

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations and UN Agencies in Geneva**

**35**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Kiribati**

**28th January 2020**

Thank you, Mr President,

Vanuatu warmly welcomes the delegation of Kiribati to this review and thanks the Kiribati for the comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu notes and commend Government of Kiribati for its efforts at the promotion and protection of Human Rights among its people, particularly taking positive steps to guide the current national climate change adaptation and disaster risk management initiatives.

We welcome the positive steps taken up by the government including: ratification of UN Convention Against Torture; recognizing gender equality by putting in place Gender Equality and Women Development Policy in 2019 and launching National Development Plan 2016-2019.

We note and agree that climate change is the most notable challenge to the people of Kiribati and applaud Kiribati for expanding the scope of the draft act on disaster risk management and climate change to include the needs and priorities of vulnerable populations such as women and young people.

Vanuatu recommends Kiribati:

* To ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
* To accelerate the delivery of quality health services, including to rural areas; and
* And finally, Kiribati intensify efforts to secure support and assistance from the international community in pursuing its climate change adaptation and mitigation plans.

We wish Kiribati every success at this Review.

Thank you, Mr President.