

In Confidence

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

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: NEW YORK, USA, 30 JULY - 6 AUGUST 2022

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New York, USA, from 30 July to 6 August 2022. The purpose of travel is to represent New Zealand at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (Rev Con).
- 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

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE

- 4 The purpose of travel is to attend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (Rev Con) in New York. The NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, with this Review Conference viewed as pivotal for the ongoing credibility of the Treaty. It will be the first such meeting of treaty parties since the failure to reach agreement on a substantive outcome in 2015. There is widespread recognition that the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation norms at the heart of the Treaty are under increasing stress.
- 5 Ministerial attendance at the Review Conference would send a clear signal of New Zealand's support for the NPT and help give New Zealand the best chance to influence a positive outcome from the meeting. It would also provide an opportunity to re-connect with Ministers from across the NPT membership and to demonstrate that our active engagement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is in addition to, not instead of, our ongoing commitment to the NPT.

- 6 All our likeminded partners in disarmament will be represented at the Review Conference. It is the international community's pre-eminent opportunity to engage with the Nuclear Weapons States and attempt to hold them to the disarmament and non-proliferation bargain that underpins the Treaty. We have also been an active participant in the ministerial-level Stockholm Initiative co-chaired by Sweden and Germany which is an attempt to ensure a positive outcome in New York, and the New Agenda Coalition. Ministerial participation in the Review Conference is consistent with our disarmament and arms control work and reflects the significance of the Conference as an important moment for influence.
- 7 The visit will also provide an opportunity for me to connect with senior United Nations personnel on a broad range of disarmament, non-proliferation and other multilateral issues, including to discuss the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the peace and security agenda.
- 8 Whilst in New York, I will seek to:
- Lead the New Zealand delegation at the NPT Review Conference High Level Segment, including the delivery of New Zealand's national statement
 - Hold bilateral meetings with other Ministers in the margins of the Review Conference
 - Hold meetings with leading disarmament coalition partners (New Agenda Coalition, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons core group, Stockholm Initiative members)
 - Meet with nuclear disarmament NGOs and civil society representatives
 - Call on UN leadership: Under Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu
 - Participate in a call or event relating to the Peacebuilding Commission, of which New Zealand is currently a member
 - Participate in other calls relating to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
 - Host a meeting with Pacific representatives.
- 9 Logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of the conference. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored.

Travel

10 If travel is approved, I propose to depart New Zealand for New York on Saturday 30 July and will return to New Zealand on Saturday 6 August 2022. I would return to Parliament on Tuesday 9 August 2022.

Ministerial Party

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

Costs of Travel

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

Airfares	\$35,000
Accommodation and other expenses	\$6,000
Hospitality and gifts	\$2,000
Meals	\$1,500
Contingency	\$8,900
Total	\$53,400

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

14 Expenditure of up to \$53,400 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

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

Proactive release

16 I propose to release this paper proactively.

Recommendations

17 I recommend that Cabinet:

- authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 30 July to 6 August 2022 to travel to New York, USA, for engagements focused on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;
- 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 \$53,400 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

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL



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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford

Portfolio Disarmament and Arms Control

On 25 July 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Phil Twyford from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 July to 6 August 2022, to travel to New York, USA, for engagements focused on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;
- 2 **noted** that logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of this event, and that, should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored;
- 3 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from his office;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$53,400 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.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet