



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KIRIBATI TO THE UNITED NATIONS, HIS EXCELLENCY TEBURORO TITO,
DELIVERED AT THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PACIFIC
REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE ISTANDBUL PROGRAM OF ACTION (IPoA) FOR
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

Monday 30 August 2021

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Opening remarks

On behalf of the Government and People of Kiribati, on whose behalf I am humbled and honoured to address this august gathering of honourable ministers and distinguished delegates representing the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. In the name of God the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth please allow me to greet you warmly in my mother tongue: “Kam na bane ni mauri” meaning May you all have a secure and abundant life.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I welcome the updates shared by distinguished colleagues on their respective progress and challenges in the implementation of the IPoA and wish to reaffirm Kiribati’s support to the ongoing work required by all of us, individually and collectively, especially in efforts to improve the livelihoods of our respective peoples. I also wish to acknowledge the support offered and cooperation exchanged in these challenging times as we embrace the new normal of conducting business.

Kiribati’s progress in the implementation of IPoA & key development challenges

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is important to recognize that Kiribati is both an LDC and a Small Island Developing State and thus getting our message across is crucial in highlighting the importance of

and urgent need for building economic, social and environmental resilience of small island LDCs, including graduating ones, and call for enhanced engagement and coordination of development partners.

Like many of us, Kiribati simultaneously aspires to reach certain national goals and fulfil international commitments, despite hindering development challenges. I wish to share and highlight Kiribati's high vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, and an urgent need to mobilize financial resources for building resilience as well as for climate change adaptation.

Kiribati also recognizes that mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic will be particularly difficult for graduating countries that are facing the withdrawal of duty-free and quota-free exports and the cessation of access to certain concessional financing sources while focusing on their socioeconomic recovery.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

To ensure that our national efforts in meeting our own national targets and our international goals, including the progress we have made so far are not in vain, I therefore wish to reiterate that Kiribati's continued LDC status sends a signal of the nation's need for continued international development support and enables the nation to collaborate in international negotiations alongside with other small island LDCs, which is critical in mitigating the impact of climate breakdown.

I also wish to emphasize the importance of the international community in strengthening and expanding international support measures (ISMs) both for graduating and graduated countries; and stress the call for increased support to climate finance. This may be particularly important given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build resilience in these countries to prevent future shocks.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is important to highlight the importance of the partnerships we share in our collective efforts to improve the livelihoods of our peoples and to commit to our agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is one of the many critical elements of the IPoA especially as it relates to the inclusive and effective coordination of donor countries, developing countries, parliaments, the private sector, civil society, the UN system and international and regional financial institutions. To that end, I will echo calls that have been made to ESCAP and development partners to enhance efforts to mobilize support to all LDCs, and to step up actions to conduct detailed and updated analysis of the impact of graduation and to support the preparation of a smooth transition strategy. This will be crucial for LDCs, in their respective commitments toward a pathway to graduation.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to close my remarks by bestowing upon us all Kiribati's traditional blessings of Te Mauri, Te Raoi, Te Tabomoa, meaning Healty, Peace and Prosperity.

Thank you.