



**Statement
by
His Excellency Taneti Maamau
President of the Republic of Kiribati**

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES 27
7-21 NOVEMBER 2022, EGYPT**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I begin by sharing the peace and blessings of the Almighty, and the warm greetings of the Government and people of Kiribati. **Kam na bane ni mauri.**

Mr President,

I acknowledge the Government and the people of Egypt for the warm hospitality and commend the exceptional leadership in hosting this action-oriented COP 27.

It is indeed a critical time for us to be more ambitious in implementing the Paris Agreement with solutions premised on bolstering the resilience of our peoples against the adverse impact of climate change.

It has been 30 years since the inception of UNFCCC and it is disheartening to see that some continue to use this process to pursue their own political

agendas, despite the science, some continue to block ambitious actions that could curb global emissions and develop effective solutions to address climate change impacts. Consequently, for frontline countries like Kiribati, this would be detrimental to our sovereign desire to safeguard our people.

Climate change is happening, and loss and damage is very real. Yet the major solutions that we talk about remain distant as we are at the mercy of multilateral implementing agencies who continue to determine how we adapt and access financial resources. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that our collective efforts and partnership will address these concerns.

We need data, capacity building and technology transfer, and country-specific science projections to make our adaptation planning much more effective.

Mr President,

This year, Kiribati declared a state of disaster to manage and respond to the impact of severe drought with some of our islands frequently inundated by storm surges. The impact of extreme spring tides continues to be a threat to our economy, our future development and destroying the very fabrics of our livelihoods.

Despite these challenges, our commitment to building resilience is driven by the desire of the people to remain living in Kiribati. We will continue to strengthen our legislative and policy frameworks including the recently enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions.

The cost of maintaining our livelihoods in the face of climate change already exceeds our means, yet it does not dampen our resolve to put resources where we can. This is compounded by COVID-19 coupled with the inflation on commodities including fuel. The government will continue to invest in building resilience through a people-centred approach and social protection programs.

Mr. President

I appeal to my fellow leaders to stand in solidarity to fight this climate dilemma for the brighter and resilient future of our young generation. We must be held accountable to our climate finance commitment and achieve 1.5 degree Celsius to save our shared HOME. Action begins HERE and NOW!!!

Te Mauri Te Rāoi ao te Tabomoa meaning Health, Peace and Prosperity upon us all.

Kam bati n rabwa,