

Proactive Release

Date: 11 November 2021

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: From Reset to Resilience</i>	CAB-21-MIN-0401 ERS-21-MIN-0031

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report of the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee: Period Ended 1 October 2021

On 4 October 2021, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee for the period ended 1 October 2021:

ERS-21-MIN-0031 **New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: From Reset to Resilience** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

Minute of Decision

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New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: From Reset to Resilience

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 28 September 2021, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in 2018, Cabinet agreed to a refreshed New Zealand approach to the Pacific (the Pacific Reset) [NSC-18-MIN-0001];
- 2 **noted** that the proposed approach outlined in the paper under ERS-21-SUB-0031:
 - 2.1 transitions from a 'Reset' to a 'Resilience' framework;
 - 2.2 aligns with the government's vision and ambitions for New Zealand's Pacific engagement;
- 3 **agreed** that the following principles will guide New Zealand's regional engagement in the Pacific:
 - 3.1 Tātai Hono (the recognition of deep and enduring whakapapa connections);
 - 3.2 Tātou Tātou (all of us together);
 - 3.3 Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga (journey towards a circular economy);
 - 3.4 Turou Hawaiiiki (navigating together);
 - 3.5 Arongia ki Rangiātea (focus towards excellence);
- 4 **noted** the significant overlap between the effect of New Zealand's domestic and international policy settings where the Pacific is concerned, and that the proposed regional approach is aligned with New Zealand's domestic focus on wellbeing and resilience.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Attendance: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Kiri Allen
Hon Phil Twyford

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ERS

Proactively Released by the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: From Reset to Resilience

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks to confirm an approach for New Zealand's Pacific engagement, including:
 - 1.1 The general principles that will guide our approach as a true partner across a wide Oceanic continent;
 - 1.2 Recognising the mana of each nation, reinforcing our whanaungatanga connections to the wider Pacific;
 - 1.3 Aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - 1.4 Targeting our development investments to support long-term resilience; and
 - 1.5 Harnessing regional and multilateral action to support Pacific priorities.

This paper should be considered alongside *New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: moving from COVID-19 response to recovery and longer term resilience*.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 The approach outlined in this paper amplifies New Zealand's domestic focus on wellbeing and resilience (confirmed in the Government's 2021 Wellbeing Budget) out into the wider region, in line with our shared commitments under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- 3 It also recognises that there is a significant overlap between the effect of our domestic and international policies where the Pacific is concerned, in light of shared communities and the cross-regional nature of challenges as well as opportunities.

Executive Summary

- 4 New Zealand's home and heart is in the Pacific. Our engagement within the region is steered by our desire for a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand operates as a true partner, collaborating with others in the shared stewardship of our Blue Ocean Continent – Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.
- 5 Our values act as fixed markers to guide our way towards the outcomes we seek through all of our foreign policy, development, trade, and security partnerships in the Pacific. *How* we engage matters. How others *feel* about the way that we engage matters. Under a values-based approach, our impact will be measured not only in our delivery of strategic priorities, but also in how Pacific partners refer to our engagement and how well we meet expectations on what *our partners* determine as impactful.

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- 6 The Sustainable Development Goals are a shared horizon for our work. They hold the collective responsibility of all states to take action in order to improve the lives of our peoples and our planet. They provide us and our partners with an agreed global agenda from which to prioritise those issues that matter the most for our region, and where to focus our resources. They support an enduring inter-generational approach. Our Pacific engagement is also a key pillar of New Zealand's international identity, including through our investments in multilateral solutions to global challenges.
- 7 We will need to nurture both our bilateral and regional relationships to achieve meaningful outcomes that support long-term resilience with high levels of Pacific ownership. We will also need to lift our efforts to encourage partners outside the region to co-invest for impact in line with Pacific priorities. We should be prepared for some challenging conversations along the way.
- 8 Our strength and success as a region relies on Pacific countries acting together. While there should always be space to respect mana and different views, the urgent and complex challenges facing our region are far greater than any of our differences. However, regionalism remains fragile. We will need to continue to shape the regional architecture so that it draws strength from Pacific ways of governing, is fit for purpose, and can generate Pacific-owned solutions to the challenges of today. New Zealand's engagement will support a collective approach, and leverage off our own experiences under Te Tiriti o Waitangi of managing enduring relationships where we stand stronger together.

Background

- 9 Since New Zealand's Pacific Reset was announced in February 2018 (CAB-18-MIN-0054), Ministers and more than 30 government agencies have worked together to deepen New Zealand's Pacific relationships, expand our footprint and investments, and build our status as a trusted and influential partner of choice.
- 10 The disruption across the region caused by COVID-19 creates space for us to look again at our engagement, and our long-term objectives. While COVID-19 has amplified regional vulnerabilities and set back progress against development gains, we need to remain clear-eyed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to Pacific lives and livelihoods. Building climate resilience needs to remain at the centre of our efforts as we move through COVID-19 response and recovery phases. Human development also needs to be at the forefront as we engage in a region where great need (and in some cases abject poverty) continues to exist. COVID-19 has given us insights into places where previous development models have not delivered sustained results, as well as lessons on how we can strengthen resilience by being more integrated in our partnerships (for example, across health and border sectors). We have an opportunity to apply this learning more broadly to achieve better impact in other investments.
- 11 The time is right to move from a "Reset" to a "Resilience" approach. A "Resilience" approach takes a Pacific-centric view of our collective interests in the region, shifting to a strengths-based approach and acknowledging that building long-term resilience across the region (including New Zealand) requires an ecosystem-wide response. Ecosystem in this context is a holistic concept, connecting the challenges of planet and people across a shared Blue Ocean Continent.

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- 12 This paper should be considered alongside *New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: moving from COVID-19 response to recovery and longer term resilience*, outlining how Official Development Assistance is shaped to underpin a transition from “Reset” to “Resilience”. As this accompanying paper makes clear, we will also need to provide short term support in parallel, to deal with the immediate impacts of COVID-19.

Analysis

- 13 Aotearoa New Zealand is a Pacific country connected to the wider region by people, ocean, history, culture, politics, and shared interests.
- 14 The core drivers for New Zealand's engagement in the region are:
- 14.1 our hononga (connections) with the Pacific;
 - 14.2 our collective kaitiakitanga (stewardship) responsibilities for shared resources and the environment (especially in relation to the Blue Ocean Continent);
 - 14.3 our economic and health connectivity with the region; and
 - 14.4 our national security interests, including the transboundary nature of threats facing the Pacific.
- 15 Our Pacific story is founded within a values-based approach to foreign policy, where we work collectively in pursuit of our core interests, including:
- 15.1 an international rules based order, which gives all countries a voice and provides frameworks that promote stability;
 - 15.2 keeping New Zealanders safe, promoting regional stability;
 - 15.3 international conditions and connections that aid our prosperity, including supply chain resilience; and,
 - 15.4 global action on sustainability issues such as climate change where solutions depend on international cooperation.

Guiding Principles for Engagement

- 16 Our engagement needs to support each country's determination to chart its own development, with the Sustainable Development Goals as a shared commitment.
- 17 Our engagement is partner-led. As we move from a “Reset” mindset to a resilience one, we recognise that each country has a different starting point for its resilience journey. As partners, we should adopt a posture of “accompaniment”, meeting each partner where they are and working together towards priority strategic objectives that create impact and build positive change.
- 18 A values-based approach will enable us to make the most of our advantages as a bicultural nation grounded in strong Pacific linkages and a shared history of voyaging across a connecting ocean.

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Navigating our approach to engagement in the Pacific will require us to draw on all the tools available in our kete to help guide our journey... much like our tupuna, before us.

We have taken this concept and developed a **compass**, built around various elements found in Māori and Pacific navigation narratives.

Tātai hono: represented by **the ocean** – and its currents – binding us all through whakapapa and connection.

Turou Hawaiki: represented by **the navigation winds**, carrying

Whāia te Taumata Ohanga: like the sun, setting and rising, but always on the horizon, showing us that although the journey may be different, the long-term perspective remains the same.

Tātou Tātou: reflecting the strength of our friendships – and where we are headed – in the faces, and phases, of **the moon**.

19 The enduring principles which will guide our engagement in the region are:

- **Tātai Hono** (The recognition of deep and enduring whakapapa connections):
 - Shared history and meaningful relationships will shape our engagement, reinforcing New Zealand's depth of connection within the region and increasing understanding of Pacific peoples. These connections can further be enhanced by the shared value of reciprocity, shared national and regional priorities, shared language connections, and the recognition and celebration of the diversity between and within our indigenous values and those of Pacific partners.
- **Tātou Tātou** (All of us together):
 - Our cooperation will be underpinned by the principles of whanaungatanga and friendship, including honesty, trust, and respect. We will listen and have conversations. We will act with predictability, consistency, and based on the values we share as people of the Pacific. We will harmonise our efforts with others. We will confidently share New Zealand's views and perspectives, being clear about the things we will do and the things we will not do. The strength of friendship allows us to communicate openly even when our views differ.
- **Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga** (Journey towards a circular economy):
 - Our engagement will recognise that the journey we each take is different but our horizon is the same. We will collaborate in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the long-term inter-generational perspective these Goals bring consistent with New Zealand's and Pacific Island countries' enduring journey together. We will aim to achieve lasting resilience through Pacific Island countries' enhanced capability to deliver on national and regional priorities through supporting sustainable human, economic, and social development. We recognise each country's mana to determine and protect its own kaitiakitanga.
- **Turou Hawaiiki** (Navigating together):
 - Our engagement will recognise that we share common values, and will reflect the unique and substantial overlap with New Zealand domestic policy decisions in respect of the Pacific. The development of New Zealand regional and national policies will actively consider their implications for the Pacific. We will also actively consider the impact on Pacific Island countries from international treaties and agreements that New Zealand is negotiating.
- **Arongia ki Rangiātea (Focus towards Excellence):**
 - We will actively take an integrated approach across each New Zealand Government agency to recognise the centrality of the Pacific. We will amplify our value in the Pacific through encouraging impactful co-investment from actors outside the region, and by supporting regional architecture that reinforces Pacific ownership and priorities.

Relationships

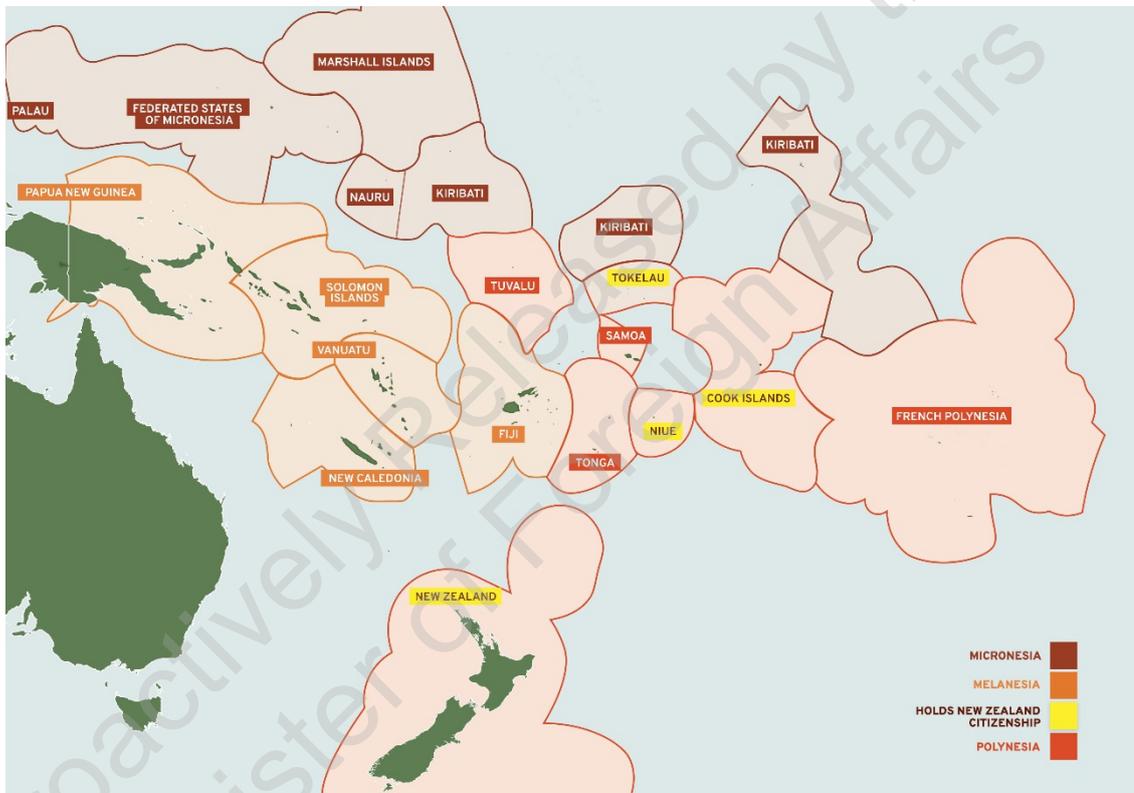
- 20 New Zealand's experience with Te Tiriti o Waitangi has taught us lessons about managing and creating enduring relationships. This is particularly relevant in the Pacific as we recognise each country's inherent mana and their sovereign aspiration to achieve sustainable development so all people can prosper and live peacefully.
- 21 We have an established approach to agree and work towards priority strategic objectives. This approach prioritises investing in climate resilient infrastructure, connectivity and accessibility, supply chain resilience, and local economies that support the health and well-being of people. Through bilateral 'Statements of Partnership', we formally commit to support each country to achieve their goals. These agreements guide our investment decisions, and keep both sides accountable. As we move forward, we should lean in to relationship-based commissioning as the basis for a truly respectful and equal partnership, further distancing ourselves from a transactional approach.
- 22 Our approach and resourcing will be across the breadth of New Zealand's engagement (NZ Inc), to make the best use of government agencies, civil society, business and industry, regional organisations and other partners. We will work to embed Pacific cultural frameworks in our work, including by strengthening cultural competence and regional awareness. We need to take a fresh look at our development procurement processes to ensure that Pacific expertise is recognised and valued, and that we are building capability on the ground, rather than preferencing 'fly-in, fly-out' models of delivery. This mode of working will also recognise the inwards cultural competency gains that can be realised at the New Zealand end through reciprocal strengths-based partnerships. Our engagement will be more inclusive of indigenous issues, across economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres.
- 23 Equity, inclusivity and human rights are critical for enabling effective, resilient and sustainable development, and are directly linked to achieving broad economic growth, well-being, and stability outcomes. COVID-19 has compounded existing challenges and threatens to deepen inequalities, have a negative impact on human rights, and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable communities. As part of a resilience approach, New Zealand will need to work with Pacific partners to strengthen social protection responses and improve the economic and social status of women, youth and other groups in the Pacific, to lift the most vulnerable out of hardship and exclusion. We should be prepared for some of these conversations to be challenging, s6(a)
- 24 Our partnership with the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and wider Polynesia is a reflection of our whanaungatanga and drives our engagement across the whole region, recognising the ongoing imperative to build, maintain and strengthen our whanaungatanga connections. This approach to strengthening our relationships across the Pacific is enduring and recognises long-held connections between people, countries, and governments.

Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue

25 New Zealand has special constitutional obligations towards the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. s6(a)

New Zealand's interest is in fostering governance that is consistent with the values associated with New Zealand citizenship, and with consideration to the geostrategic context in the region, in a close and trusted partnership with New Zealand.

26 s6(a)



There is scope to develop a stronger sense of community based on trust and partnership. Enhanced coordination across the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau and the New Zealand public services will be critical to achieving this objective, and enabling the development of coherent and well-aligned strategic partnerships to support resilience.

Polynesia

27 Due to the interconnectivity and long historical links with New Zealand, Polynesia holds both domestic and foreign policy interests for New Zealand. Our communities move frequently between borders and our cultural, institutional, trade, economic, educational and health relationships are fluid and inter-dependent. With that comes many areas of common interest and some complex dynamics. This includes a multitude of direct agency-to-agency connections and Pacific domestic communities

that are seeking to be more engaged politically. s6(a)

Melanesia

28 Melanesia s6(a)

the Pacific's highest population and urbanisation growth rates (including a significant 'youth population bulge'), and some of the most acute human development needs in the world. The sub-region is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate change, particularly through the intensification of extreme weather events. The annual environmental, economic and humanitarian damage wrought by cyclones, droughts and flooding will continue to take a ferocious toll.

29 s6(a)

New Zealand has underlined to the Melanesian countries that we value our connections and wish to work with them as genuine partners. This s6(a) will need ongoing investments in development outcomes and their priority areas such as labour mobility and security cooperation s6(a) Current challenges around Labour mobility opportunities in light of border setting constraints will need to continue to be managed carefully.

Micronesia

30 s6(a)

Retaining Micronesia's participation in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) s6(a) is a key objective both for maintaining regional cohesion and providing collective responses to shared challenges.

31 Climate adaptation and fisheries are the sub-region's most important issues, determining among other things internal population movements, permanent pollution of freshwater lenses and concerns over food security. With some of the largest fish stocks in the Pacific, finding new ways to harness value from the sub-region's vast ocean estate and curb predatory fishing practices will be key to bolstering the long term economic prosperity and resilience of the region as a whole.

French Pacific

32 At a time of heightened geostrategic tension in the Pacific region, s6(a)

focus will need to be s6(a) New Zealand's to promote ongoing good governance, peace and stability, as well continuing to support the French Pacific territories to advance their integration into the region as constructive, aligned and engaged partners.

Working with Others: Encouraging Co-Investment for Impact

33 A successful resilience approach will work best when it enables other partners to engage in the region in support of Pacific priorities. Facilitating co-investments that support long-term resilience outcomes with a high degree of Pacific ownership will be a key focus of our collaboration in this space.

34 As Pacific countries emerge from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with increased spending needs and lower revenue, our contributions to economic recovery are designed to strengthen sovereignty, not build dependencies. The New Zealand Aid Programme is delivered through grant finance, rather than loans, avoiding additional debt burdens. We also encourage use of concessional development finance from multilateral institutions s6(a)

35 **Australia** is an indispensable partner for us in our Pacific work. It operates at scale, has strategic investments that complement our own, s6(a)

Jointly responding to COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to lift even further our cooperation across a broad range of issues impacting the region, many of which have demonstrated the value of a highly integrated approach (e.g. health and border management). Our mutual efforts to support Pacific partners to realise their development objectives are maximised when we work in a coordinated and collaborative way.

36 The **United States** is also a key partner. s6(a)

It has presence through Hawaii and its Compact States and associated Territory relationships. s6(a)

S renewed support for the Pacific's climate change priorities offers significant opportunities for cooperation. s6(a)

37 s6(a)

s6(a)

38 s6(a)

We will also continue working to get better advantage from a wider range of multilateral partners, including United Nations agencies, the multilateral development banks, and other major international organisations. s6(a)

Harnessing regional strength for long-term resilience

39 A strong regional architecture – owned by all Pacific countries – enables the Pacific to deliver its own solutions to priority regional challenges and take better advantage of strategic opportunities. It empowers and strengthens Pacific voices globally and plays an important stabilising role in a contested regional environment.

40 However, regionalism is fragile, s6(a)

41 We want the Pacific Islands Forum to remain the pre-eminent regional platform for collective decision-making on Pacific regional priority issues under the direction of Leaders (including New Zealand’s Prime Minister). s6(a)

42 The image of **Te Kupenga a Māui** (the net of Māui) builds on our principle of **Turou Hawaiiki** (Navigating together) and gives us a useful way to frame how we want the regional architecture to support regional governance (i.e. “what good looks like”).

- The Pacific Islands Forum (as the pre-eminent political body) and the CROP¹ Agencies (providing science and technical expertise) are bound together to create a reinforcing structure which underpins a resilience approach, encouraging States to pool their collective strength, harvest regional gains and protect regional interests.

¹ Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific.

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- Leaders make decisions supported by science and knowledge that is in and of the region, reinforcing and growing Pacific expertise and innovation to meet complex contemporary challenges across the region, from climate change to child poverty.
- 43 In some cases, the system is delivering. We should lean in and learn from shared positive inter-generational investments in sectors such as fisheries management and oceans science. This work to underpin a collective kaitiakitanga approach should remain an enduring feature of our Pacific engagement and development investment, supporting the region to cooperate in how it manages and protects shared resources.
- 44 Regionalism also forms the backbone of effective international advocacy to promote Pacific interests in the wider world. It provides a space in which national priorities can come together to create a strong shared Pacific voice that is able to influence global action. The Pacific's significant impact on the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree temperature rise goal, as well as advocacy on sea-level rise, maritime boundaries, and fisheries, has demonstrated the potential of good coordination and activism.
- 45 s9(2)(g)(i)
- 46 Regional economic integration, particularly with a focus on mutual benefit and indigenous connections, will also help forge stronger connections across sub-regions and safeguard against instability. In addition to reinforcing and enhancing PACER Plus, including to prioritise greater benefits for the Pacific and ensure the economic development commitments are fully delivered, a sustained NZ Inc effort to encourage New Zealand businesses to maintain and grow their Pacific connections would support our shared strategic and economic interests. Encouraging greater alignment between New Zealand and Pacific regulatory systems – including for example Sanitary and Phytosanitary, customs processes and qualifications frameworks – would strengthen linkages at all levels of government and reinforce an integrated resilience approach as we operate off shared systems that have been co-designed. Next generation labour mobility arrangements should also be explored, learning from the universally positive experience of the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme.

Nurturing our Pacific connections at home

- 47 The way that we work with Pacific communities in New Zealand will be an important amplifier for our regional resilience objectives. Our goal in this space is to shore up greater certainty and confidence of a strong Pacific future, experienced both in New Zealand populations and across the wider region.
- 48 In New Zealand, the aspirations of Pacific diaspora communities have been captured by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples in the Lalanga Fou report. This report identified four main goals for Pacific communities in Aotearoa: thriving Pacific languages,

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cultures and identities; prosperous Pacific communities; resilient and healthy Pacific Peoples; and confident, thriving and resilient Pacific young people.

- 49 The acquisition and retention of Pacific languages, culture and heritage is consistently identified as a shared priority in the wider region, accompanying the aspirations of our New Zealand Pacific communities at home. We need to support and project the strengths of our communities in New Zealand (demonstrated through Pacific language weeks and an increasing range of cultural celebrations and inter-generational learning exchanges) across our bilateral and regional work, to help safeguard the taonga of language and cultural identity for future generations.
- 50 We are proud that we have something distinctive to offer in our people to people connections, s6(a)
- 51 There are opportunities to strengthen our ties by leaning in to stories of our shared history, even when the connections are painful.
- 51.1 Recent examples (the Dawn Raids Apology, New Zealand's Vaimoso Memorial in Samoa to the 1918 Influenza Epidemic, and the dedication of *Te Reo Hotunui o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa* at Pukeahu) demonstrate the positive potential of acknowledging a difficult shared past and building together for the future.
- 52 We should also apply a strategic lens to a refreshed cultural diplomacy strategy – including political exchanges, scholarships and alumni, sports diplomacy, church networks, volunteers, artistic collaborations, and other mechanisms – to reinforce New Zealand's connections across the region.

Working together s6(a)

- 53 The wide-ranging nature of our Pacific connections *within* New Zealand means that Cabinet needs to take a collective approach to deepening our Pacific engagement.
- 54 There is a part for every Minister and each of their collective agencies in helping to strengthen our Pacific relationships.

Financial Implications

- 55 There are no additional financial implications to this proposal at this time. New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific is underpinned by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade departmental funding and the non-departmental International Development Cooperation appropriation.

Population Implications

- 56 The significant overlap between domestic and international policy settings with respect to the Pacific means that our engagement in the region has a direct impact on our population at home, particularly for our Pacific diaspora communities. Development gains in the region under a resilience approach are likely to reinforce wellbeing benefits here. Negative development trends in the region could have a

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range of domestic population impacts, s6(a)

and home communities in New Zealand prioritising increased remittances into the region to support whānau connections above their own household needs.

Human Rights

57 Equity, inclusivity and human rights are critical for enabling effective, resilient and sustainable development, and are directly linked to achieving broad economic growth and stability outcomes. Promoting human rights and social inclusion across the Pacific is integral to New Zealand's International Human Rights Action Plan, as well as our commitment in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind: kaua tētahi e whakarērea. The approach proposed in this paper will support our conversations with Pacific governments on human rights issues and underpin human rights focused investments under the New Zealand Aid Programme.

Consultation

58 The Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Treasury, the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry for Defence, the New Zealand Defence Force and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have been consulted on the regional strategy that underpins the approach outlined in this paper. Consultations with Pacific communities in New Zealand, and civil society organisations have also informed this advice.

Communications

59 Once decisions are confirmed by Cabinet, New Zealand's approach to Pacific engagement would be announced through a keynote speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

60 A package of products will be prepared to support wider communications, including with other government partners, communities in New Zealand, the general public, civil society, and through our diplomatic post network.

Proactive Release

61 This paper is intended to be proactively released within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet. Some material will be redacted under Sections 6 and 7 of the Official Information Act, in order to protect relationships with other governments.

Recommendations

The Minister for Foreign Affairs recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **agree** that the approach outlined in this paper aligns with Cabinet's vision and ambitions for New Zealand's Pacific engagement, noting the transition from a "Reset" to a "Resilience" framework;
- 2 **confirm** the guiding principles proposed to shape our regional engagement;

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- 3 **recognise** the significant overlap between the effect of our domestic and international policy settings where the Pacific is concerned, and note that the proposed regional approach is aligned with New Zealand's domestic focus on wellbeing and resilience.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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