



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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**UPR of KIRIBATI**

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Kiribati and thanks them for their presentation.

Recalling our 1<sup>st</sup> cycle recommendation on a long term plan for a step-by-step ratification of core human rights treaties, we welcome the ratification of CRPD and the decision of the government to accede to the first two Optional Protocols to the CRC.

We further welcome Kiribati's efforts to incorporate human rights principles into its legislation, but regret that attempts to introduce sex and gender as prohibited grounds for discrimination in the Constitution have failed. We'd appreciate it if the delegation could explain what the reasons for the rejection of the proposed amendments were.

Regarding our previous recommendation for the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings, we're pleased to hear that corporal punishment has been prohibited in schools and that a repeal of the provisions allowing for corporal punishment of male juvenile offenders is under consideration. We encourage Kiribati to continue efforts in this regard.

We also welcome the government's efforts to improve access to education by all children, but note with concern that more than 10 percent of children do not attend primary school. We encourage Kiribati to invest in education as a matter of priority.

Finally, we reiterate our previous **recommendations** to Kiribati, and offer the following additional ones:

- to design a targeted campaign challenging patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes;
- to ensure that pregnant girls and young mothers have the opportunity to continue their education;
- to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex;
- to heed the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation regarding improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure.

Thank you.