

5 October 2026

Personal details removed for proactive release

55 Molesworth Street
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 31200

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Under the Official Information Act, could you please provide the following information relating to New Zealand's vote in favour of UN General Assembly resolution A/80/L.104 on 4 September 2026:

- 1. The final briefing, submission, decision paper, or information packet provided to support or recommend New Zealand's voting position.*
- 2. The record showing who approved or signed off New Zealand's decision to vote in favour of the resolution.*

Response to your request

The following items are in scope of part one of your request:

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) consultation with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) dated 4 September 2026;
2. MFAT Formal Message correspondence dated 2 September 2026 and 4 September 2026, conveying New Zealand's voting instructions on the "Correct the Map" resolution.

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)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

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.

The attachment to the email dated 2 September 2026, titled, *Draft Resolution: Correct the Map*, is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as this information is available on the United Nations website: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/L.104>

Regarding part two of your request. The Formal Message between New Zealand's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division constitutes a formal voting instruction. The policy advice that underpinned this voting instruction was provided by LINZ, and the Formal Message was signed off at manager-level within MFAT.

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/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From: [Jonathan Ball](#)
To: [HAWKSWORTH, Allie \(UNHC\)](#)
Cc: [Michael Appleyard](#); [Deborah Frost](#); [Trent Gulliver](#)
Subject: Re: LINZ views: UN General Assembly Resolution regarding "Correct the Map" initiative - today, Friday 4 Sept [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 4 September 2026 3:10:49 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

You don't often get email from ^{s9(2)}(a) @linz.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Allie,

Thanks for the clear context. From a geospatial perspective, LINZ is comfortable with New Zealand voting in favour, and we see no technical issues.

A few points to support your position:

- The text is scientifically sound. It recognises that no projection can perfectly flatten a globe, that each projection suits particular purposes, and it explicitly excludes navigation. That is consistent with mainstream cartographic practice.
- Its focus is world and continental scale maps, where equal-area projections like Equal Earth give a fairer picture of relative continent sizes. This is a representation, technology and education issue, not a change to how any country runs its national mapping activities. In our modern web mapping applications we often use a version of the Mercator projection, but would encourage change in this space.
- Use of New Zealand's national projection, NZTM2000, is unaffected. It is built for accurate measurement across NZ (surveying, the cadastre, national topographic mapping), not for depicting the world, so the resolution's equal-area concerns do not apply to it.

Happy to jump on a call if you need more info. You can reach me on ^{s9(2)}(a)

As a side note, this topic was the basis of famous scene in the West Wing >>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVX-PrBRtTY>

Cheers,

Jonathan Ball

Mātanga Tātai Wāhi Mātāmua / Principal Geospatial Specialist

Products and Services Value Stream Lead / Location Information

^{s9(2)}(a) [@linz.govt.nz](#)

Wellington Office, Level 7, Radio New Zealand House, 155 The Terrace
PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand
www.linz.govt.nz | data.linz.govt.nz



UNCLASSIFIED

From: HAWKSWORTH, Allie (UNHC) <Allie.Hawksworth@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 4 September 2026 10:11 am

To: Deborah Frost ^{s9(2)}(a) @linz.govt.nz>

Cc: MCGILLIVRAY, Michelle (UNHC) <Michelle.McGillivray@mfat.govt.nz>; Jonny McKenzie <^{s9(2)(a)}@linz.govt.nz>; Jan Pierce <^{s9(2)(a)}@linz.govt.nz>

Subject: LINZ views: UN General Assembly Resolution regarding "Correct the Map" initiative - today, Friday 4 Sept [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from allie.hawksworth@mfat.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Deborah!

Nice to be in touch – I'm Allie from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working in our United Nations team.

Would you have any time for a short catch-up call today? I have set out the context below, which might help to figure out who at LINZ this might sit with. I am working to a short timeframe (COP today), so grateful for your advice on a relevant contact for a call as soon as is possible this morning ☺

UN Resolutions in general

At the United Nations in New York, we often have to consider 'resolutions' – texts proposed by UN member states, which we then take a voting position on. These resolutions are legally non-binding, ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}

"Correct the Map" resolution – to reach a final decision by COP today

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) will take a vote on a resolution later today New York time which is titled *"Correct the map": rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world's regions, particularly Africa*.

This resolution, tabled by Togo on behalf of the African Union, seeks to promote "more accurate and equitable global cartographic representation" by addressing what it calls historical distortions in widely used map projections, particularly the Mercator projection, which it argues understates the relative size of Africa and other regions near the equator. It encourages the use of the Equal Earth and other equal-area map projections, developing international cartographic standards, and improving awareness about map projection biases. It requests the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the resolution, through existing reporting mechanisms and within existing resources, and places the issue as an item in the provisional agenda of the 83rd session of the GA (in 2028/29).

Recommended voting position

Our recommendation is that we vote **in favour of this resolution**,^{s6(a)}

We note from LINZ' website that NZ uses neither Mercator nor Equal Earth (we use NZTM2000).^{s6(a)}

As such, we do not assess that voting yes would impact on LINZ' operating environment nor require any change to NZ use of NZTM2000.

As above, **grateful if we could please jump on a call today to quickly discuss.**

Kind regards,

Allie Hawksworth (she/her)

Policy Officer

Te Whiri Tuatini | United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
Manatū Aorere | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

M^{s9(2)(a)}

E allie.hawksworth@mfat.govt.nz

55 Molesworth Street, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

From: [UNHC](#)
To: [NEW YORK](#); [UNHC](#)
Cc: [DS MLG](#); [LGL](#); [GENEVA](#); [HGD](#); [OCE](#); [CEO](#); [SSEA](#); [PARIS](#); [DPP](#); [DEVPP](#); [MEA](#)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS - DRAFT DECISIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2026 [SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]
Date: Friday, 4 September 2026 4:12:29 pm
Attachments: Out of scope

IN CONFIDENCE

IN-CONFIDENCE

Out of scope

RĀPOPOTO - SUMMARY

With thanks for your participation in negotiations, advice and recommendations, we provide voting instructions for the draft resolutions and decisions scheduled for consideration by the UN General Assembly on Friday 4 September.

HOHENGANGA - ACTION

NYK: Please vote as below.

PŪRONGO - REPORT

Out of scope

"Correct the map": rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world's regions, particularly Africa

4. We confirm that New York should **vote in support of this resolution**. LINZ has confirmed that the resolution is scientifically sound and would not affect use of New Zealand's national projection, NZTM2000. The resolution also recognises that no projection can perfectly flatten a globe, that each projection suits particular purposes, and it explicitly excludes navigation, all of which are consistent with mainstream cartographic practice.

5. s6(a)

6. s6(a)

we confirm that New York should also make an EO, preferably joint with CANZ.

MUTU - ENDS

IN-CONFIDENCE

From: NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 4 September 2026 2:14 pm

To: NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; HGD <DM-HGD@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; SSEA <DM-SSEA@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS - DRAFT DECISIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2026 [SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

IN CONFIDENCE

IN-CONFIDENCE

s6(a)

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

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

3. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

4. s6(a)

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

6. s6(a)

Ends - Mutu

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: NEW YORK

Sent: Wednesday, 2 September 2026 11:10 pm

To: UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; CAE <DM-CAE@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; DPP <DM-DPP@mfat.govt.nz>; SSEA <DM-SSEA@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS - RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ^{Out of scope} 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Attachments – Āpitihanga

- Out of scope
- Draft Resolution: *Correct the Map*
- Out of scope
-
-
-
-

Summary – Rāpopoto

We seek voting instructions for ^{Out of scope} draft resolutions scheduled for consideration by the UN General Assembly on ^{Out of scope} Friday 4 September (EST).

Action – Hohenga

UNHC: ^{Out of scope}

Please provide voting instructions for all other resolutions by **9am 4 September NYK time**.

Report – Pūrongo

The UN General Assembly (GA) will take action on ^{Out of scope} resolutions on ^{Out of scope} Friday 4 September. We seek voting instructions for all resolutions and provide recommendations below.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

“Correct the map”: rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world’s regions, particularly Africa

5 This resolution, tabled by Togo on behalf of the African Union, seeks to promote “more accurate and equitable global cartographic representation” by addressing what it calls historical distortions in widely used map projections, particularly the Mercator

projection, which it argues understates the relative size of Africa and other regions near the equator. It encourages the use of the Equal Earth and other equal-area map projections, developing international cartographic standards, and improving awareness about map projection biases. It requests the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the resolution, through existing reporting mechanisms and within existing resources, and places the issue as an item in the provisional agenda of the 83rd session of the GA (in 2028/29).

6 s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

Post recommends voting in support.

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Ends - Mutu

Released under the Official Information Act 1982