

Statement for Main Committee 1

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative of Kiribati  
15 August 2022

Chair,

Kiribati welcomes this initial draft as a good basis for us to build upon.

Kiribati attaches the highest importance to the fulfillment of Article VI in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. We are disheartened by the lack of progress from the nuclear weapon states. Thus, we agree with the proposed language set forth in paragraph 9 but would prefer it to expand upon the failures by certain states to implement prior commitments including from the 1995, 2000, and 2010 outcome documents.

We appreciate the proposed language on reducing the role of nuclear weapons in the military doctrines of NWS and their allies. Perhaps the draft should recognize that the actions of nuclear-weapon states, which have led to quantitative and qualitative increases in their arsenals, are inconsistent with legal obligations set forth in Article VI of the NPT.

Chair,

Turning our attention to the references to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the humanitarian conferences, Kiribati welcomes paragraphs 27-30.

Chair,

We regret that the draft does not fully condemn nuclear threats. In this regard, we propose a new paragraph that states:

We are alarmed and dismayed by threats to use nuclear weapons and increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric. We stress that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. We condemn unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.

Chair,

We strongly welcome the reference to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. However, the report does not address the complementarity of the TPNW with the NPT. In this regard, we should build upon paragraph 31 by stating that the TPNW is an effective measure under Article VI to fulfill the disarmament commitments of the NPT, that it complements the NPT, and that it is a welcome addition to the nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament regime.

Chair,

We also wish to support Kazakhstan's proposal that Main Committee I should provide references to the importance of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

We will submit additional comments.