

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 19 May 2026

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – United Nations Sanctions Regulations 2026</i></b>	CAB-26-MIN-0113
<b><i>Cabinet Legislation Committee – Minute of Decision – United Nations Sanctions Regulations 2026</i></b>	LEG-26-MIN-0055
<b><i>United Nations Sanctions Regulations 2026</i></b>	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 3 April 2026

On 7 April 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 3 April 2026:

Out of scope

LEG-26-MIN-0055

**United Nations Sanctions Regulations 2026**  
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

CONFIRMED

Out of scope

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Out of scope

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### United Nations Sanctions Regulations 2026

**Portfolio** Foreign Affairs

On 2 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has made sanctions-related decisions in its Resolutions 2653 (2022), 2752 (2024), 2794 (2025), 2664 (2022), 2745 (2024), 2769 (2025), 2713 (2023), 2776 (2025), 2035 (2012), 2667 (2022) and 2153 (2014), and decided to discontinue the sanctions regime for Mali in August 2023;
- 2 **noted** that the following Regulations and Order will implement the decisions in paragraph 1 above in New Zealand domestic law:
  - 2.1 United Nations Sanctions (Haiti) Regulations 2026 [PCO 28525/5.0];
  - 2.2 United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28526/5.0];
  - 2.3 United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28527/5.0];
  - 2.4 United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28528/5.0];
  - 2.5 United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28529/9.0];
  - 2.6 United Nations Sanctions (Lebanon) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28530/8.0];
  - 2.7 United Nations Sanctions (Kimberley Process) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28531/4.0];
  - 2.8 United Nations Sanctions (Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28532/4.0];
  - 2.9 United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28533/5.0];
  - 2.10 United Nations Sanctions (South Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28534/5.0];
  - 2.11 United Nations Sanctions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28535/5.0];
  - 2.12 United Nations Sanctions (Mali) Regulations Revocation Order 2026 [PCO 28536/6.0];

- 3 **noted** that New Zealand is legally obliged under the United Nations Charter to give effect in domestic law to decisions of the UNSC and that section 2(1) of the United Nations Act 1946 empowers the Governor-General to make regulations where it appears necessary or expedient to enable UNSC resolutions to be effectively applied;
- 4 **noted** the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the requirement in paragraph 3 above has been met;
- 5 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Regulations and Order listed in paragraph 2 above;
- 6 **noted** that the Regulations and Order listed in paragraph 2 above come into force on 7 May 2026.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon James Meager  
Stuart Smith MP  
Jamie Arbuckle MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

## **UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS REGULATIONS 2026**

### **Proposal**

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of the following regulations (the proposed regulations):
  - 1.1 the United Nations Sanctions (Haiti) Regulations 2026;
  - 1.2 the United Nations Sanctions (Mali) Regulations Revocation Order 2026;
  - 1.3 the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.4 the United Nations Sanctions (South Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.5 the United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.6 the United Nations Sanctions (Lebanon) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.7 the United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.8 the United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.9 the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.10 the United Nations Sanctions (Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 1.11 the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Amendment Regulations 2026; and
  - 1.12 the United Nations Sanctions (Kimberley Process) Amendment Regulations 2026.

### **Executive Summary**

- 2 The proposed regulations implement various sanctions-related decisions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in New Zealand law. In particular, the proposed regulations impose sanctions on Haiti, revoke sanctions on Mali and implement technical updates to ten other sets of sanctions regulations. As a UN Member State New Zealand is required to implement UNSC decisions. The United Nations Act 1946 permits regulations to be made that are necessary or expedient for enabling these decisions to be effectively applied.

## **Policy**

- 3 The proposed regulations implement sanctions-related decisions of the UNSC as set out in its Resolutions (UNSCRs). In particular:
- 3.1 the United Nations Sanctions (Haiti) Regulations 2026 implement a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo on Haiti as required by UNSCR 2653 (2022), 2752 (2024) and 2794 (2025).
  - 3.2 the United Nations Sanctions (Mali) Regulations Revocation Order 2026 revoke existing sanctions on Mali as required after Russia vetoed draft UNSCR 638 (2023), which proposed the continuation of this sanctions regime.
  - 3.3 the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Amendment Regulations 2026, the United Nations Sanctions (South Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026, the United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Amendment Regulations 2026 and the United Nations Sanctions (Lebanon) Amendment Regulations 2026 implement the humanitarian exemption from asset freeze measures to protect the provision of humanitarian assistance (the humanitarian exemption) as required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.4 the United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Amendment Regulations 2026 lift the arms embargo for government and security forces as required by UNSCR 2745 (2024) and implement the humanitarian exemption required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.5 the United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Amendment Regulations 2026 introduce new exceptions to the arms embargo and asset freeze as required by UNSCR 2769 (2025) and implement the humanitarian exemption required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.6 the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Amendment Regulations 2026 update the arms embargo and prohibition on improvised explosive devices and components as required by UNSCR 2713 (2023) and 2776 (2025) and implement the humanitarian exemption required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.7 the United Nations Sanctions (Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026 remove an exemption for actions in support of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as required by UNSCR 2035 (2012) and implement the humanitarian exemption required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.8 the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Amendment Regulations 2026 update notification requirements for providing restricted arms or military assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo as required by UNSCR 2667 (2022) and implement the humanitarian exemption required by UNSCR 2664 (2022).
  - 3.9 the United Nations Sanctions (Kimberley Process) Amendment Regulations 2026 lift the embargo on importing rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire as required by UNSCR 2153 (2014).

- 4 New Zealand is required under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations to give effect in our domestic law to decisions of the UNSC. Section 2(1) of the United Nations Act 1946 permits regulations to be made that are necessary or expedient for enabling those UNSC decisions to be effectively applied.
- 5 The proposed regulations implement in New Zealand law the decisions of the UNSC set out in Resolutions 2653 (2022), 2752 (2024), 2794 (2025), 2664 (2022), 2745 (2024), 2769 (2025), 2713 (2023), 2776 (2025), 2035 (2012), 2667 (2022) and 2153 (2014).
- 6 The proposed regulations are routine and do not require any new policy decisions, as policy space already has been given to implement obligatory decisions of the UNSC.

### **Timing and 28-day rule**

- 7 The proposed regulations would come into force on 7 May 2026, 28 days after the date of their notification in the New Zealand Gazette.

### **Compliance**

- 8 The proposed regulations comply with each of the following:
  - 8.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
  - 8.2 advice from the Treaty Provisions Officials Group on any Treaty of Waitangi provisions;
  - 8.3 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993;
  - 8.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
  - 8.5 relevant international standards and obligations; and
  - 8.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.
- 9 The proposed regulations are proposed to be made under section 2(1) of the United Nations Act 1946. This empowers the Governor-General to make regulations where it appears necessary or expedient to enable UNSC resolutions to be effectively applied. I consider that the statutory test is met in respect of the proposed regulations.

### **Regulations Review Committee**

- 10 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the proposed regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 327.

### **Certification by Parliamentary Counsel**

- 11 The Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) has certified the proposed regulations as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

## **Impact Analysis**

- 12 I have authorised drafting of the proposed regulations on the basis that they are necessary to comply with existing international obligations that are binding on New Zealand. The Ministry for Regulation advises therefore that Cabinet's impact analysis requirements do not apply.

## **Publicity**

- 13 The proposed regulations will be notified in the New Zealand Gazette, published on the New Zealand legislation website, and publicised on the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other relevant government agencies.

## **Proactive release**

- 14 I intend to proactively release this paper once the proposed regulations have been made, subject to any redactions that may be appropriate under the Official Information Act.

## **Consultation**

- 15 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has consulted the following agencies in developing the proposed regulations: Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand Customs Service, New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Justice.

## **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 note that the United Nations Security Council has made sanctions-related decisions in its Resolutions 2653 (2022), 2752 (2024), 2794 (2025), 2664 (2022), 2745 (2024), 2769 (2025), 2713 (2023), 2776 (2025), 2035 (2012), 2667 (2022) and 2153 (2014), and decided to discontinue the sanctions regime for Mali in August 2023;
- 2 note that the:
  - 2.1 United Nations Sanctions (Haiti) Regulations 2026;
  - 2.2 United Nations Sanctions (Mali) Regulations Revocation Order 2026;
  - 2.3 United Nations Sanctions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 2.4 United Nations Sanctions (South Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 2.5 United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 2.6 United Nations Sanctions (Lebanon) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 2.7 United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Amendment Regulations 2026;
  - 2.8 United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Amendment Regulations 2026;

- 2.9 United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Amendment Regulations 2026;
- 2.10 United Nations Sanctions (Sudan) Amendment Regulations 2026;
- 2.11 United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Amendment Regulations 2026; and
- 2.12 United Nations Sanctions (Kimberley Process) Amendment Regulations 2026

will implement the decisions of the United Nations Security Council referred to in paragraph 1 above in New Zealand domestic law;

- 3 note that New Zealand is legally obliged under the United Nations Charter to give effect in domestic law to decisions of the United Nations Security Council and that section 2(1) of the United Nations Act 1946 empowers the Governor-General to make regulations where it appears necessary or expedient to enable UNSC resolutions to be effectively applied;
- 4 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 5 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the regulations listed in paragraph 2 above; and
- 6 note that the regulations listed in paragraph 2 above come into force on 7 May 2026.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs