

IMO MEPC 71 Statement from Republic of Kiribati – Hon. Mr Teewe, Minister of Justice

Mr Chairman

Fellow Country Representatives & delegations

Representatives from different organizations

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kam na bane ni mauri (Hello)

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Natan Teewe (Brechtefeld), and I am the Minister of Justice for the Republic of Kiribati. I am here on behalf of the Honourable Willie Tokataake Minister of Information, Communication, Transport and Tourism Development who is unfortunately unable to be with us in London this week.

Kiribati is made up of 32 atolls and 1 island (Banaba) spread over an area of ocean equivalent to the size of India. Most of the land is less than 2m above sea level.

Kiribati is one of the first and one of the most affected from the impacts of climate change. In 1999 two of our islets, Tebuatarawa and Abanuea disappeared under water.

We are suffering the effects of more extreme storms and droughts. Our freshwater is becoming contaminated by sea water as sea levels rise and ocean acidification is damaging our protecting coral reefs and the fish that we rely upon for protein.

Earlier this year, the World Meteorological Organisation released its report on the state of the world's climate in 2016. It is alarming for us as it states that we have already reached global temperatures of 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Even more distressing for us, is the image of Tarawa, our

capital, with the accompanying text noting that Kiribati is likely to be uninhabitable as a nation state in 30 – 60 years.

You can understand therefore why it is so important to us that we all do as much as we can to curb Greenhouse Gas emissions urgently. It is for that reason that Kiribati is here - to make a plea to our fellow IMO Member States this week to take urgent action to reduce the emissions from international shipping and to work towards full decarbonisation of the sector.

Yet we are also concerned about the potential for action to reduce GHG emissions to increase the cost of transport and negatively impact our economy. We already have some of the highest transport costs in the world, reflecting our remoteness and connectivity.

We have heard from the ISWG's discussions last week that our concern is shared by many other SIDS, LDCs and developing countries, and we hope that this concern will continue to be considered as the Roadmap progresses and that we can work constructively to ensure both a high ambition, and attention and inclusion of this important issue of transport costs and impact on states.

We hope that we can all work together to find solutions to the challenges we face and to do all we can to ensure that the IMO delivers on its commitment to playing its part in achieving the temperature goals we all agreed to aim for in Paris.

For the people of the Pacific, the level of ambition on reducing international shipping emissions must be the highest possible.

It is imperative that we all work together in the next three days to enable this Committee to report to the outside world that we have a vision, and that that vision is of a decarbonized shipping industry in the second half of this century

I request that my statement be attached to the record of this meeting.

Mr Chair, colleagues, on behalf our President, and the people of Kiribati, thank you for listening to me today, and before I conclude I would like to bestow upon you all the Kiribati traditional blessings of Temauri (Health), Teraoi (Peace) ao Tetaomoa (Prosperity)

Thank you