

Statement for Main Committee I
2022 Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty
Delivered by H.E. Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative of Kiribati

Mr. Chair,

As we explained in the general debate, we are gravely concerned about the NWS's lack of implementation of Article VI as well as their reluctance to fully implement the 64-point action plan. We further request the NWS to implement the 13 Practical Steps. Their actions also run contrary to the grand bargain, which was struck between the nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. Thus, we are disappointed with the NWS' qualitative and quantitative advancements of their nuclear arsenals. Such behavior of our bigger brothers make us wonder whether agreements reached in these august gatherings are only meant to be kept in the golden files of the UN BUT not meant to be honoured and implemented.

Despite the lack of progress by the NWS, significant developments have occurred in the international peace and security field. On 22 January 2022, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force and the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW was recently convened in June 2022. It is our belief that the TPNW complements the NPT; specifically, the TPNW provides a legally binding prohibition on nuclear weapons. Therefore, we contend that this conference should acknowledge that a vast majority of states parties adopted the TPNW as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament contributing to the implementation of Article VI and note the full compatibility and consistency of the TPNW with the NPT. We further request that the conference should affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Kiribati also attaches great importance to the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, which should be reflected in the committee's report

Mr. Chair,

As a state which suffered from the testing of nuclear weapons, we are fully aware of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Thus, we recommend that the conference strengthens the language on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons from the 2010 NPT Review Conference. After all, it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. We further recognize that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chair,

Kiribati strongly values the importance of encouraging youth to play center stage role in the nuclear disarmament movement and to share their stories with the international community and teach their fellow peers about nuclear disarmament. In this connection, we are pleased to co-sponsor Japan's joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chair,

We must avoid any chance of becoming entrenched in our position. There must be a willingness from the NWS and their allies to work together with the other states parties in order to produce a meaningful outcome at this Review Conference. Let us for one moment forget about our differences, and focus more on our commonalities and accept that we are really part of one big human family all aspiring for abundant love, peace , harmonyand happiness wanting to make our home Planet Earth completely free not only from the misery of poverty, hunger, climate change, terrorism, human trafficking and other human made pains and sufferings but also from the scourge of war, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.