

## Aide Memoire — Russia/Ukraine: Preparatory work to implement measures

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- While the window for diplomatic engagement remains open, Aotearoa New Zealand's focus internationally is on expressing support for diplomatic efforts to achieve de-escalation.
- However, it is important that Aotearoa New Zealand is able to respond quickly in the event of a Russian military aggression against Ukraine, to demonstrate our commitment to our core values, including democracy, human rights and the rule of law, when these are violated.
- While we do not have a legislative regime allowing for autonomous sanctions (i.e. sanctions that are not specifically mandate by the United Nations Security Council), there are a range of measures that Aotearoa New Zealand could take in the short-term in response to Russian violations of Ukraine's territorial integrity. These include:
  - (i) Political and diplomatic measures
    - A strong Ministerial statement condemning Russian aggression and expressing solidarity with Ukraine;
    - Joining likeminded partners in doing the same;
    - Formally summoning the Russian ambassador;
    - Suspension of foreign ministry consultations and diplomatic engagement.
  - (ii) Travel bans

This would involve us expanding the travel bans that Aotearoa New Zealand put in place following Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea – primarily by adding individuals associated with the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

    - s6(a)
  - (iii) Export controls

Adopting a policy of prohibiting the export of weapons, dual use technology and military end-user goods to Russian military and security forces.

    - Aotearoa New Zealand can impose export controls in relation to weapons, dual use technology and military end-user goods to military and security forces.
    - Export controls will have mainly symbolic impact as we export few of these goods.
    - s6(a)
    - Under the Customs and Excise Act 2018, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Minister of Customs, may issue such a prohibition if the Secretary considers it necessary in the public interest.
    - s6(a), s6(e)(i)
    - s6(b)(i)

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s6(b)(i)

- Some measures such as a ministerial statement and summoning the Russian ambassador can be actioned immediately.
- Travel bans and export controls can be put in place reasonably quickly but will require some preparatory work. Given the fluid, rapidly moving environment on the ground in Europe, **agreement has been sought from relevant Ministers (Immigration and Customs) for officials to prioritise this preparatory work in this submission.**

- s6(a)

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The extent of any further measures would depend on Russia's actions following any initial military incursion, the trajectory of the conflict, its humanitarian and other impacts on regional and global security, and the approach of our partners.

- s6(a)

- Officials have also begun exploring the potential scope of a humanitarian contribution in the event of a humanitarian crisis resulting from military conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Further advice will be provided on this.

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