



Fondazione Marista
per la Solidarietà
Internazionale ETS
FMSI
Per il Bene dei Bambini

Oral Statement at the 60th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcomes – Kiribati

Date: 25 September 2025

Delivered by: Katherine Wilkes

Mr President,

The human rights situation in Kiribati is defined by an existential crisis where climate change and overpopulation are inextricably linked. Therefore, our coalition commend the efforts made by the government of Kiribati to enhanced collaboration with international partners to strengthen the enactment of the Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2019-2028.

The nation is at a profound risk of losing its physical territory to rising sea levels. On behalf of the youth of Kiribati, we express our deep concern not only for the potential "loss of homeland" but for the "irreparable loss" of traditions, culture, identity, and language.

This environmental threat is the primary driver of a compounding overpopulation crisis. Climate-induced internal displacement is forcing people from their home islands to Tarawa Island, which is perceived as the most well-serviced island. This concentration of people severely strains essential resources and public services, including housing, agriculture, and healthcare. The high population density leads to the easy spread of disease, requiring more resources for medical services.

Edmund Rice International and FMSI welcome the acceptance of recommendations 102.105¹, 102.106², 102.107³, 102.114⁴ and 102.121⁵. However, we call on the Government of Kiribati to:

- **Establish a joint UN-Kiribati Action Plan to address climate migration and ensure the preservation of cultural rights.**

¹ 102.105 Continue to strengthen efforts to enhance community resilience to climate change by promoting inclusive adaptation strategies that take into account the needs of vulnerable groups (Viet Nam)

² 102.106 Integrate the needs and rights of vulnerable groups into all climate change and disaster risk strategies (Malaysia)

³ 102.107 Adopt human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies (Marshall Islands);

⁴ 102.114 Continue making efforts to secure support and assistance from the international community in pursuing climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (India);

⁵ 102.121 Strengthen the legal framework and develop policies to address climate change that guarantee human rights, including the right to nationality, basic services, and protection against statelessness caused by displacement (Costa Rica).

- **Improve living conditions on other islands to decentralize the population and explore innovative solutions like creating artificial land.**

The situation in Kiribati is a powerful call for international solidarity, climate justice, and a global response that protects the country's physical future as well as its unique cultural identity.

Thank you.