**UPR35**

**Canada’s recommendations for Kiribati’s UPR**

**20 January 2020**

Thank you, Madame President.

Canada thanks the Republic of Kiribati for its presentation and commends the launching of the Pacific Partnership to End Violence against Women and Girls Program in June 2019, as well as establishing the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre, in January 2018.

Canada recommends that Kiribati:

1. Strengthen domestic violence laws and improve the handling of domestic and sexual violence cases by allocating more resources to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offence (DVSO) Unit of the Kiribati Police Service and the judiciary system.
2. Take concrete measures to encourage women’s political participation and increase the representation of women in parliament, noting there are currently only three seats held by women and that none are part of the Cabinet.
3. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex by amending sections 153, 154 and 155 of the Penal Code.
4. Investigate, convict and impose stringent penalties against the offenders who exploit or facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and hold accountable all persons responsible, including parents and guardians.

Canada urges Kiribati to sign and ratify core international human rights instruments including the ICCPR, the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.