

23 November 2022

Personal Details removed for
proactive release

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I refer to your email of 28 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. A list of all international meetings that the New Zealand government attended in 2021 which directly or indirectly addressed Māori rights and/or Indigenous peoples' rights more generally.*
- 2. Provide copies of any statements made by the New Zealand government during the international meetings referred to above, that included references to te reo Māori and/or Māori rights and issues and/or Indigenous peoples' rights and issues more generally.*

On 4 October 2022, you were informed that your request as it is currently framed captured a significant volume of information and would require substantial collation and research. You agreed for your request for information to be refined to:

- 1. A list of major UN meetings that the New Zealand government attended in 2021 which directly addressed Māori rights and/or Indigenous peoples' rights.*
- 2. Provide copies of any statements made by the New Zealand government during the major UN meetings referred to above, that included reference to te reo Māori and/or Māori rights and issues and/or Indigenous peoples' rights and issues where those statements are not already available on the MFAT website.*
- 3. The criteria/guidelines for the release of statements made by the New Zealand government onto the MFAT website where statements include reference to te reo Māori and/or Māori rights and issues and/or Indigenous peoples' rights and issues.*

On 3 November 2022, you were informed of the need to extend the timeframe for responding to your request for information by 25 working days to 8 December 2022. Thank you for your patience.

Please find attached as Annex 1, a list of United Nations (UN) meetings that the New Zealand Government attended in 2021, which directly addressed Māori/Indigenous people's rights. Excerpts of statements have been provided, as well linked to statements that are currently publicly available.

Regarding the second part of your request, please refer to the attached PDF.


In relation to part three of your request, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not currently have criteria or guidelines for the proactive release of statements made at the UN, steps are being taken to implement processes and guidelines to ensure all public statements are proactively released. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused as the information does not exist (section 18(e) of the OIA refers).

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have not withheld information from these documents.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex 1

- United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review 37th Session 18-29 January 2021
- United Nations Human Rights Council 46th Session 22 February - 24 March 2021
- United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 65th Session March 2021
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 20th Session 19 - 30 April 2021
- United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review 38th Session 3-14 May 2021
- United Nations Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities June 2021
- United Nations Human Rights Council 47th Session 25 June - 13 July 2021
 - [47th session of the Human Rights Council Adoption of the Universal Periodic Review of Australia | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](#)
- United Nations Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 14th Session 12 - 16 July 2021
 - 2021 06 25 RP TPK submission to EMRIP on item 8 FINAL
 - New Zealand EMRIP intervention for Item 6 country engagement, 15 July
 - New Zealand statement - Intersessional HRC roundtable - 16 July 2021
 - OT Position statement for the 14th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- United Nations Human Rights Council 48th Session 13 September - 8 October 2021
 - [48th session of the Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- United Nations General Assembly Third Committee 76th Session September - November 2021
 - [76th Session of the UN General Assembly: Address by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand at the SDG Action Zone Opening Session, 23 September](#)
 - [76th Session of the UN General Assembly: Address by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand at "Delivering the Common Agenda: Action to Achieve Equality and Inclusion" side event | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](#)

- United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review 39th Session 1-12 November 2021
- United Nations Environment Programme Second information substantive consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333 – 17 to 19 November 2021. Draft points drawn on for the intervention are below:
 - Thank you Mr Co-Facilitator. I would like to start with some comments then move on to a text proposal. It is widely acknowledged in multilateral environmental documents that indigenous peoples have a vital role in environmental management and development including because of their knowledge and traditional practices. The Rio Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for example underscore the importance of the effective participation of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development. The Convention on Biological Diversity, through its acknowledgement of the importance of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples, and its mechanism for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, also recognises their special place in environmental management. The Paris Agreement also directly acknowledges rights of indigenous peoples, and established platforms to facilitate their participation. UNEP's own work with indigenous peoples, in line with the "The Future We Want" and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, also recognises that initiatives directly affecting indigenous peoples require their effective participation in decision-making. Against that background, we would like to propose amendments to this paragraph as follows. We request deletion of the words: "We encourage the active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders at all levels". In its place, we request the following words: "We will facilitate the active and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and all relevant stakeholders in decision-making". The paragraph would then continue as currently drafted. These changes, in our view, make the paragraph more consistent with the way that indigenous peoples' participation is addressed elsewhere. We understand what is intended by "encourage active and meaningful engagement" but in this instance we believe the paragraph should focus on the responsibility to facilitate participation in decision-making rather than just to encourage it. Thank you.
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 11 - 15 October 2021, Kunming, China: Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15 Part I)
 - New Zealand statement references the opportunity to elevate partnerships with indigenous peoples in the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the importance of biodiversity to indigenous peoples, their role as guardians and the place of traditional knowledge in restoring nature. It also discusses rights of nature and the role of indigenous peoples in natural resource conservation and management in New Zealand. [Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15, Virtual High-Level Segment | Beehive.govt.nz](#)
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice – Online

- 17 May 2021 New Zealand statement includes reference to contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the proposed strategy for Resource Mobilisation.
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/60a0f327c514210001285581/New%20Zealand%20Written%20Comments%20SBI-3%20Agenda%20Item%206.docx>
- 8 June 2021, New Zealand statement references consideration being given to the expertise of indigenous peoples and local communities in the draft global action plan on biodiversity and health:
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/60bf4e987f3d710001a5fcea/New%20Zealand%20statement%20SBSTTA-24%20Agenda%20item%209.docx>
- Informal sessions of Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, online
 - 24 February 2021 statement includes reference to the importance of traditional knowledge in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/602d142bf647a000017df55b/New%20Zealand%20SBSTTA%20comments%20on%20Agenda%20item%203.docx>
 - 9 March 2021 New Zealand Statement includes reference to contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the proposed strategy for Resource Mobilisation:
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/60477f12c2f3ff00013b4d25/New%20Zealand%20Statement%20Agenda%20item%206.docx>
 - 12 March 2021 New Zealand statement includes references to the importance of indigenous peoples in communication and awareness raising for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the importance of hearing the views of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and other partners, including on the celebration, promotion and communication of traditional knowledge, in ways that respect the rights of the holders of that knowledge:
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/604b66067b20730001b2d441/New%20Zealand%20Statement%20Agenda%20item%205.docx>
- Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – Online
 - 24 August 2021 New Zealand statement underlines the importance of biodiversity to indigenous peoples and the important role indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge play in the sustainable management and protection of biodiversity. It recommends specific areas where this can be further strengthened: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/6124d1c6840bff00019e4537/OEWG%20New%20Zealand%20Statement%20Item%204%20Plenary.docx>
 - We delivered an intervention on 1 September 2021 (does not appear on CBD website) on the proposed target to protect 30% of land and sea areas by 2030: "New Zealand believes that Target 3 should include a strong focus on improving the qualitative elements of protected areas, such as connectivity, ecological representation, adequacy, viability, management effectiveness and integration into wider land and seascape

approaches. We also want to propose the addition of language to this target to ensure that IPLCs are not at risk of being further dispossessed from their lands and seas as a result of this target. We propose that “and give effect to the rights of indigenous peoples.” Is added to the end of the target.”

- New Zealand’s National Statement to at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), Glasgow, Scotland. Delivered 10 November 2021.
 - [New Zealand's National Statement to COP26 | Beehive.govt.nz](#)
 - Additional information regarding New Zealand’s attendance at COP 26 can be found on the MFAT website:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/environment/climate-change/working-with-the-world/building-international-collaboration/cop26-and-what-comes-next-for-aotearoa-new-zealand/>

