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PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 21st SESSION Kiribati

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel warmly welcomes Kiribati, and thanks them for their report.

We commend the Government of Kiribati for incorporating human rights principles into national legislation. We particularly celebrate Kiribati's initiative to formulate a national policies and a plan of action to combat gender-based violence in the country. Israel believes this is a great first step to help the nation respond to a serious and widespread problem.

We **recommend** Kiribati to:

1. Keep its commitment and continue to work with partners nationally, regionally and internationally to implement its action plan to promote women's rights and combat violence against women; and
2. Cooperate with UN Agencies, regional bodies and development partners in building capacities, training and exchanging human rights expertise and experiences with other Pacific Island countries.

Lastly, we welcome Kiribati's willingness to consider a constitutional amendment to expand the prohibited grounds of discrimination. In this regard, Israel wishes to **recommend** Kiribati to

3. Amend its Constitution to include sex, gender and disability as grounds for non-discrimination.

Thank you.