

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 10 June 2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Nicole McKee – March 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0139
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Nicole McKee: Latin America: 1-9 March 2026</i>	

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Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



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 and Hon Nicole McKee – March 2026

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 28 April 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-26-SUB-0139 on his travel, together with Hon Nicole McKee, from 1 to 9 March 2026, to Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile, via Rapa Nui and French Polynesia, to lead a Latin America Mission and attend bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Nicole McKee:
Latin America: 1-9 March 2026**

- 1 We recommend that Cabinet note this report on our Latin America Mission to Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Chile, via Rapa Nui and French Polynesia, with a cross-parliamentary, business and media delegation, from 1-9 March 2026 on an NZDF Boeing 757.

Report

- 2 All objectives for our Latin America Mission were met, which included to:
 - Reaffirm the importance New Zealand attaches to our partnerships in Latin America and promote New Zealand's value proposition to the region.
 - Engage influential Latin American partners with a view to sharing insights, advancing our common interests, and further broadening and shoring-up New Zealand's network of partnerships.
 - Support the goal of doubling New Zealand's export value by 2035, including by showcasing and supporting New Zealand businesses in market.
- 3 The visit to French Polynesia provided an opportunity to engage with the French State and the Government of French Polynesia on bilateral and regional interests.
- 4 We were accompanied by a cross-party delegation, which helped demonstrate the bipartisan importance New Zealand attaches to the region. The delegation included: Minister for Courts, Nicole McKee; Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee, Tim van de Molen; Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Carmel Sepuloni; and Opposition Trade Spokesperson, Damien O'Connor.
- 5 The delegation also included New Zealand business representatives, our Special Agriculture Trade Envoy, the Deputy Chief Executive of Universities New Zealand, and the Executive Officer of the Latin America-New Zealand Business Council.
- 6 The Mission's first stop was in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which is going through a time of change and cautious optimism in response to the economic reforms of President Javier Milei. We met with President Milei, Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno, senior officials in the Milei Administration, and the Argentina-New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group. We also spoke at a business breakfast where New Zealand businesses (Zelandez, Gallagher Security, Tait Communications) announced partnerships in Argentina. We hosted a New Zealand-Argentina friendship lunch, where the delegation had the opportunity to meet a broad range of senior local stakeholders, including Foreign Minister Quirno.
- 7 In Montevideo, Uruguay, the Mission programme included meetings with President Yamandú Orsi, Vice President (and President of the Senate) Carolina Cosse, Foreign

Minister Mario Lubetkin, and the Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group led by President of the Chamber of Representatives Rodrigo Goñi. Uruguay is one of our most likeminded partners in the region, as evidenced by the two joint statements Minister Peters signed with his counterpart Minister Lubetkin: one on Antarctica, and the other on key foreign policy issues. The programme also included a friendship dinner with key stakeholders, a business breakfast, and a visit to an Uruguay free trade zone.

- 8 ^{s6(a)} Brazil has the largest economy in Latin America and is a geopolitical heavyweight, having hosted the G20, COP30 and BRICS summits recently. We met with Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, President Lula's Chief Foreign Policy Adviser Celso Amorim, Acting Education Minister Leonardo Barchini, and Deputy Trade Minister Márcio Elias Rosa. There was an education and alumni event, an NZTE "Accelerate Brazil" business roundtable and Innovation Showcase, and a reception, where a keynote speech on New Zealand-Latin America relations was delivered. We signed a bilateral Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement, an Education Cooperation Arrangement, and letters to confirm the extension of our reciprocal visa waiver agreements to diplomats.
- 9 The visit to Santiago, Chile took place in the final week of Chilean President Boric's left-wing administration, following right-wing President Kast's landslide victory in December 2025. The programme included a farewell call with Foreign Minister van Klaveren, and an informal reception with various friends of New Zealand across political, business and alumni networks.
- 10 The next stop was in Rapa Nui, marking the first time a New Zealand Minister had visited in more than 20 years. The visit allowed us to renew ties and highlight our Pacific connections. The programme included a lunch with institutional and traditional authorities, where we announced a four-week English-language and tourism training programme for Rapa Nui tourism professionals.
- 11 The Mission also stopped in French Polynesia on the return journey. This visit helped to promote and reinforce New Zealand's bilateral and regional interests with French Polynesia and France in meetings with President Brotherson, who also has responsibility for the territory's relations with the Pacific Islands Forum, and French High Commissioner Rochatte.

Proactive release

- 12 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released in line with Cabinet Office Circular CO(18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

- 13 We recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs