

**ILC Kiribati Statement for the 110, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Geneva**  
**Hon Minister Taabeta Amuera Teakai**  
**Ministry of Employment and Human Resource**

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Mr President

Vice President

Director General

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kam na bane ni mauri !

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I am honored to deliver this statement representing the interest and aspirations of the people of Kiribati.

Kiribati, like every other country has its own beauties and challenges. The increase in unemployed youth is a challenge, yet they are regarded as human capital and potential wealth of Kiribati. The Government of Kiribati aspirations is to nurture and transform them to valuable human resources through upskilling. Our Marine Training Center and Kiribati Institute of Technology are delivering accredited courses aligned to international standards. This will facilitate access to labour mobility programs and aligning

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to employers' requirements. Our labour mobility programs in partnership with Australia and New-Zealand continue to expand and flourish from time to time. I also wish to acknowledge the support of Canada in terms of our labour mobility project with anticipated future recruitments. In pursuing new labour markets, the safety and welfare of our overseas workers is always critical to ensure they are provided with appropriate support and decent work.

The presence of COVID pandemic becomes another challenge which has caused the stagnant of our various labour mobility programs and the long waited stranded workers abroad due to border closures and travel restrictions.

This has also impeded our efforts to comply with the Maritime Labour

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Convention. I wish to acknowledge the support of the ILO, the International Chamber of Shipping, International Transport Federation to name a few involved in facilitating the repatriation of our stranded crews who have returned safely. Of equal importance is the protection of our people since our health system and facilities remain under-developed to face the reality of the pandemic. With the current calming COVID status in Kiribati due to a wider public coverage of vaccinations, COVID procedures has been relaxed now and therefore our economic activities are gradually picking up. These include the regular flights and the potential resumption of some of our employment programs that have been affected.

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Allow me to reflect on major achievements progressed in collaboration with social partners. First is the regular engagement of the tripartite Decent Work Advisory Board deliberating on labour conditions, employment dispute matters and the various ILO reporting obligations. Second is the ongoing review of labour laws and the development of new regulations to strengthening the enforcement of our labour Laws.

I would like to acknowledge the constant support of ILO and I wish to see the expansion of program and technical support to the Social Protection Floor in future. The Government of Kiribati has developed relevant social

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assistance programs for the unemployment youth, the disability, and elderly benefits and therefore keen to explore ILO's relevant programs in this area.

Mr President, I commend this year's agenda of the conference noting another development of a new instrument related to the 'Framework for Quality Apprenticeships'. I believe this is an important area to regulate for the benefits of the apprentices worldwide. I wish to see that the work of this committee in developing this instrument also consider the context and aspirations of small island states.

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In closing, I thank you Mr President and wish to share the Kiribati blessings of “Te Mauri, Te raoi ao Te Tabomoa” Good health, Peace and Prosperity to us all.

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