

PRESS RELEASE

Kiribati Presents its Second Voluntary National Review at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum

The Government of Kiribati successfully presented its Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on 14 July 2026.

The presentation was delivered by the Honourable Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Education, on behalf of the Government of Kiribati. He was supported by the Secretary for Finance and Economic Development, Mrs Koin Uriam Kiritone and officials from the Kiribati Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Kiribati's Second VNR assessed the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals during the 2015–2025 review period. It highlighted progress across the key priority areas of the Kiribati Development Plan, including poverty reduction, education, health, essential services, infrastructure, and disaster-risk management. It also recognised continuing challenges relating to climate change, geographic isolation, institutional capacity, data availability and access to sustainable development financing.

In delivering the presentation, Honourable Tekaiara reaffirmed Kiribati's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and emphasised the importance of ensuring that development remains inclusive, resilient, and responsive to the needs of communities across all islands.

“For Kiribati, the Voluntary National Review is not simply a reporting exercise. It provides an important opportunity to assess our progress, identify areas requiring greater attention and strengthen the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning, budgeting, and policy decisions,” Honourable Tekaiara said.

The VNR was prepared alongside the Mid-Term Review of the Kiribati Development Plan, ensuring its findings are aligned with national priorities. The Development Indicator Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Taskforce will support follow-up by monitoring progress, identifying implementation gaps and promoting evidence-based decision-making.

Following the presentation, Kiribati responded to questions from Australia, Finland, and Tuvalu on translating the VNR findings into action, addressing the challenges of Kiribati's dispersed geography and strengthening partnerships.

The Government acknowledges the contributions of ministries, civil society organisations, the private sector, communities, women, youth, and development partners to the VNR process. It also expresses appreciation to the United Nations and all partners that supported the preparation and presentation of Kiribati's Second VNR.

The Government also expressed its appreciation to New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and other partners that supported the VNR process.

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