

UNCOPS

United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit 2022 • 31 AUG - 1 SEP

Third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS)

Session 3: Bridging the gap on performance

1 September, New York, GA Hall

Statement by Kiribati

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour for me to represent Kiribati and the men and women in uniform from the Kiribati Police Service to address this 4th UN Chiefs of Police Summit. I wish to begin by greeting you all in my Kiribati language, “Kam na bane ni mauri”, meaning “blessings be upon you all”.

Though Kiribati is a peaceful nation, there are countries in the world that have been torn apart as a result of civil war and conflicts causing death, human suffering and the displacement of people from their motherlands. These war-torn countries need the assistance from the international community of which Kiribati is a part of.

Mr. Chair,

Kiribati has been involved together with other Pacific island nations in a 2003-2017 regional peacekeeping operation in the Solomon Islands known as the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). However, despite being one of the small developing island nations in the world with just over 100 thousand people with limited resources, Kiribati’s long held dream of becoming a police

contributing country to international peace and security through the UN Peacekeeping operations is now a reality. Thanks to the great support of the Chief and Staff of the UN Police division.

The challenges that prevent Kiribati's participation in UN peacekeeping operations since its full membership of the UN in 1999 were finally paid off this year, 2022 when 5 police officers (3 males and 2 females) from the Kiribati Police Service were finally deployed to South Sudan as peacekeepers for the first time ever. This is indeed a great milestone for Kiribati and a story to be told for generations to come.

Mr. Chair,

Kiribati recognized the evolving challenges in today's conflict environments and realized that peacekeepers exposed themselves to harsh conditions and at great personal risks. Tragically some have made the ultimate sacrifice and we pay tribute to them for their bravery and courageous acts. Kiribati recognize that while appropriate measures and justice must be taken against the perpetrators, we equally believe that we should not allow ourselves to depart from the narrative of working together in true spirit of multilateralism to prevent conflict, helping each other for the maintenance of peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Kiribati appreciates and supports the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping which is the core agenda of peacekeeping work that aims to strengthen peacekeeping through collective action by all peacekeeping stakeholders including member states, the Security Council, the General Assembly, financial contributors, troop and police contributing countries, host countries, intergovernmental and regional organizations and the UN Secretariat. Working in partnership and collaboration among stakeholders at the national, regional and international level will address the 21st century challenges faced by peacekeeping.

In closing, Kiribati would like to reiterate its commitment to support peacekeeping initiatives through all necessary means when required, in accordance with the UN Charter, mission mandates, and applicable international law.

I thank you Mr. Chair.