



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



Oral Statement of the 29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council Item 6 of the agenda: Consideration of the UPR report for Kiribati Delivered by Budi Tjahjono – Franciscans International

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Thank you Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI) and Edmund Rice International (ERI) welcome the adoption of the outcomes of the UPR Kiribati. We appreciate the Government of Kiribati's commitment in combating the adverse impact of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, which is considered as the *challenge number one* for this country. As the Kiribati delegation rightly stated during the review that climate change and sea level rise are global problems and there is a need for urgent regional and global action to address the real loss of livelihoods and traditional lands by Island States such as Kiribati and other low lying countries in the Pacific region.

During the Council's Panel on Human Rights and Climate Change in March, President Anote Tong, speaking for his people, made a strong call to the Council to take a definitive stance for urgent global action to assist those on the frontline of the adverse impact of climate change. Therefore we welcome the acceptance of UPR recommendations for Kiribati especially those relevant on climate change. We also welcome Geneva Pledge on Climate Change and Action initiative launched in February.

Mr President, in December this year, the international community, especially those who are directly adversely affected by climate change will look for leadership and support to the UNFCCC meeting in Paris, where the future of our earth is at stake. During these negotiations, UN Member States must put the victims, such as the people of Kiribati, at the centre of their consideration. The failure to have ambitious and legally binding agreements will mean putting the rights of the most vulnerable and poor at risk. We encourage the signatories of Geneva Pledge on Climate Change and Action initiative launched in February, to ensure that the future Paris agreement will use the human right based approach in addressing climate change.

In this session, the Council will consider the adoption of resolution on human rights and climate change. Therefore, we recommend the members of the Council to take consideration of the call from Kiribati for a urgent global action by **the establishment of the UN Special Procedure on Climate Change and Human Rights, who will be able to take into consideration, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.**¹ Thank you.

¹ As stipulated by article 3 of UNFCCC and A/HRC/RES/18/22