

**New Zealand – Samoa**  
**Statement of Partnership**  
**2024 – 2028**

*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 over the 5-year period 2024-2028. It builds on and transcends the first Statement of Partnership concluded between the partners in February 2019.

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 Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22-2025/26, and its medium term focus on empowering communities, building resilience and inspiring growth, and key strategic outcomes aimed at

improving social, economic, governance, environmental and infrastructural development.

We also recognise the long term vision of Samoa 2040 to transform the economy over the next twenty years to sustainably increase the incomes and employment of all Samoans, allowing each citizen the opportunity to pursue the best, most productive life possible.

We reaffirm the shared values at the heart of our partnership, and our common commitment to a variety of international and regional frameworks and architecture, 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 further building deeper and more meaningful connections.

Over the period February 2024 – February 2028, New Zealand and Samoa commit to progress work under the following areas:

- **Partnership** – Acknowledging our people and history are closely intertwined and sharing our knowledge and experience.
- **Security** – Working towards a safer Pacific community.
- **Empowering Communities** – Supporting people to people links and improved public services including health, education and governance.
- **Building Climate Resilience** – Working closely together to enhance resilience to climate change, and acknowledging the vulnerability of the Pacific to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.
- **Inspiring Growth** – Fostering regional trade and resilient economies.

## **Priority Areas for Cooperation**

Under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Samoa will work together and cooperate in the following areas:

### **Partnership**

- Support Samoa to deliver a successful CHOGM 2024;
- Support regional governance and progress regional priorities on the global stage through multilateral fora; and
- Foster cooperation between institutions in New Zealand and Samoa where there are mutual shared benefits in doing so.

### **Building resilience**

- Deliver on the Samoa – New Zealand Climate Partnership;
- Assist Samoa to accelerate its mitigation and adaptation action in line with Samoa's priorities to build more resilience; and
- Commit to work together at the regional and global level to combat climate change.

### **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
- Strengthen cooperation, including 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.

### **Empowering communities**

- Develop joint processes and practices to identify and respond to challenges arising from inter-country adoptions and criminal returnees;
- Continue to ensure their respective domestic policies reflect the 1962 Treaty of Friendship (Feagaiga o Uō) and the 1982 Protocol to the Treaty of Friendship;
- Implement work to support Samoa's health sector plan and build on institutional linkages between New Zealand and Samoa;
- Collaborate to improve the educational outcomes of all Samoan citizens, focusing on student achievement, teaching practice and vocational pathways in line with Samoa's education sector plan;
- Cooperate to advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, improve diversity and support those with disabilities to help provide the foundation for a fairer, healthier, more representative and safer society that increases productivity and improves development outcomes;
- Work together to deliver targeted scholarships and tertiary education programmes that enable leadership and professional capability development aligned with Samoa's development priorities; and
- Support Samoa to leverage its diaspora community in New Zealand to improve capability development and strengthen Samoa's public institutions.

### **Inspiring Growth**

- Foster good governance through dialogue and reform-linked budget support that supports policy to stimulate economic growth and social cohesion;
- Ensure sustainable community and 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 cultural tourism and resilient tourism infrastructure, driving private sector contribution to Samoa's economy; and
- Leverage economic opportunities stemming from the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations – PACER Plus.

### **Shared Understandings and Principles:**

Under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Samoa will work together and cooperate in the following ways:

### **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;
- Enhance mitigation and adaptation action in response to climate change and support Samoa to build resilience to address climate change and its associated impacts;
- Coordinate long-term and predictable assistance to priority sectors in accordance with coherent sector plans;

- Where possible, work towards increasing the proportion of development expenditure channelled through higher level aid modalities and managed within Samoa's systems;
- Coordinate development assistance at the sector level alongside other partners, such as through sectoral working groups; and
- Exchange timely and regular financial updates.

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

Signed at

on

February 2024

**For New Zealand**

**For the Independent State of  
Samoa**

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*Rt Hon Winston Peters*  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
*of New Zealand*

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*Hon Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa*  
*Prime Minister*  
*of the Independent State of*  
*Samoa*