

Proactive Release

Date: 4 September 2023

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

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	CAB-23-MIN-0322
Report to Cabinet: Minister of Foreign Affairs' Visit to Korea: 28-31 May 2023	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reason for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



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 on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 24 July 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nanaia Mahuta under CAB-23-SUB-0322 on her travel, from 28 to 31 May 2023, to the Republic of Korea to attend the inaugural Korea-Pacific Islands Summit and undertake bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~[RESTRICTED]~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet

Report to Cabinet: Minister of Foreign Affairs' Visit to Korea: 28-31 May 2023

1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Korea 28-31 May 2023.

Report

Korea-Pacific Islands Summit

- 2 The focus of my visit to Korea was to attend the inaugural Korea-Pacific Islands Summit on behalf of the Prime Minister.
- 3 The main objectives of attendance at the Summit for me was to advocate for Korea to elevate its engagement with the Pacific in line with the Forum's Blue Pacific Principles; encourage Korea to contribute to Pacific resilience by investing in Pacific-led solutions to 21st century challenges; discuss with forum members the value of taking a more active approach to engaging with Forum Dialogue partners; and reinforce the integral role of regional architecture and the Pacific Islands Forum by participating in the Summit.
- 4 The Summit was a formal event hosted by President Yoon, with set piece interventions. The common themes were climate change, access to finance, and how to obtain financial assistance without getting into more debt. Echoing the point I made to Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Secretary-General Puna during our bilateral meeting, PIF members highlighted the importance of the 2050 Blue Continent Strategy for partners wanting to engage, and the need to do more to protect the Ocean. As noted by Puna, there was general Pacific interest in learning from Korea's accelerated economic transformation, especially in relation to supporting businesses and the private sector to grow.

Bilateral programme

- 5 I also undertook a bilateral programme that included a meeting with Foreign Minister Park Jin, a wreath laying ceremony at the UN Memorial Cemetery, a business breakfast with New Zealand and Korean business contacts, and a tour of the demilitarised zone.
- 6 At the meeting with Foreign Minister Park Jin he said he was pleased that high-level engagement had continued following last year's 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, noting that Korea's Ministers for Gender Equality and Family and Oceans and Fisheries had visited New Zealand in May to discuss bilateral cooperation. The Speaker of Korea's National Assembly would visit New Zealand to meet with his counterpart in June.
- 7 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

8 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

9

10

11

12 I noted New Zealand's strong concerns regarding the 70 plus missile tests conducted by the DPRK this past year, which required global attention. New Zealand continued to advocate for non-proliferation and disarmament, had recently extended our defence deployment to the Peninsula, and was committed to joining activities that improved inter-operability with close partners such as Korea.

13 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

14 In addition, I hosted a business breakfast in Seoul to provide an opportunity for companies involved with importing, marketing, and selling New Zealand products in Korea to network with each other and senior Korean businesspeople.

15 I also laid a wreath at the UN Military Cemetery Korea (UNMCK) that commemorates New Zealand's contribution to the Korean War.

16 I also visited the demilitarised zone (DMZ), demonstrating New Zealand's commitment to supporting peace on the Korean Peninsula in the 70th year since the signing of the Korean War Armistice. With 12 defence force personnel deployed, New Zealand is the second largest contributor to the UN mission in Korea.

17 I met also with Green Climate Fund (GCF) Acting Executive Director Henry Gonzales in Seoul where they are based. Gonzales acknowledged that the Pacific is under programmed,

especially when compared to other developing states. Citing a lack of familiarity with the GCF's processes or a lack of capacity to sustain projects, the GCF was focused on addressing this gap. This included having more Pacific representation on the GCF board to make sure Pacific needs are heard. Gonzales noted that the GCF was actively looking at how to plug into the Pacific Resilience Fund, and had begun the process of fast tracking early warning systems for all Pacific Island Countries.

Proactive Release

18 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18)4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that Cabinet:

1 note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs