

10 January 2025

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Requesters name redacted for proactive  
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OIA 29815

Tēnā koe Requesters name redacted for  
proactive release

Thank you for your email of 12 November 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Under the Official Information Act, please supply the Summary, Report, and Comment sections of Formal messages from the following meetings/visits:*

- 1. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024*
- 2. An overseas visit by Rt Hon Winston Peters to Indonesia from 20–21 October 2024.*
- 3. A meeting between Rt Hon Winston Peters and Osawa Makoto, Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, on 14 October 2024.*
- 4. A visit by a NATO delegation to New Zealand, from 31 October 2024.*

On 10 December 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 25 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Please refer to Annex 1 for a document schedule of the information in scope of your request. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

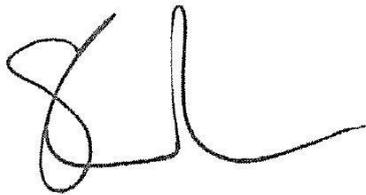
- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(ba)(i): to protect the supply of confidential information by a third party;
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;  
and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Annex 1

<b>A document schedule of the formal messages captured in scope of:</b>			
<p><i>Under the Official Information Act, please supply the Summary, Report, and Comment sections of Formal messages from the following meetings/visits:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024</i></li> <li>2. <i>An overseas visit by Rt Hon Winston Peters to Indonesia from 20–21 October 2024.</i></li> <li>3. <i>A meeting between Rt Hon Winston Peters and Osawa Makoto, Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, on 14 October 2024.</i></li> <li>4. <i>A visit by a NATO delegation to New Zealand, from 31 October 2024.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Part of Request</b>	<b>Document in Scope</b>	<b>Location in collated docs</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1. <i>The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024</i>	FORMAL MESSAGE: SAMOA CHOGM Policy and Governance Outcomes Dated 1 November 2024.	1-5	Partially redacted under the following sections of the OIA: - 6(a); - 6(b)(i); and - 9(2)(g)(i).
	FORMAL MESSAGE: PM LUXON AND DPM PETERS VISIT SAMOA FOR MUCH ANTICIPATED PACIFIC CHOGM Dated 5 November 2024.	6-11	
	FORMAL MESSAGE: NEW ZEALAND'S SUPPORT TO SAMOA'S SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF CHOGM 2024 – NZ INC IN ACTION, DEPLOYMENT SUCCESS AND SOME LESSONS LEARNT Dated 6 November 2024.	12-16	
2. <i>An overseas visit by Rt Hon Winston Peters to Indonesia from 20–21 October 2024.</i>	INDONESIA – PRABOWO'S INAUGURATION: <i>[redacted under 6(a), 9(2)(g)(i)]</i> Dated 31 October 2024.	17-21	Partially redacted under the following sections of the OIA: - 6(a); - 6(b)(i); - 9(2)(f)(iv); - 9(2)(g)(i); and - 9(2)(j).
3. <i>A meeting between Rt Hon Winston Peters and Osawa Makoto, Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, on 14 October 2024.</i>	No formal message produced following meeting.	NA	18(e) refusal - the information requested does not exist.

<p>4. <i>A visit by a NATO delegation to New Zealand, from 31 October 2024.</i></p>	<p>FORMAL MESSAGE: NATO Permanent Representatives' Visit to Wellington Dated 29 November 2024.</p>	<p>22-26</p>	<p>Partially redacted under the following sections of the OIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 6(a);</li><li>- 6(b)(i);</li><li>- 9(2)(ba)(i); and</li><li>9(2)(g)(i).</li></ul>
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FORMAL MESSAGE: SAMOA CHOGM Policy and Governance Outcomes

Dated 1 November 2024

**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

The first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) hosted by a Pacific Small Island Developing state was an important opportunity <sup>s6(a)</sup> and draw attention to the Pacific region. In addition to hosting a successful summit for Leaders, Samoa wanted, through its chairing, to raise the profile of Pacific policy priorities and to achieve outcomes in areas such as oceans and climate change.

New Zealand's overarching objective was to support Samoa to host a smooth and successful CHOGM which profiled Pacific perspectives and issues important to small states, and these objectives were met. Not only did Samoa host a successful high-level summit attended by a wide range leaders, Ministers and the King, they also achieved the consensus adoption of a solid Communiqué, a groundbreaking Oceans Declaration and Leaders Statement aligned to Samoa's CHOGM theme - One Resilient Future, transforming our Common Wealth.

Against this backdrop it was unsurprising that issues of importance to small states (which make up more than half of the Commonwealth's membership) such as climate change, sea level rise and reform of the global financial architecture dominated discussions at Ministerial and Leader level events.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

PM Luxon and DPM/MFA Peters capitalised on the Commonwealth's convening power to hold formal bilaterals and pull asides with countries that New Zealand does not often have the opportunity to engage with.

**PŪRONGO – REPORT**

With 56 members from across five continents, the Commonwealth is a unique grouping of democratic nations (over half of which are small states) with a combined population of 2.7 billion people. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a)

2 The biennial Commonwealth's Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is the most important event on the Commonwealth's calendar and is intended to facilitate discussion and decision-making at the highest level on issues of relevance to Commonwealth members. With Samoa being the first Pacific Island Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to ever host it, the 'Pacific's CHOGM' was destined to be a historic and exceptional event. Under its chosen theme "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming Our Common Wealth", Samoa sought to use this event to highlight the voices of the smallest and most vulnerable Commonwealth members.

3 Samoa succeeded not only in smoothly hosting 22 Heads of Government and 38 Ministers from the Commonwealth's 56 countries, as well as His Majesty King Charles III, s9(2)(g)(i)

It seemed as if the whole of Samoa supported Samoa's hosting with each village adopting a Commonwealth country and decorating their village with flags, murals and colourful stones. This show of respect was appreciated by delegates many of whom took the time to visit their adopted village.

4 PM Luxon and Minister Peters' substantive CHOGM policy engagements included a Leaders' Executive Session, Leaders' Retreat, and a Foreign Ministers' roundtable. There was also a Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' and Commonwealth Small States meetings attended by DM UNHC and New Zealand's Ambassador to the Caribbean. s9(2)(g)(i)

#### *Outcome documents*

5. Leaders adopted three outcome documents (attached) – a Communiqué, a short covering Leaders' Statement, and the Apia Commonwealth Oceans Declaration.

6 s9(2)(g)(i)

7 Samoa led the development of the **Apia Commonwealth Oceans Declaration**, which built on the Commonwealth Ministerial meeting on Oceans held in Cyprus in April 2024. The Declaration covers pressing current international oceans issues, with good alignment with the priorities of the Pacific region, including New Zealand. The declaration covers the central role of UNCLOS in oceans governance, the climate-oceans nexus, the key outcomes of COP28, calls for ratification of the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty and the WTO Fish Subsidies Agreement, and highlights the region's interest in the Global Plastics

Treaty (under negotiation). The Declaration achieved a significant milestone for Pacific Island countries and other SIDS with the endorsement of Pacific Island Forum Leaders' position that maritime zones will not be reduced as a consequence of sea level rise.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

8 s6(a)

In the end, Leaders agreed to two paragraphs in the Communiqué highlighting the tragedy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and calling for further inclusive discussion on the issue.<sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

*Other themes of discussion*

9 s9(2)(g)(i)

Given the fact that 33 of the 56 Commonwealth members are small states (with 25 of those being SIDS), it was unsurprising that many of the key issues discussed by Ministers' and Leaders' were the **common challenges faced by small states**, particularly:

- Concern about the impact of climate change - including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, marine and biodiversity loss, and the challenges faced transitioning away from fossil fuels;
- Vulnerability to economic shocks - including the current global financial situation of slow growth, dependence on strategic imports, reliance on vulnerable sectors like tourism, and inflation;
- Unsustainable debt levels – including the difficulties faced trying to access concessional development and climate finance and the need for urgent reform of the global financial system; and

- Gender inequality across almost all facets of society, and both the challenge and the opportunity of 60% of the population of Commonwealth countries being under 29 years old.

10 A wide range of other topics were traversed in individual interventions, including, AI <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

and related technologies, increased intra-Commonwealth trade, preparedness for the next global health pandemic, a call for a global methane agreement, the rights of persons with disabilities, and STEM education.

11. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

12 The election of the **new Secretary-General** of the Commonwealth went smoothly, and the Ghanaian Foreign Minister, Hon. Shirley Botchwey, was selected <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

*The Convening Power of the Commonwealth*

14 In addition to his **formal bilaterals with the UK's PM Sir Keir Starmer, and Singapore's PM Lawrence Wong**, PM Luxon used the opportunity to build informal connections with Commonwealth leaders. He connected especially with the high number

of Pacific leaders in attendance, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

The PM sat next to Queen Camilla at the King's banquet dinner and enjoyed an extensive conversation with her.

15 DPM/MFA Peters also had a busy schedule of bilaterals with counterparts from **Pakistan, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana**. File notes from these bilaterals have been sent directly to divisions.

#### *Forums and side events*

16 In the days leading up to the Ministerial and Leaders' meetings, a series of Forums and side events were held to bring together civil society and business delegates from across the Commonwealth to discuss the key resilience issues facing people, women, youth and the business community. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

DM UNHC spoke on a panel at the Women's Forum on the environment for enabling inclusion in policy development in New Zealand.

17 **New Zealand co-hosted a side event on the rights of persons with disabilities**, a focus area for New Zealand's multilateral human rights engagement. The side event highlighted support for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) in two areas - awareness raising and education. Panellists included New Zealand Disability Rights Commissioner Ms. Prudence Walker, Manager of Samoa National Disability Advocacy Organisation 'Nuanua o le Alofa' Ms. Mata'afa Faatino Utumapu, and Programme Officer of the Pacific Disability Forum Ms. Sovaia Sisi Coalala. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

18 UM UNHC also spoke at an **education side event co-hosted by New Zealand**, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the National University of Samoa (NUS). The event focused on the role of Open, Distance, and Flexible Learning in Samoa and the Pacific with a number of practical examples given by COL and NUS on how Samoa was successfully working with at risk youth and rural communities to provide skills, training and access to education in Samoa.

#### *Looking ahead to the next CHOGM in Antigua and Barbuda*

19 The next CHOGM in 2026 will be held in Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean.

<sup>s6(a) s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> - 1 page redacted

## **TĀKUPU – COMMENT**

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**FORMAL MESSAGE: PM LUXON AND DPM PETERS VISIT SAMOA FOR MUCH ANTICIPATED PACIFIC CHOGM**

Dated 5 November 2024

**Rāpopoto – Summary – Aotelega**

Amid torrential rain and an influx of more delegates and dignitaries than Samoa has ever hosted, Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Winston Peters attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa from 24-26 October 2024.

s6(a)

with a smooth and productive visit for New Zealand's Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister alongside 22 other leaders (including two monarchs) and 38 foreign ministers from around the world. Samoa also successfully hosted a parallel state visit for HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla, the first visit of a monarch since Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee Pacific tour in 1977. New Zealand's very substantial support was visible and recognised by Samoa (and amongst partners) in having been a fundamental part of this success. There will be a separate report on New Zealand's support deployment to Samoa for the event.

Coming in the shade of the sinking of the HMNZS Manawanui on 6 October, both Prime Minister Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister Peters undertook several engagements during the visit to recognise the impact of the sinking and to emphasise the importance New Zealand places on its ongoing response. However, the issue did not dominate the visit, and after weeks of round-the-clock media coverage leading up to CHOGM on the HMNZS Manawanui, the country's focus moved towards CHOGM, and the extent and meaningfulness of New Zealand's contribution was a core element of the visit.

We report on several elements of the visit including:

- Visits by the Prime Minister to OP Resolution Headquarters and to acknowledge the New Zealand CHOGM deployment aboard the HMNZS Canterbury
- Bilateral meetings by PM Luxon in the sidelines of CHOGM with His Majesty King Charles III, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- A high-profile event by Pacific leaders highlighting the regional deployment of Pacific police to Samoa to support CHOGM
- Bilateral engagements by the Deputy Prime Minister with counterparts in Samoa focused on HMNZS Manawanui (Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, Minister of Police, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Minister of Works,

Transport and Infrastructure). CHOGM related bilateral meetings have been reported on separately.

For reporting on wider CHOGM policy and governance outcomes we refer to UNHC's FM of 1.11.2024.

### **Pūrongo – Rīpoti – Report**

#### *Ships, helicopters, and royals - a high-pace visit for the Prime Minister*

2 Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon visited Samoa over 24-26 October to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), arriving into the newly-built VIP Terminal at Faleolo International Terminal and greeted by Samoa Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour Hon Leota Laki Lamositele.

3 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

#### *PM visits OP RESOLUTION HQ and the HMNZS Canterbury*

4 The first order of business was a visit to the OP RESOLUTION Joint Inter-Agency Taskforce Headquarters on the way into Apia, where the Prime Minister, accompanied by HOM van Toor, was briefed by RNZN Commodore Andrew Brown and his team on the coordinated all-of-government response to the HMNZS Manawanui sinking. PM Luxon commended the partnership demonstrated between New Zealand and Samoan authorities to swiftly respond to the environmental impacts of the sinking.

5 s9(2)(g)(i)

6 On CHOGM-related business, PM Luxon also took one of the NH90 helicopters deployed through the RNZAF to visit the HMNZS Canterbury to meet with its Commander and crew to receive a briefing and on the important logistics and maritime security support (as part of the wider Combined Maritime Group with Australia and the United Kingdom, coordinated by the Australia Defence Force) provided by the NZDF for CHOGM.

#### *Networking with 22 commonwealth leaders and visiting royals*

7 As part of his CHOGM programme, PM Luxon was granted an audience with His Majesty King Charles III, prioritised as part of the King's programme given his visit to New Zealand could not go ahead. PM Luxon was also seated next to Queen Camilla at the King's Dinner.

8 PM Luxon held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of the UK, Keir Starmer on the evening of his arrival. PM Luxon extended an open invitation to visit New Zealand to

PM Starmer and suggested the beginning of next year. They briefly acknowledged the Manawanui sinking and PM Luxon thanked the UK for the HMS Tamar's valuable assistance on the night of the accident. Both acknowledged Samoa's generous hosting of CHOGM, and New Zealand's support to Samoa's hosting. They discussed New Zealand and the UK's respective priorities for the Commonwealth and CHOGM, <sup>s6(b)(1)</sup>

They discussed preferred candidates for the next Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to be elected at CHOGM. Both acknowledged the strength of the bilateral relationship and the positive people-to-people links. They discussed the issues of Ukraine, the Middle East, Sanctions <sup>s6(a)</sup>

9 PM Luxon and Mrs Luxon also shared an informal bilateral breakfast meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and spouse Mrs Wong on 25 October. The meeting was positive, with both Prime Ministers discussing the strength of the relationship and PM Luxon reiterating the invitation for PM Wong to visit New Zealand in 2025 to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bilateral relations. It was also a good opportunity for both Prime Ministers and spouses to deepen their relationships on a personal level.

10 Alongside these bilateral meetings, PM Luxon met with a number of other leaders in attendance for CHOGM (UNHC FM of 1.11.2024 refers).

*A high-profile demonstration of regional Pacific policing*

11 New Zealand's 100+ strong deployment of police received a warm reception in Samoa, with particular attention given to the Samoan heritage (70%) of those deployed and their attire, with the *ie faitaga* worn by the police officers attracting huge praise in comments across social media.

12 This deployment was highlighted well with strength in numbers at the CHOGM Pacific Policing event ahead of the CHOGM Leaders Retreat hosted by Samoa on the last day of the CHOGM calendar, attended by PM Luxon, Samoa Prime Minister Fiamē, and other dignitaries from the Pacific region which contributed to the overall CHOGM police deployment (Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga). Around 36 other representatives from New Zealand Police were there, including Senior National Officer Assistant Commissioner Lauano Sue Schwalger and Contingent Commander Superintendent Dion Bennett. Prime Minister Luxon awarded SNO Schwalger a 'Challenge Coin' to reflect the significance of the NZ contingent deployed for CHOGM. The Australia-convened Pacific Police Initiative (PPI) Police Support Group was also represented, with a few police officers from Australia, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

13 In her opening remarks, PM Fiamē noted that Samoa's hosting of CHOGM 2024 would highlight the "Pacific aiga (family) coming together", and recognised that the Pacific's police support for CHOGM, facilitated under the PPI, has been a good example of this to deliver a safe and secure CHOGM. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

14 In his remarks, PM Luxon spoke of the nobility of the police profession, and the importance of the Pacific Island countries supporting each other on policing while highlighting New Zealand's significant contribution. Australia PM Anthony Albanese spoke <sup>s6(a)</sup> on the importance of the regional policing cooperation in the Pacific, and emphasised the PIF-endorsed PPI as the way forward. Fiji PM Sitiveni Rabuka also spoke <sup>s6(a)</sup> of the importance of regional policing mechanisms with specific reference to the PPI and the Oceans of Peace concept.

*A series of warm engagements with local businesses and organisations*

15 CHOGM week saw the celebration of 30 years of funding by New Zealand to the Samoa Business Hub (SBH), marked with a special Commonwealth market where clients of the SBH set up stalls to promote local products. Mrs Amanda Luxon visited the market on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October and met with many of the business owners represented there.

16 New Zealand's relationship with the SBH through our almost 30-year-long co-funding arrangement with the Government of Samoa was also highlighted in the sidelines of the PM's media engagements, which took place at two SBH clients' locations: Taumeasina Hideaway (a restaurant close to the PM's accommodation), and Snake Designs (a textile and handicrafts business near the Leaders' Retreat). PM Luxon took the opportunity to engage directly with the small business owners as well as the CEO of the SBH, to hear about the impacts of New Zealand's support to Samoa's private sector through the SBH.

17 Mrs Luxon also visited the Imagine Science and Technology Discovery Centre, which received funding through the MFAT Manaaki fund where she met with the director of the centre and a group of young science communicators, before undertaking a talanoa over lunch with Volunteer Services Abroad, where NZ volunteers in country shared about their experience working in Samoa.

*A visit for the Deputy Prime Minister balancing HMNZS Manawanui and CHOGM*

18 <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

Minister Peters undertook a number of bilateral meetings (UNHC FM of 1.11.2024 refers) and alongside his participation in the CHOGM Foreign Ministers Roundtable, took opportunities to highlight New Zealand's involvement in the delivery of CHOGM.

*Bilats with Deputy Prime Minister Tuala and Minister of Police*

19 First cab off the rank was a meeting with the Samoa Deputy Prime Minister Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio and Commissioners of Samoa Police and Samoa Fire and Emergency Services. The presence of the Commissioners acknowledged the outstanding rescue operation that saved the lives of 75 personnel onboard and the ongoing support from the Samoan Government for the Manawanui response. On immigration matters, DPM Tuala noted that Samoa was pleased to see the announcement of a Visa Application Centre to be opened in Apia in early November to provide better services for Samoan citizens applying for travel to New Zealand. He praised New Zealand for undertaking this and HC van Toor noted that it was being opened in response to the Samoan government's clear messaging that there needed to be an enhanced service for visa applications in Samoa.

20 Minister Peters also met with the Samoa Minister of Police and Fire and Emergency Services and expressed appreciation for the efforts of leading agencies in response to the Manawanui incident. He highlighted the successful cooperation between New Zealand Police and Samoa Police on the security element of CHOGM. Samoa Minister of Police spoke highly of the New Zealand Police support to Samoa in the lead up to, and during the CHOGM meetings <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

*And engagements with Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure near the site of the ship*

21 Minister Peters' most substantive engagement on the HMNZS Manawanui incident was with Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and Olo Fiti Vaai, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. The private meeting was held on the south-west coast of Upolu, close to the HMNZS Manawanui site. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

22 <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

23 <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

Minister Peters noted that "we are doing all we can and acting with the greatest of pace" to remove the fuel from the vessel. [Comment: Salvors have since arrived in Samoa on a familiarisation visit and have shared the fuel removal plan (pending contract finalisation) with relevant Samoan authorities].

*And a royal state visit taking place in parallel*

25 The second-ever royal visit to Samoa, and the first to take place over longer than a day, the historic visit by King Charles and Queen Camilla to Samoa captured the attention of the country with a swathe of positive media coverage, and an outpouring of excitement throughout their busy programme. In addition to the core CHOGM event, the state visit included visits to numerous villages and local organisations, participation in an 'ava ceremony hosted by the Head of State's village, and the gifting of multiple matai titles. At the King's Banquet, King Charles' speech laid tribute to Samoa's extraordinary hosting efforts, and noted that while he and many other leaders had travelled a long way to visit Samoa, that travel was the burden that Samoa normally shouldered for every other international meeting. King Charles also hosted the new heads of government to lunch, which included PM Luxon, and was followed by PM Luxon's private audience with the King.

**Tākupu – Comment – Manatu**

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) - 1 page redacted

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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FORMAL MESSAGE: NEW ZEALAND'S SUPPORT TO SAMOA'S SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF CHOGM 2024 – NZ INC IN ACTION, DEPLOYMENT SUCCESS AND SOME LESSONS LEARNT

Dated 6 November 2024

**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

Samoa hosted a successful, safe and secure Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia 21-26 October, attended by 22 Heads of State/Heads of Government, 38 Foreign Ministers, and two monarchs (King Charles III and Queen Camilla, and the King of Eswatini). Preliminary data indicates that around 3,000 delegates participated across the CHOGM week. Prime Minister Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister Peters both visited Apia and participated in relevant CHOGM meetings (reported separately by UNHC FM of 01/11/2024 and API FM of 05/11/2024).

s6(a)

Over the last 18 months, significant NZ Inc effort has been focused on working with Samoan agencies to s6(a) training and technical advice, support planning and procure essential equipment. NZD\$15 million CHOGM Activity allocation from the International Development Cooperation funded support activities, including enabling Samoa to contract a cruise ship to supplement limited hotel accommodation.

The coordination effort, led by the CHOGM Taskforce, involved a significant number of New Zealand agencies – Police, Defence, Customs, Civil Aviation Authority New Zealand (CAANZ), MPI, Health (including the NZ Medical Assistance Team), MBIE, GCSB/NZCSC (cybersecurity), NZSIS, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), Maritime NZ, Ministry of Transport and DPMC. It also included working with Hato Hone St John (HHSJ) on their first ever overseas deployment; and with the events management team at Orbit supporting Samoa Tourism Authority with accommodation booking and management.

From 16 October, around 470 personnel from eleven New Zealand agencies deployed to Apia to work closely with Samoan partner agencies and in some cases to embed within Samoa's workforce. Two New Zealand Police planners, an NZDF Transport Adviser, an MFAT comms adviser were embedded across the Samoan government system; and a Senior National Officer was posted to the High Commission in Apia to coordinate the delivery of New Zealand's support.

HMNZS Canterbury (with three helicopters on board) took part in the Australia-led Combined Maritime Group, which provided maritime security during the CHOGM period, and included HMAS Choules and HMS Tamar.

The objective of the deployments was to supplement Samoa's s6(a) capacity but not lead or replace Samoa's ownership of its hosting functions. s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

The success of the deployments was well registered in Samoa and New Zealand was thanked at the highest levels by Samoa Ministers and Prime Minister Fiamē. There was consistent and positive local media coverage of the New Zealand deployments.

On the ground, New Zealand played a significant leadership role amongst key partners (UK and Australia) both in coordinating amongst partners but also in engaging with the Government of Samoa in the lead up to, and during CHOGM. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

s6(a)

## PŪRONGO – REPORT

1. Over 18 months of planning and preparation culminated in eleven New Zealand agencies and non-governmental New Zealand organisations deploying to Samoa 16-30 October, covering the CHOGM hosting period 21-26 October.
2. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
3. This effort was underpinned by significant goodwill and a unifying objective to deliver the best support possible to Samoan colleagues. This effort was in turn recognised and respected by Samoan counterparts, commenting on how well New Zealanders worked in the Samoan cultural and environmental context. The value of Samoan language and cultural competency was evident throughout the deployments, including enabling Samoan staff to work more effectively in their own language rather than needing to switch to English.
4. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>
5. The strength of cooperation and depth of support was appreciated by the Government of Samoa, with acknowledgement by Prime Minister Fiamē in the lead up to, and following CHOGM, and by several Cabinet ministers in engagements with Prime Minister Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister Peters throughout their visits. During the closing acknowledgement service, Prime Minister Fiamē expressed sincere gratitude for donor partners support, and in reference to New Zealand's Samoan diaspora, specifically acknowledged "the sons and daughters of Samoa" who had come to support Samoa's hosting of CHOGM. The Minister for Police, Prisons and Corrections, Fualo Harry Schuster was particularly appreciative, personally visiting the NZ Police Headquarters at the High Commission to thank the NZ Police officers.
6. <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>
7. Throughout the week of CHOGM there was consistent and positive local media coverage about the New Zealand contingent. Stories took the theme of "Samoa's sons and daughters returning in support" and featured various members of the New Zealand contingent with Samoan heritage or links. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>  
There was also a significant push through social media channels.

**Key deployments and outcomes**

8. The **NZDF deployed** the HMNZS Canterbury (with 3x NH90 helicopters), a land-based Explosive Ordinances Disposal (EOD) team and maritime EOD divers. This deployment was as part of the Australia-led Combined Joint Taskforce/Combined Maritime Group, made up of a total of 700 personnel from ADF, NZDF and UK Navy, and included HMAS Choules and HMS Tamar.
9. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  

The NZDF was also able to host the Prime Minister on the HMNZS Canterbury.
10. One visible demonstration of the close cooperation with Australia was also the hosting of New Zealand and Pacific Police deployments on board the HMAS Choules, which provided not only accommodation but also food to the Police contingents.
11. **Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) deployed** ten officers embedded within the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Association (SFESA). They were stationed at VIP hotels and around the meeting venues throughout the week in readiness for an emergency response. The fire safety evaluation work done earlier in the year by FENZ was invaluable in preparing SFESA and led to tangible improvements in fire safety in advance of CHOGM.
12. **The NZ Medical Assistance Team (NZMAT) deployed** 26 personnel, including doctors, nurses, logistics officers and an epidemiologist, working closely with Samoa Emergency Medical Assistance Team (SEMAT) and Samoa Ministry of Health. NZMAT assisted with the establishment and staffing of the CHOGM ward at the Samoa Hospital, which operated effectively during the CHOGM period <sup>s6(a)</sup>
13. NZMAT also established and operated six concurrent medical clinics at rotating venues and accommodation sites alongside SEMAT and Hato Hone St John (HHSJ). NZMAT ran a telehealth phone line for the New Zealand deployment 24/7 during the week of CHOGM, which provided a high degree of reassurance and was useful in triaging and directing medical intervention as needed.
14. The deployment of 24 medical personnel to Apia was the first ever overseas **deployment by Hato Hone St John**. Their staff included paramedics and nurses, working closely with partner agencies SFESA and FENZ. HHSJ also provided five ambulances and a rapid response vehicle (which were transported to and from Apia courtesy of HMNZS Canterbury).
15. HHSJ staffed a number of the medical clinics at rotating venues and accommodation sites alongside NZMAT and SEMAT. HHSJ ambulances accompanied motorcades for VIPs, including for the King. HHSJ also provided support to SFESA around radio communications, <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
16. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
17. Three officers from the **National Cyber Security Centre (NZCSC) deployed**, working closely with the Samoa Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Technology. They led the first ever joint Pacific deployment of cyber security officers, from nine countries. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

18. The breadth of the NCSC's support for Samoa's hosting of CHOGM included leading cybersecurity coordination and operational planning before and during CHOGM, training Samoa's virtual team of over 40 government officials, working with local industry to deliver cybersecurity training programmes for private sector service providers and a large-scale public communication campaign to raise cybersecurity awareness.
19. With 116 officers deployed (and four dogs), this was the largest offshore **deployment by NZ Police**. NZ Police officers worked alongside Samoa Police and were visible throughout Apia.
20. The key areas for NZ Police were security at venues and accommodation sites, provision of explosive ordinance support, and support to Samoa's Joint Intelligence Group.
21. Seven **CAANZ personnel deployed** to Apia. CAANZ were instrumental in sourcing security equipment, installation, and training for the airport and for the main CHOGM venues. CAANZ also coordinated and supported a Pacific aviation security deployment of 24 officers from five countries. The aviation security contingent operated security screening equipment at the airport, at CHOGM venues and at VIP hotels.
22. **NZ Customs deployed** eight officers to work with Samoa Customs and Revenue. The deployment complimented capacity building and training provided to Samoa Customs throughout the year, including operational planning, information sharing, technical assistance, radio equipment and uniforms.
23. Six **MPI personnel** worked alongside Samoa border staff providing support at the airport for plant and animal biosecurity activities. MPI also supported the cleaning and clearing of the three containers removed from the reef following the HMNZS Manawanui sinking.

#### Lessons learnt

24. Key lessons from the initial debrief with deployed agencies in Apia are outlined below. There will be a lessons learnt document produced in slower time.
  - 24.1. Importance of **selecting for resilience** when undertaking an expressions of interest process for deploying personnel.
  - 24.2. Value of Taskforce standing up about a year out from the event was noted, with emphasis on **the value of close coordination between the agencies**. Also noted was the importance of appointing **a Senior National Officer** at a senior level early in the planning process to ensure cohesion and enhance access at senior levels of the host government.
  - 24.3. The **embedding of technical advisers** in the Samoan system early in the planning process did not only deliver value in terms of support, but also was an invaluable source of information to underpin broader NZ responses and planning, and that of partners.
  - 24.4. Deploying agency leads needed to **undertake tabletop exercises specific to their agencies** prior to the event to consider how they would respond to health and safety incidents, or an emergency.
  - 24.5. **Insurance, indemnities, and liabilities are key issues** for those that are deploying in the health sector, particularly when supporting events as opposed to humanitarian responses. Indemnities are difficult to negotiate around, and more thought is needed on how to provide the support agencies need to deploy within tight timeframes.
  - 24.6. **NZ medical telehealth line** for the deployment was very useful, particularly in the final days of the deployment when people were tired and more prone to accidents.
  - 24.7. **Existing relationships** with partner agencies were crucial in getting access and being able to transact planning.

24.8. **MFAT-coordinated accommodation, food, and transport** for the deploying personnel was integral as deploying agencies did not have the contacts on the ground to organise these logistics. Also, due to the significant lack of accommodation, this was important to secure early, upwards of 3 months prior to the event.

24.9. The **value of providing uniforms to create a shared identity** was highlighted by those agencies who had uniforms. This was especially the case when deploying with people from multiple countries i.e. the Pacific cyber security contingent from nine Pacific countries.

**TĀKUPU - COMMENT**

25. Providing well scoped support packages, including deploying staff to Samoa for CHOGM achieved the following outcomes:

- Enabled Samoa to host a safe and secure CHOGM, <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- Aligned with partners to ensure that support to Samoa was well-coordinated and effectively delivered.
- <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

26. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

Samoa did shine in delivering a safe and secure CHOGM, with the acknowledged help of New Zealand.

27. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

28.

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INDONESIA – PRABOWO’S INAUGURATION: <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

Dated 31 October 2024

**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

Prabowo Subianto’s inauguration as Indonesia’s 8th President was <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> attended by an impressive list of state leaders from across the globe.

In a rousing, one hour speech, Prabowo promoted an <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> vision for his presidency, focused on being “brave” enough to realise Indonesia’s ambitions and ensuring the benefits of Indonesia’s hard-fought independence were enjoyed by all. He vowed to achieve food and energy self-sufficiency, the former within his first term, and to feed Indonesia’s children at least once a day through his nutritious meal programme.

Prabowo touched on similar themes in his bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters, <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(j)</sup>

In addition to supporting the President’s priorities, Minister Peters also expressed New Zealand’s thanks for Indonesia’s support to the successful and safe resolution of the Papua hostage case and positioned New Zealand as a trusted partner to Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific.

Afforded the <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> ceremony of a state visit, Minister Peters’ attendance at the inauguration proved a valuable demonstration of the importance New Zealand attaches to the relationship with Indonesia. It provides a solid footing with the new Prabowo Government ahead of further potential ministerial engagements at several upcoming multilateral events <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>

**PURONGO – REPORT**

Post provides a read out on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Rt Hon Winston Peters’ visit to Jakarta on 19-20 October to attend Prabowo Subianto’s inauguration as Indonesia’s 8<sup>th</sup> President.

- The inauguration of Prabowo Subianto as President and Gibran Rakabuming Raka as Vice-President on 20 October was – as expected – a carefully orchestrated

<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

Prabowo delivered a rousing, one hour speech reiterating many of his campaign promises – vowing to be “brave” about Indonesia’s ambition to ensure the country fully realised its independence.

*The inauguration ceremony*

- The inauguration took place in a <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> ceremony on Sunday 20 October at Indonesia's People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) building. Led by the Chairman of the MPR, Ahmad Muzani, the inauguration followed closely from the format of previous ceremonies, with the reading of the election results and presidential oaths, and ceremonial switching of the chairs. A number of former Presidents and Vice-Presidents attended, as well as important Indonesian political figures, including losing presidential candidate, Anies Baswedan (whom Minister Peters had the brief opportunity of meeting in the sidelines of the event) and 709 out of Indonesia's 732 parliamentary (MPR) members. (The other losing candidate pair, Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD were also invited but chose not to attend, meanwhile Baswedan's running mate, Muhaimin Iskandar has been announced as Prabowo's Coordinating Minister for Social Empowerment).

#### *International attendance*

- More than thirty international leaders and senior officials also attended – all of whom were acknowledged individually in Prabowo's remarks in a clear sign of the importance Prabowo will place on Indonesia's international relationships (full attendance list attached). Other than the United States' delegation, which was led by US Permanent Representative to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

#### *Prabowo's speech*

- President Prabowo delivered a fiery, patriotic speech on his ambitions for Indonesia to be a "brave nation" not afraid of challenges, obstacles or threats – at times, banging the podium in front of him with his hand, and prompting the audience to break out in chants of his name. The themes of his speech <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> focused on achieving self-sufficiency and ensuring the benefits of Indonesia's hard-fought independence were enjoyed by all.
- Prabowo declared that under his presidency, Indonesia would achieve food self-sufficiency in the next four to five years, and that Indonesia was ready to become the world's food basket. He bemoaned that as a G20 economy, Indonesia's level of poverty and malnutrition was not acceptable, and – promoting his signature free school lunch policy – that he would feed Indonesian school children healthy food at least once a day.
- Prabowo said Indonesia would also become self-sufficient in energy, and better manage its water resources – because in times of tension and possible war, the country needed to be prepared for worst case scenarios, and other countries would think of their own interests and not allow Indonesia to buy their goods. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>
- Prabowo pledged to prioritise the interests of all Indonesians, including those who did not vote for him. He called for unity across the political spectrum saying, "Jokowi

defeated me so many times I've forgotten, but once he won, he invited me to unite and I accepted; now I am the winner and I invite all parties to unite". He vowed to stamp out corruption and collusion and ensure the benefits of Government subsidies went directly to those who need them most.

• <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> Prabowo said Indonesia wanted democracy, but a democracy unique to Indonesia and its history and culture – “a polite democracy, a democracy where differences of opinion must be without hostility”.  
<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

• Prabowo reaffirmed Indonesia's free, active, and non-aligned foreign policy, stating that Indonesia did not want to be part of any military pact, reiterating his intention to be “friends to all, enemies to none”. He told the audience Indonesia's foreign policy principles were “anti-colonial, because we have experienced colonisation... anti-oppression, because we have been oppressed...anti-apartheid, because we have experienced apartheid” – referring, as he has on numerous occasions, to the racism he personally experienced under Dutch colonialism <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

• Connected to this, Prabowo expressed support for Palestinian independence, outlining Indonesia's support to the people of Palestine to date (including through the Indonesian Hospital <sup>s6(a)</sup> ) – a statement that was received with a standing ovation. His comments were also reiterated in remarks by MPR Speaker Ahmad Muzani <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> by the head of Indonesia's Ulama Council, Anwar Iskandar. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

• Prabowo finished by recalling the successes of Indonesia's past presidents and in particular, President Jokowi, whom was treated with great deference throughout the ceremony. Notably while Jokowi's popularity remains high even as he exits office (around 75 percent) <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

• Prabowo pledged to “continue the baton of leadership” and “work hard towards a Golden Indonesia, to become a strong, independent, sovereign, just and prosperous nation” – ending with a chant of ‘merdeka, merdeka, merdeka’ (independence), which the crowd joined in with.

*Prabowo bilateral*

- Minister Peters was one of nine leaders and special envoys (and numerous more in the days following) on inauguration day to meet with President Prabowo in a courtesy call at the Presidential palace. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

- President Prabowo was accompanied by newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sugiono; and Director General for Asia-Pacific and African Affairs, Abdul Kadir Jailani. <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

- President Prabowo thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for the great honour of his attendance and reiterated many of the themes of his speech, in particular the need to be brave and ambitious about Indonesia's future.

- Minister Peters thanked President Prabowo for the invitation to attend what had been a spectacular inauguration ceremony. He also took the opportunity to thank the President for Indonesia's support to the safe release of New Zealand citizen, Phillip Mehrtens, on 21 September after being held hostage for 19 months in Papua. Minister Peters noted the New Zealand all of government effort this had required and reiterated New Zealand's gratitude to Indonesia.

- Prabowo noted since his last meeting with Minister Peters in Jakarta in March, that he had personally directed the attendance of several senior officials at the Fieldays agricultural event in Hamilton [JAK Formal Message of 24 June refers]. He name-checked Fonterra, which has a packaging and processing plant in West Java, <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(j)</sup>

- Minister Peters positioned New Zealand as a "trusted partner" for Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific, <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

- Reflecting perhaps the length of time Prabowo has been vying for the presidency, and his acceptance of the major task ahead, Prabowo ended the meeting with the following wisdom: "don't pray so hard for what you want, lest the gods might give it to you".

*Other engagements*

• s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

• Minister Peters engaged with a number of foreign leaders in attendance, including – among others – Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah; UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Solomon

Islands Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele; Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Qatar, Khalid bin Mohammad Al Atityah; Viet Nam Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan and US Permanent Representative to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

• The Minister's only other engagement in Jakarta was a reception with New Zealand Embassy staff and their families at the Official Residence to express thanks for their contribution to the successful outcome to the Papua hostage case and safe release of Phillip Mehrstens.

**TĀKUPU - COMMENT**

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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FORMAL MESSAGE: NATO Permanent Representatives' Visit to Wellington  
Dated 29 November 2024

**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

Nine Permanent Representatives to NATO visited New Zealand from 31 October-1 November. The visit highlighted New Zealand and NATO's shared interest in protecting the rules based international system, and our shared assessment of the key actors that threaten this system. <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

s6(a)

The DPRK was most topical, with the announcement of its deployment of troops to Russia and its intercontinental ballistic missile test on the day of the meeting. The Permanent Representatives were also interested in better understanding how New Zealand fits into the Indo-Pacific's regional security architecture, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

**HOHENGA – ACTION**

BRU – to inform further engagements with PRs in Brussels and for consideration in areas for further engagement with NATO.

Hei titiro māu – for information

**PŪRONGO – REPORT**

A group of 9 Permanent Representatives (PRs) to NATO's North Atlantic Council, from Canada, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, visited Wellington from 31 October – 1 November. The visit followed a similar programme in Australia earlier in the week, which was part of an initiative led by NATO for the Allies to deepen their relationships and understanding of NATO's Indo-Pacific partners (IP4). A similar group also visited Japan and Republic of Korea last year. ISED led on the programme, alongside the Dutch Embassy (as NATO contact point embassy for New Zealand), and the US Embassy (taking over as contact point embassy next year).

2 The PRs attended a series of engagements with New Zealand government agencies and civil society to better understand New Zealand's security environment, and to seek areas for future cooperation with New Zealand as one of the NATO's Global Partners, in the Indo-Pacific. The [programme](#) (see attached) included roundtables with senior officials from MFAT, DPMC, NZDF and MOD, a track 1.5 roundtable with the Asia New Zealand Foundation, and public diplomacy engagements with the Centre for Strategic Studies, the Asia New Zealand Foundation, and Newsroom media company.

s6(a)

3 The Permanent Representatives began their visit schedule with a roundtable on Foreign Policy at MFAT led by CE Bede Corry, along with Deputy Secretary of Pacific and Development Group Bernadette Cavanagh, and

Divisional Managers of North Asia Division, Asia Regional Division, International Security and Disarmament Division, Europe Division, South and Southeast Asia Division and Lead Adviser for Pacific Regional Division. The roundtable focused on New Zealand's assessment of its strategic environment within the Indo-Pacific. Corry began by outlining the changing security dynamics in our region, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

Cavanagh gave the PRs an overview of the Pacific and our relationship with it, and our strategic assessment of the region. She noted the region's diversity and scale, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

4 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

5 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

6 In a national security focused roundtable lead by DPMC CE Ben King, joined by Director General GCSB, Deputy Director General Intelligence NZSIS, Executive Director NSG and Director NAB, we provided an assessment of New Zealand's strategic and threat environments. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

We were seeing the impact of theatres of competition and conflict becoming increasingly interrelated. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>

7 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

8 The Pacific, <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
Cavanagh's overview of the Pacific, <sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

was another focus of the MFAT roundtable. Following

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

9 s6(a)

*Ukraine*

10 On the issue of Ukraine,<sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> concerns were the impact of DPRK troop deployments  
to Russia<sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup> s6(a)  
New Zealand was urged to continue to support  
Ukraine to defend itself from Russian's invasion.<sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

*Indo-Pacific security architecture and public debate*

11 The PRs took a particular interest in understanding the "latticework" of Indo-Pacific regional security  
architecture,<sup>s6(a)</sup>  
Corry explained that New Zealand would like to continue IP4 cooperation in the NATO format,<sup>s6(a)</sup>

12 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

13 Discussions at the Asia New Zealand Foundation<sup>s6(a)</sup>  
The roundtable was led by Asia New Zealand Foundation CE  
Suzannah Jessep, along with David Capie (director - Centre for Strategic Studies), Chris Seed (Former CE MFAT),  
Dr Julia Macdonald (director of research and engagement at Asia New Zealand Foundation), Associate Professor  
Manjeet S. Pardesi (Victoria University) and Emeritus Professor Roberto Rabel (Centre for Strategic Studies).  
<sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

s6(a)

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

*Defence capability and technology*

14 At the PRs' roundtable with Defence, Deputy Secretary Defence Policy and Planning Richard Schmidt  
and Vice Chief of Defence Force Mat Williams MNZM gave an overview of the structure and function of the  
New Zealand Defence Force. VCDF noted that due to our large EEZ, and responsibility to assist Pacific partners,

the NZDF was designed as a “balanced force” when compared with many NATO militaries and our five-eye partners - who might have coast guards and other civilian forces that solely conducted tasks such as such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Search and Rescue. New Zealand also had a small defence force, so it was a matter of finding areas where New Zealand could best contribute alongside partners.

15 Given NATO’s well-known function as a deterrence construct, the Permanent Representatives asked about New Zealand’s deterrence capability, and noted that deterrence in each of our regions was interrelated.  
s6(a)

16 s6(a), s6(b)(i) s9(2)(g)(i) s6(a)  
however our geographic isolation could make these threats seem further away.

17 s9(2)(g)(i)

18 s6(b)(i) New Zealand’s approach to defence planning. Williams explained that this was an all of government effort that included research and development, sending signals to industry, and building resilience into defence supply chains. He noted how this reliance on supply chains and the modern regulatory environment could make defence production and procurement more difficult. During the Second World War factories could be easily retooled and repurposed for defence production, whereas this is not possible now.

*Our relationship with NATO*

19 s6(a), s6(b)(i) s6(a) s6(a), s6(b)(i)

**TĀKUPU – COMMENT**

20 s6(a)

s6(a)

rules-based system<sup>s6(a)</sup>

NATO is a likeminded partner with shared interests in protecting the

21

s6(a)

22

s6(a)

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