

# *The Assemblies of God of Kiribati*



*Post office Box 209  
Eita, Tarawa  
Republic of Kiribati  
Mobile: (686) 73041301  
Email: [eritai.teakamatang@gmail.com](mailto:eritai.teakamatang@gmail.com)*

## **UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

### **Joint Stakeholder Submission for the Review of Kiribati**

A joint submission by:

KSA – Kiribati Scouts Association  
K-WIMA – Kiribati Women in Maritime Association.  
RAK – Reitan Aine ni Kamatu.  
AMAK – Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati.  
HEMO – Healthy Eita Maeao Organisation  
TTM – Te Toa Matoa  
Irekenrao

## **A. Background**

1. The Assemblies of God of Kiribati (AG) is one of the registered FBOs headquartered at Tebikenikoora, internationally known as one of the globally disaster site in the Republic of Kiribati. It registered in 15th December 1980 with about 2000 adherents today and has a preschool, Bible School, vocational school plus other trainings conducted therein. One of its major purposes is to share the gospel of Christ and to introduce betterment of life to both members and non-members alike.

## **B. Introduction**

2. One of the main negative impacts of climate change in Kiribati is the extensive coastal or land erosion surrounding the islands. Presently, it is experienced that the waves are higher and more frequently occurred than in the past. The most damaging storm, the westerly winds that are normally taken place during King's tide severely affected all the atolls. Plantations with root crops and vegetation including the underground fresh water lens needed to be protected from such disaster. The present seawalls are no longer promising to protect Kiribati coastlines.
3. During the 21st Session of the UPR the AG submitted a lot in regard to the impacts of Climate Change plus other issues and resulted that there has been nothing physically carried out since the submission till today, and so they're resubmitted again in this document. There is nothing new in this submission.
4. I refer to the United Nations General Assembly A/HRC/29/5 dated 13 April 2015, 29<sup>th</sup> session, Report of the working Group on the Universal Periodic Review paragraph 84.107 on the adverse impacts of climate change on people's access to food and clean water. Paragraph 84.108, 84.109, 84.111 and 84.114 are also linked to this submission. The said paragraphs are summed up in the Stakeholders' Report, United Nations General Assembly A/HRC/WG6/21/KIR/3 dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 paragraph 11.47.

## **C. Issue**

5. AG appreciated the Government of Kiribati (GoK) for consulting her early 2019 that resulted with the signing of the agreement between both parties, AG and GoK regarding a project, construction of a seawall that will partly mitigate damages caused from past coastal erosion. Stated- *partly mitigate damages* because the said project is divided into two phases. If phase 1 implemented this year 2019, then, there is doubt either phase 2 would surely come in time prior next hurricane or not, while presently experienced that sea and coastal erosions frequently occurred at any time. This is amazing because the broken seawall had been laid wasted for more than a decade.

6. UN former Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon visited the headquarters of AG Tebikenikoora 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 where he asked ‘*why he visited the site?*’ ‘*To prove impacts of climate change in your country,*’ he replied. Second question to him, ‘*would our broken seawall reconstructed?*’ ‘*Yes, that’s the purpose of my visit,*’ he replied.
7. Amazingly, since the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 nothing had been carried out immediately within almost a decade subsequent the proceeding out of pledges from the mouth of one of the international officials, the eighth UN Secretary General.
8. In April 2019, GoK informed AG that its procurement committee is now processing the purchase of materials that would be taken to AG complex for storage prior construction of a seawall. AG appreciated GoK for the agreement signed and the procurement committees with materials to purchase for the seawall.

#### **D. Recommendation**

9. AG urges bigger donor partners to assist GoK to fulfill its promise, the implementation of something solid to maintain her coastlines and to prevent future extensive coastal and land erosion, and to lift her ground level as well.
10. Ensure coastlines of all the islands are protected from all negative climate change impacts.
11. Fill flooded area caused by heavy rain as well, to halt diseases and to recover the underground clean water and healthier plantations.
12. Provide appropriate tools or equipment immediately or on the spot to those concerned to reduce major impacts of climate change.
13. Pay more attention in terms of medication to those dwelt on the affected site.