

## CBC Aide Memoire: New Zealand Assistance for Ukraine: A Strategic Framework for Additional Support

---

### The different phases of conflict, and the need for a strategic framework

- This joint paper (with the Minister of Defence) seeks Cabinet's agreement to a strategic framework to guide Aotearoa New Zealand's decision-making and contributions towards Ukraine and its self-defence in the face of Russia's illegal invasion.
- The basic premise for the strategic framework is to assert our independent foreign policy, uphold international rules and norms and build on Cabinet's previous decisions regarding support for Ukraine.
- Russia and Ukraine are now in a protracted conflict, and the situation continues to evolve. Three broad phases of conflict are now apparent, each requiring different types of international support:
  - s6(a)
  - s6(a)
  - s6(a)
- Setting out a strategic framework is important to ensure New Zealand takes a balanced and coherent long-term approach. We can expect future requests for support to evolve over time. The proposed framework would ensure our national interests are served across the full spectrum of the conflict and avoid the risk of falling into a series of short-term, reactive responses.
- The framework will require that all forms of proposed support to Ukraine be considered against a set of specific criteria, which will enable Ministers to take informed decisions and weigh the different options.

Alongside the proposed strategic framework, the paper also sets out a number of baseline assumptions about the conflict, and the parameters for New Zealand's continued support. If there was a significant change in the nature of the conflict (for example, other countries become drawn into the fighting), then New Zealand would re-assess its baseline assumptions and overall posture.

### Proposed further support for Ukraine

- Should Cabinet confirm the proposed strategic framework, a subsequent Cabinet paper would make the case for New Zealand to provide further assistance to Ukraine at this

current phase of the conflict, and propose specific options (diplomatic, economic and military) assessed against the framework criteria.

- s6(a)

The New Zealand Defence Force also has some baseline funding for financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 to support these options.

s6(a)

s6(a), s7(b)(i), s7(b)(ii), s7(b)(iii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Ukraine Response Unit  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
June 2022