



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY TE BERETITENTI TANETI MAAMAU**

**On the occasion of Opening Session of the 10th Conference of State Parties to  
the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Atlanta, USA.**

**11–15 December 2023**

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, all protocols observed,

In His Holy Name, I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Kiribati – **Kam na bane ni Mauri!**

Mr. President,

Tackling corruption needs education and collaboration at all levels. Kiribati recognizes that education plays a crucial role in combating corruption as a long-term sustainable solution. The various impacts of corruption in turn may

undermine long term sustainable development, economic growth and equality.

As part of our international obligations under the Convention on anti-corruption, Kiribati has been assessed for the first and second cycle review. The outcome of these assessments led to the development of our second National Anti-corruption Strategy, launched in July 2023.

Mr. President,

As Pacific leaders, we endorsed the implementation of Teieniwa Vision in the Cook Islands last month. This demonstrates our political will and

commitment in recognizing that corruption is becoming an imperative development issue for our region. Teieniwa Vision is the regional roadmap against corruption building a culture of integrity and transparency, and ultimately making the Pacific a corrupt-free region.

At the national level, the Kiribati Vision for 20 years envisions a corrupt free Kiribati by 2036 under the current National Strategy, improvements to strengthen our existing laws and policies are underway. Last year, the Government enacted the Public Service Performance Management Act. This year the review to the Leaders' Code of Conduct, 2016 which holds

Leaders, such as the President, Cabinet Ministers, Speaker of the House of Parliament,

Chief Justice, Members of Parliament accountable is underway involving various stakeholders. Moral Education is taught at the secondary school levels, capacity building to government employees and public awareness through engagement of drama youth groups spreading messages to the wider community.

Mr. President,

Global challenges like COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather conditions, wars and conflicts undermine long-term sustainability re-directing funds from the implementation of anti-corruption issues at the global and national levels.

Amidst having laws, strategies and preventative mechanisms in place, implementation remains a challenge, with limited resources both technically and financially.

I acknowledge development partners assistance and urgently call upon their continued support and even-more so if we are to ensure the sustainability of anti-corruption by teaching and empowering at all levels of society. This will

build a transparent, accountable and prosperous future for our children, their children's children and mankind as a whole.

In closing I bestow our traditional blessing of te Mauri, te Raoi ao te Tabomoa which means Health, Peace and Prosperity upon us all.

Thank you.