

KIRIBATI

Lead Speaker - "Philippines"

(Pres)

Thank you Mr Co-Chair for allowing me to take the floor.

Let me start by thanking you, Mr President, the Government of Italy and the people of Milan for excellent chairmanship of the meeting and the exceptional venue and the warm hospitality accorded to myself and members of my delegation.

(Pres)  
Mr Co-Chair

This meeting has been long but fruitful, like previous COP's which has set the tone for necessary actions to combat the adverse impacts of global warming. A lot of decisions have been made and have subsequently been implemented, but more actions are required urgently instead of concentrating on procedures and mechanisms.

I would like to associate myself with previous speakers from the small island states and members of the LDC who have repeatedly echoed their concerns regarding their vulnerability and inability to cope with the adverse effect of climate change. I do not intend in this short intervention of mine to address the issues that Kiribati had repeatedly stated in previous COPs.

Pres in the Pacific

repeat

Mr Co-chair, Kiribati is both a Small Island State and an LDC; this puts us in the category of the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. Of course/we acknowledge with gratitude, the assistance that has been forthcoming over the years from the COP process, which has also made us realize even more so, how vulnerable we are to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Like other small island states, Kiribati has already experienced the effects of global warming in areas of sea level rise, coastal erosion, water contamination from the salt water intrusion and other similar problems adversely affecting our dependency on marine resources.

(Pres)  
Mr Co-Chair

Let me now focus on the actions that we have taken at home with regard to our obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

We have completed and submitted our Initial National Communication report. There is ongoing effort nationally to mainstream adaptation to climate change into our national development planning process. The National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA) has been developed and their implementation will depend on the funding which has not been forth coming. Together with our bilateral partners we are slowly building our capacity to address such issues.

While we are addressing issues relating to the Kyoto Protocol, and whilst we are here gathering to talk and discuss about the impacts of global warming, the truth of the matter is, our basis for survival right now are being seriously affected. Some of our islands are fast disappearing; the water which we depend on is unfit for human consumption; people are being displaced from the coastal areas; our marine resources are now being depleted; and the limited natural resources on the island are diminishing.

Despite the efforts and commitments of all UNFCCC parties to the objectives of the Convention and the full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the progress has been slow and disappointing. Kiribati, as an LDC and a small island state which will be directly affected by the adverse impact of climate change, emphasise here that the international community has failed to tackle in a timely manner the causes of climate change that has strengthened the need to urgently implement adaptation measures for which a framework was created in the Marrakech Accords. There is real need to ensure that efforts to address climate change compliment each other. There is urgent need for the international community and organisations to make available, frameworks within which vulnerable countries such as mine can have easier access to funds which will assist us in our efforts to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

There is urgent need to ensure complimentarity between different international, regional and national processes that are relevant to climate change namely:

1. outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Type Two initiatives,
2. Millenium Development Goals and in particular Goal 7 where adaptation fits under environmental sustainability, and
3. the review of the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States.

#  
In closing I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by Yemen and we encourage the others who have not ratified to do so like wise.

→ Thank you.

In closing, I would like again to thank you and same time to plead with those who have not yet taken the time to fully realise the benefits of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, to look at the value it