

Universal Periodic Review 21
UPR of Kiribati

19 January 2015
Intervention by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Kiribati and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland commends Kiribati's legislative reform in the field of children's rights including the enactment of the Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act (2013), relating to child protection and social welfare, and the enactment of the Education Act (2013) to improve the education system and provide inclusive education to all.

Further, Ireland welcomes the introduction of legislation to criminalise domestic violence by Kiribati and the work undertaken by the authorities to implement the *National Action Plan to Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence*. However we remain concerned at the high level of sexual and gender based violence in Kiribati, affecting 68% of women between the ages of 15 and 49. This high rate has significant consequences for women's rights, including the rights to health, education, family life as well as equal political and economic participation. Ireland **recommends** that Kiribati enact legislation to cover all forms of violence against women (including physical, sexual, trafficking, sexual harassment, stalking, psychological, and economic), as well as protection orders, ancillary civil orders, criminal process and procedure, evidence laws and police powers.

Finally, Ireland recognises the extreme challenges faced by the Government and citizens of Kiribati due to the effects of climate change. We commend Kiribati on the establishment of national climate change institutions and creation of an adaptation policy in compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Ireland notes with serious concern that climate change is affecting Kiribati's agriculture crops through saltwater intrusion, loss of land and changes in rainfall, and therefore threatens Kiribati's food security. While bearing in mind the significant ongoing efforts by the Government of Kiribati and the limitation of available resources, Ireland **recommends** that Kiribati take steps to ensure the availability of adequate food and freedom from hunger for its citizens.

Thank you.