

Proactive Release

Date: 25 July 2022

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Title	Reference
<i>Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford</i>	CAB-22-MIN-0203
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: The Hague, The Netherlands and Vienna, Austria, 15-25 June 2022</i>	

Proactively Released by the
Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford

Portfolio **Disarmament and Arms Control**

On 7 June 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Phil Twyford from New Zealand, from 15 to 25 June 2022, to travel to:
 - 1.1 The Hague, The Netherlands for bilateral meetings;
 - 1.2 Vienna, Austria to attend the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons First Meeting of States Parties;
- 2 **noted** that logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of the above events, and alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored if required;
- 3 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from his office;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of \$68,328 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence, Hon Aupito William Sio act as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Disarmament & Arms Control
Chair, Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS AND VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 15-25 JUNE 2022

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to The Hague, The Netherlands and Vienna, Austria, from 15-25 June 2022. The travel will focus on representing New Zealand at the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), First Meeting of States Parties (MSP1).
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.
- 3 The Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Nanaia Mahuta has agreed to the recommendation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade that I lead the New Zealand delegation to the meeting.

Purpose of Travel

FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- 4 The primary purpose of the travel is to attend the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) First Meeting of States Parties (MSP1) from 21 – 23 June in Vienna, Austria, and a preceding conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons on 20 June. I have also been invited to deliver a keynote address at a civil society event being hosted by the Nobel Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) over the weekend of 18-19 June, and to deliver remarks at the Parliamentarians for the TPNW Conference on 20 June.
- 5 It is important that New Zealand attend these events at Ministerial level to demonstrate our strong support for the TPNW, including as a member of the core group of countries that helped bring it to life. MSP1 is the first meeting of the TPNW since it entered into force in 2021 and attendance will demonstrate New Zealand's support for the Treaty, emphasise our ambition to continue to grow its membership and profile, and help

promote New Zealand and Pacific priorities. The meeting will provide an important opportunity to promote our interests in strengthening multilateral institutions at a time when Russia's actions in Ukraine have raised concerns over nuclear escalation and made disarmament and non-proliferation both more important and more challenging.

- 6 Nuclear weapons issues are important to Pacific Island countries. Nine have ratified the Treaty and a number are expected to attend MSP1 (either as Members, or, for those who have not yet ratified, as observers), with funding support provided by New Zealand. Ministerial attendance will facilitate close engagement with Pacific representatives and encourage collaboration on issues of importance, including on the legacy of nuclear testing in the Pacific region and elsewhere. I propose to host a meeting for Pacific delegates, and to hold bilateral meetings with Pacific partners.
- 7 MSP1's location in Vienna will also allow for ministerial engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other UN bodies, as well as with Austrian counterparts. Showing support for international bodies is important at a time when the multilateral system and the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture are under increasing stress.
- 8 I recommend taking advantage of being in Europe to also visit The Hague, given the important role it plays in disarmament and non-proliferation work. A visit to The Hague would demonstrate New Zealand's support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW, which is based there), and reiterate our opposition to chemical weapons at a time when the norm against their use is under threat due to Russia's aggression in Ukraine. It would also strengthen the bilateral relationship with an important European partner.
- 9 Whilst in Europe, I will seek to:

16 – 17 June: The Hague

- Meet with the Director-General of the OPCW.
- Visit the OPCW's ChemTech Centre. The Centre, which New Zealand has helped fund, will enhance the OPCW's research and analysis capabilities.
- Meet with Foreign Minister Hoekstra.
- Meet with civil society organisations and Ambassadors from like-minded countries.

18 – 24 June: Vienna

- Lead the New Zealand delegation to the Conference on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and the TPNW MSP1.
- Deliver the keynote address at a civil society event being run by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.
- Deliver remarks at the Parliamentarians for the TPNW Conference.
- Bilaterals and pull-asides with other attendees, including other governments, civil society, and a meeting with Pacific delegates.
- International Atomic Energy Agency – Meeting with Director-General Grossi and his team.
- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation – Call on Rob Floyd, CTBTO Executive Secretary.
- Call on Austrian Foreign Minister Schallenberg.
- Official opening of New Zealand's new Chancery in Vienna.

10 Logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of these events. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored.

Travel

11 If travel is approved, I propose to depart New Zealand for The Hague on Wednesday 15 June 2022 and will return to New Zealand on Saturday 25 June 2022. I would return to Parliament on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

Ministerial Party

12 I would be accompanied by one staff member from my office, and one official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Costs of Travel

13 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares	\$42,000
Accommodation and other expenses	\$7,880

Hospitality and gifts	\$4,900
Meals	\$2,160
Contingency	\$11,388
Total	\$68,328

14 Contingency costs are based on 20% of the overall cost of this trip, due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

15 Expenditure of up to \$68,328 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

16 If travel is approved, I propose that Hon Aupito William Sio act in my Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control portfolio.

Proactive release

17 I propose to release this paper proactively.

Recommendations

18 I recommend that Cabinet:

- authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 15-25 June 2022 to travel to The Netherlands and Austria for engagements focused on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, First Meeting of States Parties;

- note that logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of this event. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored;
- agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office;
- approve the estimated expenditure of \$68,328 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- agree that in my absence, Hon Aupito William Sio act in my Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control portfolio;
- note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Phil Twyford

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Associate Minister for the Environment, and Immigration