



Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption as Chair of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a milestone in the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation area. We strongly believe that the TPNW complements all multilateral nuclear disarmament and arms control treaties, especially the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and all nuclear weapon free zones treaties.

We are pleased to serve as vice president of this meeting, and we thank all delegations for your kind endorsement of our nomination and for the honour attached to this responsibility.

Excellencies,

Our State experienced the tragic legacy of 33 nuclear tests. These tests ravaged the Pacific region as many of our brothers and sisters were stationed around Kiritimati to observe the nuclear testing.

To help address the legacy of nuclear weapons, Kiribati has been serving as the co-chair of the intersessional working group on victim assistance, environmental remediation, international cooperation and assistance with Kazakhstan since the first intersessional period.

Our main priority is to establish an international trust fund for the victims of nuclear weapons. We cannot wait to conduct assessment policies. We must urgently take action to help and support the victims of nuclear weapons.

This is why Kiribati and Kazakhstan, as Co-Chairs of the Working Group conducted a series of outreach meetings with communities impacted by the use and testing of nuclear weapons in the Asia-Pacific region and Central Asia. We also prepared substantive guiding principles on the establishment of an international trust fund.

To demonstrate our resolve on nuclear justice, we accredited a group of young women from Kiritimati Island to our delegation. They are here to engage and share their stories about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. I am so glad that one of them spoke earlier during the high-level segment.

Excellencies,

Our work on nuclear justice extends beyond the TPNW. At the last UN General Assembly, we presented an updated version of our resolution on addressing the legacy of nuclear testing with Kazakhstan. This updated version calls for the Secretary-General to convene an international meeting on victim assistance and environmental remediation in 2026.

Excellencies,

We are pleased that there are 94 signatories and 73 states parties of the TPNW. We are especially glad that our good friends from the Solomon Islands ratified the TPNW in September 2024. With the Solomon Islands' ratification, a total of 11 Pacific states have joined the TPNW. The Pacific states are united on addressing the legacy of nuclear tests through this historic treaty.

Getting all states to join the TPNW is a necessary steppingstone to the total rejection of the nuclear deterrence doctrine and the full adoption of the multilateral peace building mechanisms of the United Nations that can only lead the world and humanity to lasting peace, progress and prosperity as promised by the founding fathers of our United Nations.

Let's work together to provide nuclear justice to all, promote the TPNW, and assure our future generations of a world free of nuclear weapons and one rich in peace, harmony and happiness.

Thank you.

