

**Seventy – fifth World Health Assembly**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Presented by: Honorable Minister Dr Tinte Itinteang**

**Topic: 14.2:** The global health sector strategies on respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections

Director-General WHO, Honorable Chair, fellow esteemed delegates and officials

Kam na bane ni mauri – Kiribati Greetings to you all

The Kiribati government wishes to inform this World Health Assembly that it recognizes and supports the proposed new global health sector strategies on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases for 2022-2030. The government of Kiribati through its Ministry of Health and Medical Services laid its plan and strategies through the Kiribati National Health Strategic Plans for 2020 to 2023.

Although HIV, STI, and Hepatitis B have similar methods of transmission, in Kiribati each have their own or separated strategic Plans reflecting the significant burden we have particularly for hepatitis. My ministry in particular, is committed to ensure marginalized and vulnerable groups, highlighted in our existing programs such as HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis case finding in vulnerable youths, HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis prevention through STI management, HIV/STI prevention through behavioral change and Care and Management of PLHIV (People Living with HIV). Furthermore, we also have a peer-led program providing HIV'/STI testing and prevention packages. Likewise with our Hepatitis B program. Our team managed to visit Outer Islands where they conducted screening and Treatment for our people. The Kiribati HIV Policy and the Kiribati National Strategic Plan for HIV and STI (2020-2024) are already in place and we are currently finalizing with stakeholders and partners a national policy and strategic plan on hepatitis in our efforts to work towards the global goal of eliminating HIV/STI and viral hepatitis.

Honorable chair, despite our limited resources my government is committed and support the global strategies on HIV, Hepatitis and STI – Sexually Transmitted

Infections. Let me take this opportunity to thank all our partners UNDP, DFAT, UNICEF, WHO and other partners for their continuous support that have been very useful for the people of Kiribati.

To conclude my statement, The Kiribati government will continue to play its role and my government wishes to thank you all again for your all your support. Let me wishes you all, our traditional blessings of Te Mauri, Te Raoi ao Te Tabomoa.