

Proactive Release

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - September/October 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0476
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – United States of America and French Polynesia - 23 September to 1 October 2024</i>	



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: Rt Hon Winston Peters - September/October 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 9 December 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0476 on his travel, from 23 September to 1 October 2024, to:

- 1 New York, United States of America to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and hold bilateral meetings;
- 2 Papeete, French Polynesia for a bilateral visit.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – United States of America and French Polynesia - 23 September to 1 October 2024

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on travel to the United States of America and French Polynesia from Monday 23 September to Tuesday 1 October 2024.

Report

- 1 The purpose of the travel was to enable New Zealand participation in the United Nations (UN) annual High-Level Week in New York City; followed by a bilateral visit to French Polynesia to reinforce our enduring relationships with French Polynesia and France.

United Nations 79th Session High-Level Week in New York City, United States of America

- 2 The UN High-Level Week was held on 23 to 30 September 2024. An annual event, UN High-Level Week brings together leaders at the UN Headquarters in New York City for a mixture of set-piece multilateral engagements, bilateral meetings, and a vast array of side events. Heads of delegation for the UN's 193 Member States this year comprised 113 Heads of State or Government, six Vice-Presidents and Crown Princes, eight Deputy Prime Ministers and 53 Ministers. It also attracted a range of business leaders, philanthropists, academics, and media.
- 3 The UN is central to New Zealand's engagement in the international rules-based system and our efforts to shape the global strategic environment to safeguard small state interests. Our participation at High-Level Week was an opportunity to articulate New Zealand's foreign policy priorities to an international audience.
- 4 Key engagements included the delivery of New Zealand's national statement to the UN General Assembly, a separate address to the UN Security Council, a leadership role in a high-level meeting on sea-level rise, attendance at Pacific and Indo-Pacific events, and a programme of eleven bilateral meetings and various pull-asides with political leaders. New Zealand also used High-Level Week as a platform to announce our candidacy for one of ten non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council for the 2039-2040 term.

- 5 Our engagements at High-Level Week highlighted that New Zealand is an engaged and active player in international affairs, advocating for New Zealand and Pacific interests, and doing our part to protect and advance the international rules-based system.

French Polynesia

- 6 In French Polynesia we met with President Moetai Brotherson, French High Commissioner Eric Spitz, former Presidents Édouard Fritch and Oscar Temaru, Members of Parliament, and business leaders.
- 7 New Zealand's relationship with French Polynesia is founded on cultural connections and mutual respect, and we are looking to do more together, including economically. We also took the opportunity to discuss regional and geostrategic challenges, and the situation in New Caledonia.
- 8 The visit reinforced that France is an important partner for New Zealand in the Indo-Pacific, and we have a shared interest in a stable and prosperous Pacific Islands region.
- 9 French Polynesia is the 15th Pacific Islands Forum member we have visited this year, in our effort to reach all members this year.

Proactive release

This Cabinet paper would 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 redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs