues to bear the long-term environmental and health consequences of nuclear testing. These impacts are living realities that reinforce the urgency of nuclear justice and the need to ground disarmament in **human dignity, environmental protection, and intergenerational responsibility**.

We also note with concern the ongoing modernization of nuclear arsenals, which risks undermining confidence in disarmament commitments. Such developments must be fully consistent with obligations under the Treaty and should not detract from the pursuit of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

**Mr. Chair,**

Kiribati recognizes the importance of strengthening the global normative and legal framework, including through complementary instruments such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We encourage inclusive dialogue that bridges differing perspectives and strengthens the shared objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, Kiribati wishes to recall the enduring significance of the Treaty of Rarotonga, through which Pacific nations collectively affirmed their commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free region. This Treaty stands as a powerful expression of the **Pacific spirit grounded in stewardship, solidarity, and responsibility to future generations**. It demonstrates that even small and geographically dispersed States can exercise meaningful **moral leadership** in advancing global peace and security.

**Mr. Chair,**

In closing, Kiribati calls on all States Parties to renew their commitment to practical and meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament. The credibility of this Treaty depends on our collective willingness to match commitments with action, and rhetoric with responsibility.

Let us ensure that the path we chart here is one that safeguards present and future generations, restores dignity to affected communities, and moves us decisively toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.