

JOINT CENTENARY DECLARATION
OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE COOK ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND (hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories"), on the occasion of the centenary of the establishment of the formal relationship between their two countries;

RECOGNISING the close traditional, cultural and social ties that have existed between the two countries and their people for many hundreds of years;

RECALLING that the formal association between the Cook Islands and New Zealand began on 11 June 1901;

HAVING REGARD TO the endorsement of the Cook Islands' act of self-determination by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1965 (GA Resolution 2064(XX)), pursuant to which act the Cook Islands voluntarily entered into a relationship of free association with New Zealand;

RECALLING the Exchange of Letters between Prime Minister Norman Kirk of New Zealand and Premier Albert Henry of the Cook Islands in 1973 that set out fundamental principles then underpinning the relationship between the two States;

RECALLING FURTHER that in accordance with the Cook Islands Constitution the Cook Islands has full and exclusive powers to make its own laws and adopt its own policies;

RECOGNISING the evolution that has taken place in the constitutional relationship between the two countries and the development of a unique relationship between them;

AFFIRMING the wish of both Signatories to strengthen their cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally;

AND DESIRING ON THIS CENTENARY to restate the principles underpinning the relationship of partnership and free association between the Cook Islands and New Zealand as equal States independent in the conduct of their own affairs;

JOINTLY STATE:

Clause 1
Partnership

The relationship of partnership requires that all issues affecting the two countries should be resolved on a cooperative and consultative basis. The Signatories will continue to work together, to consult on issues as they arise, and to cooperate on matters of mutual interest, including:

- a. undertaking and maintaining bilateral and international programmes and initiatives to promote their joint and national objectives and to enhance their contribution to international peace and security;
- b. promoting the continued development of relations between persons and organisations in their two countries with a view to deepening understanding, friendship and cooperation;
- c. continued expansion of commercial, economic and investment relations between the private sectors of each country; and

- d. encouraging frequent contacts at the political, official, commercial and community levels of the two countries.

Clause 2
Citizenship

1. The people of the Cook Islands will retain New Zealand citizenship, respecting and upholding the fundamental values on which that citizenship is based. The Cook Islands and New Zealand share a mutually acceptable standard of values in their laws and policies, founded on respect for human rights, for the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter, and for the rule of law.
2. The Government of the Cook Islands will accord New Zealand citizens preferential consideration in respect of entry into and residence in the Cook Islands.

Clause 3
Head of State

1. Her Majesty the Queen as Head of State of the Cook Islands is advised exclusively by Her Cook Islands Ministers in matters relating to the Cook Islands.
2. In all matters affecting the Realm of New Zealand, of which the Cook Islands and New Zealand are part, there will be close consultation between the Signatories.

Clause 4
Foreign Affairs

1. In the conduct of its foreign affairs, the Cook Islands interacts with the international community as a sovereign and independent state. Responsibility at international law rests with the Cook Islands in terms of its actions and the exercise of its international rights and fulfilment of its international obligations.

2. Any action taken by New Zealand in respect of its constitutional responsibilities for the foreign affairs of the Cook Islands will be taken on the delegated authority, and as an agent or facilitator at the specific request of, the Cook Islands. Section 5 of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964 thus records a responsibility to assist the Cook Islands and not a qualification of Cook Islands' statehood.

3. Without impairing the right of either Signatory to formulate and implement its own foreign policies, the Signatories undertake to:
 - a. consult regularly on foreign affairs matters with a view to formulating common policies on important foreign affairs issues;

 - b. cooperate in the pursuit of common foreign relations objectives; and

 - c. advise each other when a proposed foreign policy initiative may affect the rights, obligations and interests of the other Signatory.

Clause 5
Treaties

The Government of the Cook Islands possesses the capacity to enter into treaties and other international agreements in its own right with governments and regional and international organisations.

Clause 6

Diplomatic and Consular Relations

1. Official relations between the Signatories are based on the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1968 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

2. Each Signatory recognises the right of the other in accordance with its national interests to establish diplomatic relations with third parties.

Clause 7

Defence and Security

1. The Government of the Cook Islands has full legal and executive competence in respect of its own defence and security. Section 5 of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964 thus records a responsibility to assist the Cook Islands and not a qualification of Cook Islands' statehood.

2. In accordance with its constitutional responsibilities, the Government of New Zealand will continue to assist the Government of the Cook Islands with the defence of the Cook Islands as may be requested from time to time by the Government of the Cook Islands.

3. The Signatories undertake to:
 - a. cooperate with and assist each other in regard to their defence and national security in accordance with their respective capacities; and

- b. consult regularly on defence and security issues and advise each other of any risks that may affect either or both Signatories as they become known.

SIGNED BY the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and the Prime Minister of New Zealand on behalf of their respective Governments, at Rarotonga this 11th day of June 2001.



**Prime Minister
of the Cook Islands**



**Prime Minister
of New Zealand**