



76th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY TE BERETITENTI TANETI MAAMAU
“HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY”
24 SEPTEMBER 2021

Secretary-General,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and the people of Kiribati, it is a great privilege to convey my traditional greetings “Kam na bane ni Mauri”

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation for the great work and effort to those involved in making this first high-level energy Summit in 40 years a success.

Despite our challenges in adapting to the severe impacts of climate change and disasters overwhelming our local resources, Kiribati remains committed to implement mitigation measures through the development of energy policies as emphasized in the Kiribati Energy Road Map 2017-2025. However, the lack of resources has severely impeded the ability of government to effectively implement and achieve our goals and targets stipulated in our national determined contribution (NDC). We acknowledge the assistance from our generous donor partners who have supported us in financing some of our solar projects.

In the urban centers, photovoltaic grid integration accounts to around 13% of the energy share for the South Tarawa grid only. As part of the efforts to meet our NDC, Kiribati is working to further scale up renewable energy projects, particularly PV-grid storage on the main urban centers in South Tarawa and Kiritimati Island.

The South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project (STREP), envisaged to be completed in March 2024, would be adding extra solar PV grids and will try to target more than 80% renewable energy share in the grid upon completion by 2025. It is anticipated that the South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project will provide 40% renewable energy share, therefore by 2024 the total renewable energy share in the PV -grid will be around 55%.

Additionally, the South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project would assist in the creation of enabling frameworks for renewable energy development. This includes the

development of the energy act, currently being drafted, which will enable the adoption of Renewable Energy framework.

Kiribati acknowledges the support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners for the support and assistance provided to various rural sectors to achieve the 100% renewable energy target.

Kiribati also has another key project with the Global Environment Facility called Promoting Outer Island Development through the Integrated Energy Roadmap project aiming to establish utility based solar power in the main areas on all outer islands in Kiribati, including the Southern Kiribati Hospital. Energy assistance from the China South-South Climate Cooperation Fund will hopefully provide 9,000 durable Solar home systems for all households on the outer islands by 2023. Further, support is also received from the Italian government to finance the transition of the electricity supply to photovoltaic battery energy storage system (PV/BESS) off grids in Boarding Secondary Schools in the outer islands.

Lastly, I invite our development partners to join our march for the Net Zero emission target by 2050. We will need to acquire extensive resources, capacity building, modernization of marine vessels to maintain a sustainable sea transportation given the geographical remoteness of our islands

Allow me to close with the Kiribati traditional blessings of te Mauri, te Raoi ao te Tabomoa (Health, Peace and Prosperity) be with us all.!

Kam rabwa, Thank you all.