



REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI
MR TAWARIA KOMWENGA

2RD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA 1-4 DECEMBER 2009

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Submission and Statement by Tawaria Komwenga

Representative of the Government of Kiribati to the Cartagena Summit on a Mine –Free World

Cartagena, Colombia 4th December 2009

Madam President

Excellencies,

Distinguished State Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour to address, on behalf of the Government of Kiribati, to this Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention. At the outset, let me congratulate you Madam President on your appointment as the Chairman of this Second Review Conference and also to extend our appreciation to the Colombian Government for a wonderful hosting arrangement.

Madam President

Kiribati is a free mine country. There are some remnants of World War II, especially on South Tarawa and Betio however this believed there are no personal mines remnants. Though Kiribati is a free mines country, Kiribati nevertheless understands the magnitude of this Convention and the need for a collective effort in ensuring that the use of land mines minimised as much as possible for the safety of humanity. The Republic of Kiribati strongly support the objective of the Convention which is to “put an end to the suffering and casualties caused anti-personal landmines”

As part of Kiribati commitments to this objective, the Government of Kiribati had enacted in 2008 the Anti-Personal Mines (Prohibition) Acts for the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti personal mines. We do believe that this Legislation is enough and sufficient. Furthermore, in the middle of 2008, the Government of Kiribati, with the assistance of the Australian Government, had enabled to clear some of the remnants of world war both on land and at sea. This operation managed to remove some of the remaining bombs and other remnants of World War II especially on the island of Betio. However, with the time constraints, the team couldn't clear all the bombs. There are still remaining bombs on South Tarawa, especially on Betio that need to be removed. The operation also confirmed that, there were no personal mines among these remnants.

Madam President

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati do appreciate the continued support from Australia, Japan and of course the United States in the region. We do hope that this assistance will be continued and expanded.

Kiribati also acknowledges the effort, dedication and support from state parties in fulfilling and decreasing the use of mine within their jurisdiction. This demonstrates a very positive collective supports from the majority of members states which indeed confirm that this objective can and could be possibly achieved. Kiribati also deeply acknowledges the effort of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance for a comprehensive report. The report is very helpful and instrumental in this review.

To conclude, Madam President, Lets us who are present today here in Cartagena work together, to reaffirm our commitments to the mine ban and to humanitarian mine action. We all also invite other non states parties to ratify this convention and join us in this important global undertaking.

Kam rabwa and Thank you