

Proactive Release

Date: 20 July 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 30 June 2023	CAB-23-MIN-0286
Government Response to FADTC on International Solar Alliance	LEG-23-MIN-0109
Government Response to the Report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee titled "International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance"	

Note: Please see the below link to the publicly available report

<https://selectcommittees.parliament.nz/v/6/72ce9f7b-877e-40ea-f9c9-08db46af7c30>



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 of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 30 June 2023

On 3 July 2023, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 30 June 2023:

LEG-23-MIN-0109

**Government Response to the FADTC on the
International Solar Alliance**
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

CONFIRMED

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government Response to FADTC on International Solar Alliance

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 29 June 2023, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 27 April 2023, the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee published its report entitled “International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance”;
- 2 **noted** that the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee recommended that the government consider ways it could increase New Zealand’s engagement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), including committing a staff member to the ISA Secretariat or providing specific funding to the ISA initiatives upon its ratification of the Framework Agreement;
- 3 **noted** the submission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and in particular her advice that the government will appoint a national focal point to act as an intermediary for the New Zealand Government within the ISA and will support the ISA’s engagement with the Pacific;
- 4 **approved** the government response, attached to the submission under LEG-23-SUB-0109, to the Report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee titled “International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance”;
- 5 **noted** that the government response must be presented to the House by 24 July;
- 6 **invited** the Minister of Foreign Affairs to present the Government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Barbara Edmonds
Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Hon Rachel Brooking

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Cabinet Legislation Committee

Government Response to the Report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee titled “International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance”

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks Cabinet Legislation Committee’s approval of the Government’s response to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC), titled “International Treaty Examination for Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance”.

Background

- 2 In April 2023, FADTC conducted an international treaty examination on the “Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance” (Framework Agreement) and published a report expressing its support for New Zealand’s membership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- 3 This international treaty examination took place following Cabinet’s decision in January 2023 [CBC-23-MIN-0002 and CAB-23-MIN-0013 refer] to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement to join the ISA. The Minister of Foreign Affairs signed the Framework Agreement during her ministerial visit to India in February 2023. New Zealand is currently undertaking its domestic processes to ratify the Framework Agreement and become a Member of the ISA.
- 4 The ISA is an inter-governmental organisation launched by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy expertise and reduce global dependence on fossil fuels.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee findings

- 5 In their final report, FADTC agreed with the Government’s assessment that there are significant advantages to being part of the ISA. The Committee also recommended that the Government consider ways it could increase New Zealand’s engagement with the ISA, including committing a staff member to the ISA Secretariat or providing specific funding to ISA initiatives.

Comment on the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee findings and recommendations

- 6 Upon becoming a member country, the Government will appoint a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade official based in New Delhi, India, as New Zealand’s national focal point. The national focal point will play an active role as an

intermediary for the New Zealand Government within the ISA and help share relevant policy experience and insights with the Secretariat.

7 The Government is also keen to support the ISA's engagement with the Pacific. New Zealand will encourage the ISA to be guided by the priorities of our Pacific partners and utilise existing regional institutions. The Chief Operating Officer from the ISA has sought a meeting with officials from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss how the ISA can engage with the Pacific.

8 Once New Zealand becomes a Member country, the Government could identify areas for potential cooperation with the ISA, both domestically and internationally. This could include sharing policy insights or funding a particular project. Any financial contribution would require a thorough assessment to ensure sufficient resourcing and alignment with broader climate change and foreign policy goals of New Zealand and partner country priorities.

Timing for government response

9 The Government response must be presented to the House by 24 July 2023.

Consultation

10 Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was consulted in the preparation of this paper.

Financial implications

11 There will be no particular financial implications.

Publicity

12 No publicity is planned.

Proactive Release

13 This paper will be proactively released subject to redactions as appropriate equivalent to those under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 note that on 27 April 2023 the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee published its report entitled "International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance";
- 2 note that the select committee recommended that the Government consider ways it could increase New Zealand's engagement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), including committing a staff member to the ISA Secretariat or providing specific funding to the ISA initiatives upon its ratification of the Framework Agreement;

- 3 note the submission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and in particular her advice that the Government will appoint a national focal point to act as an intermediary for the New Zealand Government within the ISA and will support the ISA's engagement with the Pacific;
- 4 approve the Government response, attached to this submission, to the Report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee titled "International Treaty Examination on the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance";
- 5 note that the Government response must be presented to the House by 24 July;
- 6 invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs to present the Government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs