

Kiribati Call to Copenhagen

A Message from the People and the Government of Kiribati.
December 2009

We are alarmed at the pace of change to our Earth caused by human induced climate change.

Our small nation is our home, the home of our forefathers and mothers and we should like to believe – the home of our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We love and cherish our home, our families, our traditions our country and we know that all these are threatened by climate change.

We are actively increasing our understanding of what the impact will be on our water supplies, our coasts, our food supplies, our health and we know that living on atolls only 2metres above sea level, we are at the very front line.

We feel our acute vulnerability with every king tide and with every storm.

It gives acute clarity of the threats -that in different ways will impact on all peoples all over the world. This is not just Kiribati's problem.

It also gives us particular clarity on what needs to be done.

We have spelt out this vision with our small island brothers and sisters in the AOSIS Declaration in September this year and most recently in the Climate Vulnerable Forum in the Maldives in November this year.

Our vision for Copenhagen is that the global family of nations will embrace its responsibilities on climate change; that the large and heavy emitters will take a bold, brave and binding decisions to the following:

- a) To adopt emission levels of not more than 350 ppm and limit global temperature increases to well below 1.5 °C; and
- b) That the developed nations to commit adequate financing in addition to and on top of commitments to developing countries to deal with climate change.

On our side, Kiribati will continue to participate and contribute to the family of nations; we shall continue to be proactive in our adaptation efforts and share our experiences in doing so, and shall increase our commitment to mitigate our own **tiny emissions** by working with more environmentally sound practices.

Finally we are very clear that we cannot do this on our own, that to survive as a nation the Republic of Kiribati needs all nations in the words of Mahatma Gandhi - I quote "that everyone will care enough and everyone will share enough so that everyone will have enough".

We repeat we cannot face these challenges or these changes on our own!

Thank you!