

New Zealand – Tuvalu
Statement of Partnership
2026 – 2029

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

In coming together in partnership, we acknowledge the enduring bonds between our two countries.

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

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

We look forward to marking 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2028.

We acknowledge five key principles which we wish to guide and deepen our partnership: understanding, friendship, joint benefit, collective ambition, and sustainability.

We reaffirm the shared values at the heart of our partnership, in particular our common commitment to upholding and advancing human rights, and also to a variety of international and regional frameworks, through which we uphold an international rules-based order that protects and promotes those values, whilst fully respecting our cultures and traditional customs.

We are guided by our joint commitment to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. We reiterate our commitment to Pacific-led regional

architecture and in working together as a region as fellow members of the Pacific Islands Forum and citizens of the Blue Pacific Continent.

New Zealand and Tuvalu have identified a set of common priority areas for ongoing cooperation and commit to building deeper connections.

Over the period March 2026 – March 2029, New Zealand and Tuvalu accept to progress work under the following areas:

- **Partnership** – sharing knowledge and collaborating
- **Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise** – recognising this global issue is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific
- **Peace and Security** – working towards a safer Pacific community
- **People** – growing Tuvalu’s human capital
- **Prosperity** – supporting a resilient and prosperous economy

Priority Areas for Cooperation

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

Partnership

- Foster cooperation between New Zealand and Tuvalu including towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Engage in dialogue to consider elevating our shared relationship architecture, in the lead up to marking 50 years of close bilateral relations in 2028, to a more enhanced and comprehensive relationship that is durable, balanced and respectful of each other’s sovereignty;
- Promote increased coherence between domestic and bilateral policies; and

- Collaborate through regional institutions to identify and prioritise issues and deepen collective regional and international action on these challenges.

Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise

- Support national, regional and international undertakings towards achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement, including holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
- Provide assistance to Tuvalu to improve systems and infrastructure that support the delivery of mitigation and adaptation, including actions on the ground and investment in building resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- Pursue ambitious efforts to implement our nationally determined contributions in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
- Collaborate on the ongoing work to affirm that, in accordance with international law, once maritime zones are delineated in accordance with UNCLOS, they cannot be challenged as a result of climate change and sea-level rise.
- Collaborate on the ongoing work to affirm that, in accordance with international law, the statehood and sovereignty of Members of the Pacific Islands Forum will continue, and the rights and duties inherent thereto will be maintained, notwithstanding the impact of climate change-related sea-level rise.

Peace and Security

- Recognise the breadth and evolution of shared security issues of interest including environmental and climate change security, combating transnational crime, cybersecurity, human security (including

health security, gender equality and social inclusion), energy security and border security;

- Coordinate efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing 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, strategic competition, cybersecurity, health security, and border security.

People

- Work together to deliver targeted scholarships and tertiary education programmes that enable leadership and professional capability development aligned with Tuvalu's development priorities;
- Collaborate to improve knowledge and skills of Tuvaluans, focusing on transferable skills and vocational pathways;
- Invest in better health outcomes, providing support to health capability and capacity, and resources; and invest in clean and climate resilient water and sanitation;
- Encourage and strengthen cultural, language, recreational and sports links between Tuvalu and New Zealand.
- Support continued people-to-people connections between Tuvalu and New Zealand, recognizing the importance of maintaining family, cultural, and community links between Tuvalu and the Tuvalu community in New Zealand.

Prosperity

- Grow the economic benefits and development outcomes from Tuvalu's participation in labour mobility initiatives;
- Support sustainable management of Tuvalu's assets and natural resources, particularly fisheries;

- Foster good governance through supporting policy reform initiatives to stimulate economic growth;
- Leverage economic opportunities created by the ratification and implementation of PACER Plus.

Shared Understandings and Principles:

New Zealand and Tuvalu together will:

Understandings

- Hold periodic ministerial level talks to consider and refresh the priority areas set out in this Statement;
- Hold annual officials' level talks to review progress and coordinate cooperation under the priority areas set out in this Statement;
- Jointly develop a framework to monitor progress, and ensure collaboration, in the accepted priority areas;
- Consider an elevation in the relationship architecture in the lead up to marking 50 years of diplomatic relations;
- Work towards increasing the proportion of development expenditure channelled through higher level aid modalities and managed within Tuvalu country systems;
- Enhance action on climate change and ensure that 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;
- Increase coherence of bilateral partnerships and support through effective delivery of accepted priority areas of cooperation; and
- Provide timely and regular financial updates on the Tuvalu development assistance programme.

Principles

- Pursue these understandings based on the joint respect of each other's integrity and sovereignty;
- 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, sustainable 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 amendment to the priorities, understandings, 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 _____ March 2026

For New Zealand

For Tuvalu

*Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister of New Zealand*

*Hon Feleti Penitala Teo OBE MP
Prime Minister of Tuvalu*