



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

**Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Statement - Fourth International
Conference on Small Island Developing States, Antigua and Barbuda.**

**Delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kiribati to the United Nations**

28 May 2024

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am honored to warmly greet you all on behalf of the Government and people of Kiribati and in the name of the Almighty Creator and Ruler of the Universe and Everything in it, living and non-living.

Kam na bane ni mauri meaning Blooming life and health to you all.

Kiribati joins other delegations in expressing our condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea over the loss of many lives and the injuries sustained as a result of a natural disaster hitting the country.

We also join other delegations to congratulate you Mr. President, as you take on the important role, and assure you of my delegations' full support in the discharge of your important duties as you guide our important deliberations to chart our future toward resilience and prosperity.

Mr. President, please accept my delegation's heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their extraordinarily warm and gracious hospitality and arrangements that has made everyone at this Conference feel very much at home. My delegation supports the statements delivered by Samoa on behalf of AOSIS, Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, and Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States and by Nepal, on behalf of LDCs.

We also endorse the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States,(ABAS), and reaffirm the calls made by AOSIS, the Pacific Islands Forum and PSIDS, that highlight the urgency of critical priorities for SIDs sustainable future. My delegation also wishes to highlight several priorities that are crucial for the sustainable development of Kiribati, in line with the objectives and goals of ABAS.

First and foremost, my delegation recognizes that SIDS and LDC are among the countries hardest hit by the impacts of compounding and intersecting crises from the pandemic to climate change and sea level rise, conflicts to geopolitical competition, and rivalry/and rising cost of living due to external shocks. Our graduation status from the LDC category pose a critical question of where we are in the future given these unprecedented challenges. SIDS and LDCs deserve stronger attention and should not be left behind, including through economic graduation, which may unduly expose some nations to critical vulnerabilities and shocks.

As an island nation, Kiribati aspires to be connected to the world. To date the Government has also invested significantly in the air transportation service and digital connectivity infrastructure across the nation, subsidizing mobile infrastructure establishments on all islands across Kiribati. We see this as an innovative pathway toward long-term resilience and prosperity.

Mr. President,

Fisheries remain a priority for economic growth. It is the largest contributing revenue source for Kiribati. However, given the volatility of revenue generation, which is further exacerbated by climate change, we aim to protect and complement our fishing license revenue through more vigorous marine protection coupled with marine spatial planning strategies, a more robust

collaborative anti-IUU arrangements, diversification of tax resources and expansion of our revenue base in line with our KV20 roadmap aimed at transforming Kiribati into a wealthy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous nation and people by 2036.

In line with our KV20 we are exploring options to create a more conducive environment for both foreign direct investment and domestic private sector development to ensure investor confidence for both foreign and domestic private investors. To this end the Kiribati Foreign Investment Policy Framework 2018-2028 as enacted in the Foreign Investment Act 2018. These measures aim to increase investment levels, ensure investor confidence, and align with international best practices and regional trade agreements.

Mr President,

Kiritimati Island, the largest coral atoll in the world, holds enormous sustainable development and economic potential for Kiribati. We call it the "new paradise". We acknowledge the great and continued support of our development partners and their keen interest in considering significant investment support in the realization of the Kiritimati Island Economic Development Programme. This initiative will harness the alignment to the

KV20, ensure an inclusive and sustainable growth pathway and provide a resilient response to emerging climate change crises. Furthermore, its historical legacy as a site for nuclear testing during the colonial period, makes it an ideal location to establish a center for promotion of nuclear disarmament, peaceful living the Pacific Way and the Pacific Settlement of Disputes mechanisms required under Chapter VI of the UN Charter under the auspices of the Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific ocean threatens the resilient, peaceful and prosperous that we all seek to achieve individually and collectively under ABAS.

Mr President,

Our pathway toward a sustainable and resilient future requires climate action and resources. We call on the international community to fulfill its commitment to limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as per the Paris Agreement.

We join calls to emphasize the need for increased provision and mobilization of climate finance to address adaptation, loss and damage, and upscaling climate change solutions.

We support in principle all new partnership initiatives launched and agreed at this SIDS4 within the framework of ABAS particularly those aimed at accelerating the resilience and prosperity of small islands states and their achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

We also recognize the indispensable value of good leadership in the development of resilience and prosperity. Good leadership begins in the inclusion of youth leaders and perspectives at the community , local, regional and global levels. While the ABAS has been charted, we must act now to advance our shared vision for a resilient and prosperous future filled with blooming health, peace, happiness for all.

Thank you Chair.

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