

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11 March 2025

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - November 2024</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0010
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 10 to 16 November 2024</i>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - November 2024

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 28 January 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-25-SUB-0010 on his travel, from 10 to 16 November 2024, to:

- 1 Chile and Mexico for bilateral meetings;
- 2 Lima, Peru to attend the APEC Ministerial Meeting.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 10 to 16 November 2024

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on travel to Chile, Mexico, and Peru from Sunday 10 November to Saturday 16 November 2024.

Report

- 2 The purpose of this travel to Chile and Mexico was for bilateral engagements with Foreign Minister counterparts (and other relevant political leaders) and to enable New Zealand attendance at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in Peru to reinforce New Zealand's support for the rules-based international system and multilateral institutions.
- 3 Visits to Chile and Mexico supported the Government's plan to leverage key relationships for New Zealand's prosperity and security, in a region that presents significant opportunities. Chile and Mexico – where New Zealand has an Embassy presence – are partners for New Zealand on free trade, democracy, human rights, climate, the environment, and peace and security. Chile is also an important partner in the Antarctic Treaty context.
- 4 The Minister's visit to Peru for the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) reinforced New Zealand's support to a key regional institution and its role in strengthening the trade and regulatory norms on which New Zealand depends. Attending AMM also provided the opportunity for bilateral meetings in the margins.

Bilateral visit to Chile, 11 November

- 5 While in Chile, Minister Peters met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Alberto van Klaveren, Minister of the Interior (responsible for security and social cohesion) Carolina Tohá, and several Chilean political leaders, including five senior Senators from across the political spectrum and former Chilean foreign ministers. The Minister also delivered a speech at the University of Chile on New Zealand's foreign policy, signed a Joint Statement on Antarctic Cooperation, and provided a written interview in the *La Tercera* digital newspaper.
- 6 The visit achieved its objectives of reaffirming the importance of the relationship with Chile; engaging on key foreign policy priorities; and continuing to build on our shared values and interests. Chile's arrangements (while managing several concurrent visits) and the quality of conversations with counterparts reinforced it as one of New Zealand's closest and widest-ranging relationships in Latin America, as well as the value both countries place on our relationship.

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- 7 The discussion with Minister of Foreign Affairs van Klaveren provided a valuable opportunity to exchange assessments of global and regional challenges and reiterate the centrality of the international rules-based system, diplomacy, and dialogue. This provides New Zealand a useful platform for engagement with key stakeholders in Chile as we seek to continue building on our engagement in the interests of our resilience, security, and prosperity. It also profiled New Zealand as a valuable interlocutor across a range of issues.

Bilateral visit to Mexico, 12-13 November

- 8 Following the visit to Chile, Minister Peters travelled to Mexico to meet with recently appointed Foreign Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente and Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard. Mexico's new government took office in October 2024. The visit focused political attention on issues of interest for New Zealand including CPTPP and the Pacific Alliance.
- 9 The meeting with Foreign Secretary de la Fuente was an opportunity to establish a personal relationship, reinforce New Zealand and Mexico's close and long-standing cooperation in the multilateral arena, and hear perspectives from a G20 "middle ground" country. Minister Peters' meeting with Secretary Ebrard ^{s6(a), s9(2)(j)} demonstrating the value of in-person political engagement. New Zealand's ambition to finalise the negotiation of associate membership with the Pacific Alliance was also discussed.
- 10 The Minister's visit was valuable in re-energising New Zealand's relationship with Mexico. This was the first bilateral New Zealand Foreign Minister visit in 33 years, in which time Mexico has grown significantly in both economic and strategic terms. Mexico is currently the 12th largest economy in the world and is projected to become seventh by 2050.
- 11 Comments throughout Minister Peters' visit demonstrated the importance that Mexico, like other Latin American countries, places on in-person engagement and visits by friendly foreign counterparts. Ongoing ministerial-level engagement wherever the opportunity arises will be important for maintaining Mexico's attention and advancing New Zealand's priority interests, including in relation to the Pacific Alliance.

APEC Economic Leaders' Week in Peru, 14 November

- 12 New Zealand's participation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (as well as the Prime Minister and Minister of Trade) at the 2024 APEC Economic Leaders' Week in Lima demonstrated New Zealand's ongoing commitment to APEC as the premier regional forum for trade and economic issues. It provided a valuable opportunity to discuss key regional issues with Foreign Minister counterparts during the Minister's brief visit to Lima. A consensus APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) statement covered off a variety of policy interest areas for New Zealand

and was an assurance of the region's ability to come together on issues of shared concern and effort.

- 13 The Minister's travel provided an opportunity to strengthen New Zealand's bilateral and regional relationships with a wide range of counterparts. During his short time on the ground, the Minister met with his Foreign Minister counterparts from Peru, Indonesia, Viet Nam, and Japan. The Minister also delivered a statement during the APEC Ministers' Meeting to reiterate the importance of APEC as an institution and the increasing importance of the liberal, rules-based international system.

Proactive release

This Cabinet paper would be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs