

New Zealand – Samoa
Statement of Partnership
2019 – 2023

He waka eke noa

'O le fogava'a e tasi

We are all in the waka together

We are all the same family

This Statement sets out the principles and priorities under which the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the Independent State of Samoa will cooperate, coordinate, and partner in accepted priority areas.

In coming together in partnership, we acknowledge the unique nature and significance of the Treaty of Friendship and reaffirm the commitments made between our two countries.

We recognise our shared Pacific geography, culture and history, the depth of our people to people connections, as well as our common interests in the region.

We note our long, established, and respectful bilateral relationship founded upon sovereign equality and governed by a spirit of close friendship.

We acknowledge the five key principles of the Pacific Reset which we wish to guide and deepen our partnership: understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective ambition, and sustainability.

We reaffirm the shared values at the heart of our partnership, and our common commitment to a variety of international and regional frameworks, through which we uphold the international rules-based order.

In doing so, New Zealand and Samoa have identified common areas for ongoing cooperation and commit to build deeper connections.

Over the period February 2019 – February 2023, New Zealand and Samoa accept to progress work under the following areas:

- **Partnership** – sharing our knowledge and experience
- **Climate Change** – recognising this global issue greatly impacts the Pacific
- **Security** – working towards a safer Pacific community
- **People** – our people and history are closely entwined
- **Prosperity** – fostering regional trade and resilient economies.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

Under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Samoa together will:

Partnership

- Support regional governance and progress regional priorities on the global stage through multilateral fora; and
- Foster cooperation between New Zealand and Samoan counterpart institutions where there are joint benefits.

Climate Change

- Develop a programme that assists Samoa to respond and adapt to climate change and seeks accelerated regional and global action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Security

- Recognise the breadth of security issues of shared interest including environmental and climate change security, transnational security, cybersecurity, human security (including gender equality and inclusion), and border security;
- Work together to identify and respond to shared security challenges in the region; and
- Cooperate on information and assessment exchange in: police and law enforcement, law and justice, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cybersecurity, health security, and border security.

People

- Develop joint processes and practices to identify and respond to challenges arising from inter-country adoptions and criminal deportees;
- Continue to ensure their respective domestic policies reflect the Treaty of Friendship;
- Develop and implement a new health sector programme that supports Samoa's health sector plan and builds on institutional linkages between New Zealand and Samoa;
- Collaborate to improve educational outcomes of all Samoans, focusing on student achievement, teaching practice and vocational pathways in line with Samoa's education sector plan;
- Work together to deliver targeted scholarships and tertiary education programmes that enable leadership and professional capability development aligned with Samoa's development priorities; and
- Leverage the Samoan diaspora to improve capability development and strengthen Samoa's public institutions.

Prosperity

- Foster good governance through budget support, joint dialogue, and supporting policy reform initiatives to stimulate economic growth;
- Grow the economic benefits and development impacts from Samoa's participation in the Recognised Seasonal Employer and other Labour Mobility schemes;
- Encourage tourism development, with a focus on strong marketing capability and resilient tourism infrastructure, drive private sector contribution to Samoa's economy; and
- Leverage economic opportunities created by the ratification and implementation of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations PACER Plus.

Shared Understandings and Principles:

Under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Samoa together will:

Shared Understandings:

- Hold periodic ministerial level talks to consider and refresh the priority areas set out in this Statement;
- Hold biennial officials' level talks to monitor progress against the accepted priority areas set out in this Statement;
- Jointly develop a framework to monitor progress, and ensure collaboration, in the accepted priority areas;
- Enhance action on climate change and ensure environmental sustainability is pursued in all policy and development assistance efforts;

- Coordinate long-term and predictable assistance to priority sectors in accordance with coherent sector plans;
- Work towards increasing the proportion of development expenditure channelled through higher level aid modalities and managed within Samoan country systems;
- Coordinate development assistance at sector level alongside other partners and stakeholders via sectoral working groups; and
- Provide timely and regular financial updates on the Samoa development assistance programme.

Principles:

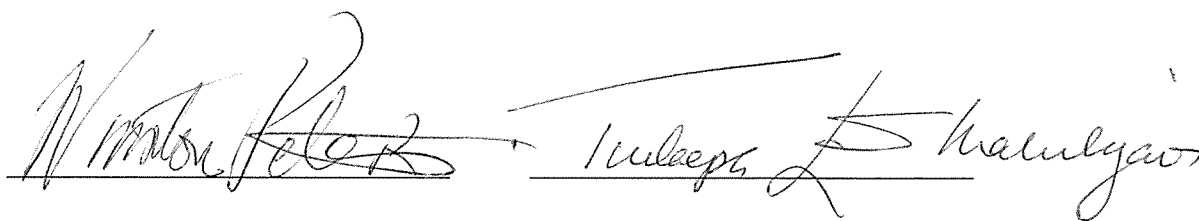
- Maintain ongoing open communication at all levels to ensure effective cooperation, coordination, and accountability;
- Pursue coherence and integration across internal and foreign policy and development efforts;
- Pursue development activities that are inclusive, resilient, sustained and effective;
- Respect the channels of communication and processes for coordination between governments;
- Be clear about and accountable for what we will each deliver; and
- Pursue flexibility to respond to emerging priorities as they arise.

This Statement of Understanding will take effect on the date of its signature. Any jointly decided amendment to the priorities, commitments, or principles will be decided in writing. Either side may withdraw from this Statement of Understanding by providing written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the intended date of termination.

Signed at *Waitangi* on *5* February 2019

For New Zealand

**For the Independent State of
Samoa**

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Winston Peters' and the signature on the right is 'Tuilaepa L. Sailele Malielegaoi'. Both signatures are written over a horizontal line.

*Rt Hon Vaovasamanaia Winston
Peters*

*Hon Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele
Malielegaoi*

*Deputy Prime Minister of
New Zealand*

*Prime Minister of the Independent
State of Samoa*