Republic of Kiribati

Statement by
Kiribati Minister for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs
Honourable Taoaba Kaiea

At the Asia-Pacific Beijing +25 Ministerial meeting,

UN headquarters, Bangkok, Thailand
27th - 29th November 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Chairperson,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by saying –KAM NA BANE N MAURI – Warm greetings to you all. Let me at the outset convey my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality extended to me and my delegation since arrival. I join other speakers in congratulating you Mr Chairman on your appointment. I am confident that through your leadership, this meeting will be successful and productive. I wish to align my statement to the Pacific statement delivered by the Honorable Minister from Samoa.

Mr Chair, we are gathered here because the women and girls in our Asia-Pacific region who are still suffering from any forms of violence, discrimination, injustice and poverty definitely need our decision for concrete action to offer them better and equal opportunity so they can realize their great potentials as human beings and citizens of Asia and the Pacific.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has been providing us the basis and rationale to ensure that our women and girls live happily and free of violence, discrimination and poverty in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

Kiribati has made considerable progress toward gender equality and women empowerment. As highlighted in our national review report on the Beijing + 25, we have been able to enact our Family Peace Act in 2014 which aims at protecting our women and girls from any forms of violence. The Government of Kiribati had also
launched and endorsed our first ever produced National Gender Equality and Women Development Policy early this year 2019. Our Kiribati Vision for 20 years (known as the KV-20) also embraces the importance of mainstreaming gender into a national long-term development plan. We have adopted a community-based approach in eliminating gender-based violence through strengthening peaceful villages in Kiribati. Moreover, we have also adopted a multi-agencies coordinated approach to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Just recently, we had held a women mock-parliament session to encourage our women to take interest in engaging in national politics and leadership.

These progress would have not been achieved without financial and technical supports from our donors and development partners including UN agencies. Interestingly, while we are promoting gender equality and women empowerment, we remain committed as a sovereign nation to maintaining and promoting uniqueness in our cultural heritage as the basis and foundation for achieving sustainable development and development aspirations.

Chair,

Despite our progress, we still face many challenges. Amongst them are barriers of isolation, lack of data, knowledge, capacity, resources and access to rights and services which require support and assistance from our donors and developing partners. In the case of Kiribati and other pacific island countries, climate change and sea level rise are posing more threats and risks on women and girls and becoming an acute crisis to our people and the entire communities at large. Therefore climate change and sea level rise should be regarded as the most adverse crisis facing our people in this region mostly the women and girls which cannot be underestimated in the context of promoting gender equality and women empowerment.
Chair,

As we have (the Asia-Pacific region) set ourselves our commitment toward the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action toward the year 2030, the people and Government of Kiribati remains committed to this platform and we will do everything within our own capacity and limitation.

Chair

Allow me to conclude by bestowing you all with our traditional blessings of Te Mauri, Teraoi, Tabemoa “Good Health, Peace and Prosperity”

Thank you. Kam bati n Rabwa!