

**Country Report by Hon. RuatekiTekaiara  
Kiribati Minister of Infrastructure & Sustainable Energy  
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Honourable Chairman/Chairlady, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Warm Greetings to you from Kiribati – Kam na bane ni mauri!

It is my great honor to deliver the Country Statement for Kiribati, highlighting the main challenges and efforts with regards to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) as we continue to pursue energy security for sustainable development.

As you may be aware, Kiribati is a small island nation of 33 coral atolls located in the Central Pacific, with a total population of around 110 thousand people. More than half of the population resides on the main island – South Tarawa.

Because of limited resources and remoteness, Kiribati continues to rely quite heavily on imported fossil fuel, with our economy impacted by high transportation costs and world oil price fluctuations. The ever-increasing demand for energy in the overcrowded capital island is also a major challenge for the Kiribati Government.

Despite the vulnerabilities and challenges facing our nation, we continue to work very hard to prevail over them all. Through our regulatory and policy frameworks, such as the Kiribati National Energy Policy and Roadmap, Fossil Fuel Use Reduction Targets, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), we have and will continue to implement renewable energy and efficient energy programmes to further develop and enhance energy security for all our citizens.

As a testament to these efforts, access to renewable energy by household has notably increased from 17% in 2010 to more than 50% in 2015, while the number of households using diesel power generators decreased from 43% in 2010 to 37% in 2015. In terms of cooking fuels, the number of households using cleaner and more efficient cooking fuels, such as LPG and electricity has increased from 3% in 2010 to more than 5% in 2015.

Thanks to our international and regional development partners, overall Kiribati has achieved 6% out of the 45% **urban** fuel use reduction target, and 52% out of the 100% **rural** fuel use reduction target.

The figures show that there is still more work to do! So, we are now revising our old legislation to update and align it with contemporary energy efficiency benchmarks and the newly introduced Kiribati Vision for 20 Years (2017-2036) – the KV20. This will allow us to achieve our fuel use reduction target by 2025, and our NDCs by 2030.

We will never forget the generous assistance of the global community in these endeavours, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Development Partners in Asia and the world at large. Thank you very much for all your support.

Mister/Madam Chair,

In closing, let me express my deep appreciation to our co-host, the Royal Thai Government, for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation, and to ESCAP for the superb organisation of this forum.

I thank you all!