

Kiribati Industrial Policy Inception Session

31 October 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 hours, MTCIC Boardroom

Concept Note

A. Background

1. Industrial Policy often serves as a comprehensive whole-of-economy strategy, setting out sectoral pathways to achieve economic growth and development objectives. It is crucial for country, and particularly critical for small island developing state (SIDS) like Kiribati whose economic development is constrained by geographical remoteness and made-up, as well as small and highly dispersed population across 21 inhabited islands, to leverage its comparative advantage and tap on opportunities to advance economic development efforts.

2. In tackling these challenges, the Government of Kiribati formulated a [20-Year Vision 2016-2036](#) (hereinafter “KV20”), a long-term blueprint to guide the development trajectory for Kiribati. Complementarily, a series of four-year medium-term Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) would be developed to implement the KV20. To date, two editions of KDP have been issued – [KDP 2016-2019](#) and [KDP 2020-2024](#).

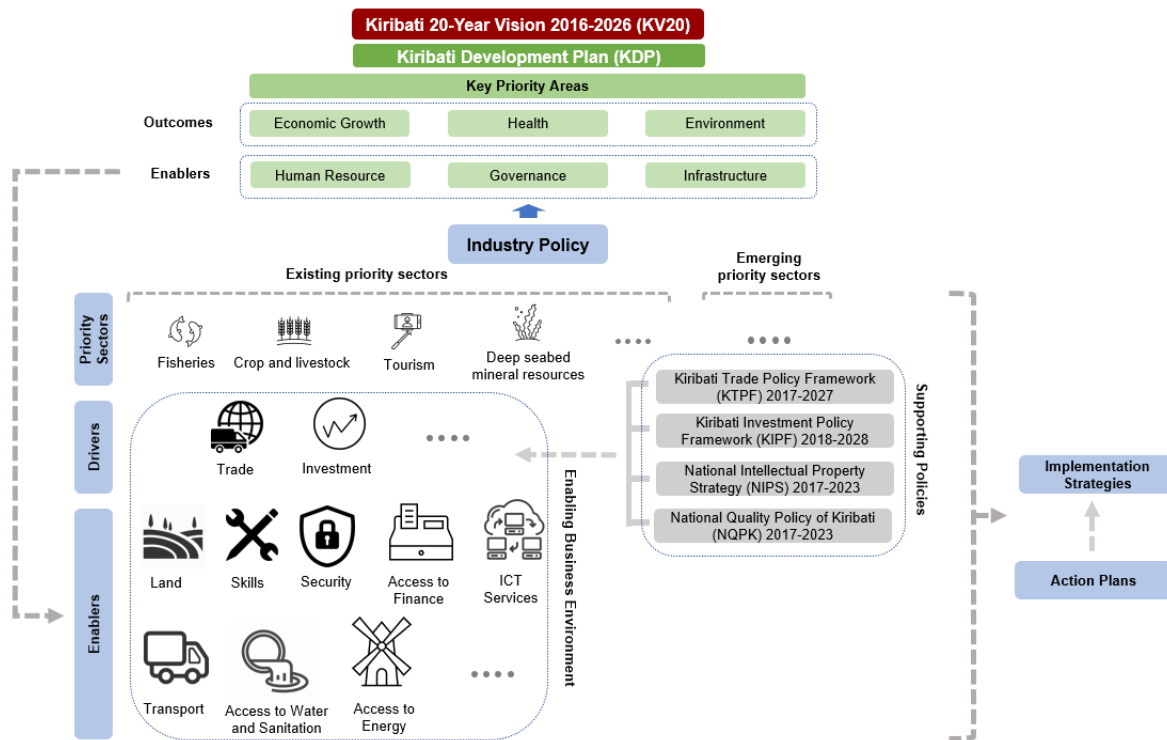
3. Under the KV20, two productive sectors were identified: (i) fisheries; and (ii) tourism. In line with KV20, the KDP 2016-19 provided the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperative¹ (MTCIC) the mandate to: (i) develop a coconut sector development strategy; (ii) implement an investment policy framework; and (iii) develop a national trade policy framework. In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD), MTCIC was mandated to “promote food and nutrition diversity, particularly in crop production, diversity and livestock.”

4. Accordingly, MTCIC has developed: (i) [Kiribati Trade Policy Framework \(KTPF\) 2017-2027](#); (ii) [Kiribati Investment Policy Framework \(KIPF\) 2018-2028](#); and (iii) [Kiribati Coconut Sector Development Strategy \(KCSDS\)](#), respectively. In tandem, MTCIC also developed the [National Intellectual Property Strategy \(NIPS\) 2017-2023](#) and the [National Quality Policy of Kiribati \(NQPK\) 2017-2023](#). These policies have formed the building blocks to kick-start economic growth and development trajectory in line with the KV20.

5. To keep up the momentum and accelerate efforts in a more consolidated and integrated manner, a comprehensive whole-of-economy industrial policy for Kiribati that aims to take forward priorities and actions identified in the existing sectoral policies, as well as identify potential niche segments of existing priority sectors and/or emerging sectors for development, in line with the [functions of the Industry Development Promotion Division](#)

¹ Formerly known as Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC).

(IDPD). In line with the KV20, the industrial policy also seeks to inform, guide and enhance sectoral development towards a renewed and transformational economy that would produce meaningful outcomes for i-Kiribati in achieving health and wealth in an inclusive, equitable, just and sustainable way.



Note: For illustration purpose only.

6. In response to the request from the Government of Kiribati, ESCAP expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide technical assistance to MTCIC’s Industry Development and Promotion Division (IDPD) to develop the **Kiribati Industrial Policy**.

7. It aims to be a policy that is both implementable and achievable. It would identify priority sectors (both existing and emerging) and make recommendations to improve the enabling environment for the development of the priority sectors, with implementation strategies and action plans.

B. Objective

8. As part of the effort to engage key Government stakeholders early in the process, the inception session will be held on Tuesday, 31 October 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 hours at the MTCIC Boardroom.

9. The objective of the inception session is to inform, present and familiarize key stakeholders on this initiative to develop the **Kiribati Industrial Policy**, as well as to gather feedback.

10. Follow-up bilateral consultation with Government stakeholders will be scheduled following the inception session from the afternoon of 31 October to 1 November 2023.

C. Target Participants

11. The target participants are Government stakeholders from the relevant Ministries, Agencies and Offices. The list of Government stakeholders appears in [Annex 1](#).

D. Expected Outcomes

12. The outcomes of the inception session and the follow-up bilateral consultations are expected to guide and refine the approach and methodology that would best-fit needs in the context of Kiribati. The outcome of the inception session and bilateral would inform the technical report for the **Kiribati Industrial Policy**.

E. Programme

Date: Tuesday, 31 October 2023
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 hours (Tarawa time)
Venue: MTCIC Boardroom
Delivery: In-person

10:00 – 10:10	Registration
10:10 – 10:20	Opening Prayer
10:20 – 10:30	Participant brief introduction
10:30 – 10:40	Introductory Remarks by Deputy Secretary, MTCIC
10:40 – 10:45	Group Photo
10:45 – 11:00	Presentation on the Kiribati Industrial Policy (<i>20 minutes</i>) UNESCAP (Jasmine Wai Mun Hong, Regional Adviser – Micronesia)
11:00 – 11:45	Q&A (including survey)
11:45 – 12:00	Scheduling of bilateral meetings

Annex 1 List of Government Stakeholders

No.	Ministry	Office / Division / Unit
1.	Ministry of Education (MOE)	Policy, Planning Research and Development Division
2.		Kiribati National Teachers College (KNTC)
3.		Kiribati Qualification Authority (KQA)
4.	Ministry of Employment and Human Resource (MEHR)	Labour Market Information and Marketing Unit
5.		Marine Training Centre (MTC)
6.		Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT)
7.	Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development (MELAD)	Agriculture and Livestock
8.		Land Management
9.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI)	Multilateral Division
10.	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED)	National Economic Planning Office (NEPO)
11.		Central Procurement Unit
12.		Kiribati Customs Services
13.		Kiribati Provident Fund
14.		State Owned Enterprises Monitoring Unit
15.	Ministry of Health (MOH)	Nutrition Division
16.	Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport (MICT)	Policy Administration and Support Services Division
17.		ICT – Digital Transformation Office (DTO)
18.		Kiribati Ports Authority (KPA)
19.		Communication Commission of Kiribati (CCK)
20.		Airport Kiribati Authority (AKA)
21.		Kiribati Land Transport Authority (KLTA)
22.		Civil Aviation Authority of Kiribati (CAAK)
23.	Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (MISE)	Energy Planning Unit (EPU)
24.		Public Utilities Board (PUB)
25.	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (MFRMRD)	Policy and Development Division
26.	Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives	Business Promotion Division
27.		Investment Promotion Division
28.		Quality Promotion Division
29.		Trade Promotion Division
30.		Business Regulatory Division
31.		Consumer Protection Division
32.		Cooperative and Credit Union Regulatory Division
33.		Intellectual Property Division
34.		Tourism Authority of Kiribati (TAK)
35.		Ministry of Women, Youths, Sport and Social Affairs (MWYSSA)
36.	Disability Inclusive Division	
37.	Youth Division	