

## What is Policy Coherence for Development?

In today's increasingly interconnected world, the domestic policies of developed countries can impact positively or negatively on developing countries. Taking action to identify positive synergies and avoid negative consequences is referred to globally as policy coherence for development<sup>1</sup>.

Through the 2008 Ministerial Declaration on Policy Coherence for Development, all members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development have committed to ensure that development concerns are taken into account across relevant policies.

This involves identifying and responding to the external impact of domestic policies on developing countries' own objectives and the effectiveness of international development co-operation.

## New Zealand Position

Alongside the direct support for sustainable development in developing countries provided by the New Zealand Aid Programme, New Zealand aims to generate positive change by ensuring that wider New Zealand policies achieve positive results for developing countries.

We implement our commitment to Policy Coherence for Development through taking action to achieve positive impacts and avoid negative consequences on development outcomes in developing countries in:

- New Zealand's domestic policy settings;
- New Zealand's input to international negotiations and processes.

## How does New Zealand perform?

New Zealand has a sound record of practical action on policy coherence for development, as outlined in the examples below.

The **Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme** (RSE) responds to the seasonal labour needs of New Zealand's horticulture and viticulture industries. The RSE policy benefits developing countries (primarily in the Pacific and Asia) by providing an opportunity for people who may not qualify to live or work overseas under other immigration categories, to earn an income, learn new skills and be exposed to new experiences in New Zealand. It is implemented in a way that accentuates the development benefits of temporary work in New Zealand.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/>

Fisheries resources are central to the social and economic development and food security of all Pacific Island countries. New Zealand has sought to achieve greater coherence in our policy approach to **Pacific fisheries** by:

- strengthening systems that enable coastal states to exercise their sovereign rights within their exclusive economic zones
- integrating the management and development needs of small island developing states into the decisions of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Commission, including access rights and limits to fish stocks
- facilitating private sector arrangements that enable small island developing states to obtain greater value from their fisheries
- building the capacity of Pacific Island countries to participate in shared stock management including science, governance and monitoring, control and surveillance.

### **Commitment to Development Index**

New Zealand ranks ninth out of twenty-seven countries on the Centre for Global Development's Commitment to Development Index<sup>1</sup>. This is due to our open trading system, significant contributions to internationally-sanctioned peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions and our acceptance of a large number of immigrants.

The special **pension portability** arrangements for Pacific countries allow retirees and veterans to live in twenty-two countries and territories and receive New Zealand superannuation or a veteran's pension. Improvements in pension portability to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau from New Zealand were announced in August 2013. Eligible residents will be allowed to apply for New Zealand superannuation or veteran's pension from these countries rather than having to apply from New Zealand.

## Policy Coherence for Development Action Plan

The Ministry is pursuing a range of specific, substantive opportunities for policy action that will make the biggest difference to our developing country partners. These are outlined in an annual Policy Coherence for Development Action Plan.

## How does New Zealand coordinate across government?

The International Development Group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the central coordinating point on policy coherence for development within the New Zealand government. It arranges six-monthly meetings of government agencies to report on progress and to identify future work streams.

Policy coherence for development is also underpinned by formal whole-of-government policy coordination mechanisms including the requirement for New Zealand government agencies to consult on Cabinet Papers and oversight of New Zealand's international engagement by Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

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## PCD Action Plan, 2014-15

*Note: New Zealand has a General Election scheduled for September 2014. Should this result in changed policy settings for the New Zealand Government, this Action Plan will be refreshed.*

### Stream A: Strengthening PCD relationships

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>1. External liaison:</b> convene an inter-agency meeting led by MFAT on development, with a particular emphasis on the Pacific, focused on interagency policy dialogue and information sharing including on PCD.	September and six-monthly thereafter	PHM, DSE with DS IDG
<b>2. Partnership Arrangements:</b> incorporate PCD into the way we institutionalise our relationships with other key government departments, including by recognising the breadth of these relationships with various MFAT Divisions	Ongoing	PHM
<b>3. Internal analysis:</b> Map existing mechanisms used by MFAT for cross-government engagement in order to identify PCD opportunities	Ongoing, from May 2014	DSE

### Stream B: Pursuing concrete PCD opportunities

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>4. PACER Plus:</b> Identify and promote emerging PCD opportunities in the Pacific through PACER Plus.	Until completion of negotiations	PAC and SED with participation of DSE
<b>5. Remittance transfer costs:</b> Explore opportunities to further lower remittance transfer costs.	From May 2014	SED Economic Development