



Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

Minute of Decision

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The Pacific Reset: The First Year

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 4 December 2018, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee:

- 1 **noted** the continuing importance of the Pacific Reset in advancing New Zealand's goal of a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific, given the scale and complexity of the challenges facing the region;
- 2 **noted** the progress made against the different elements of the Pacific Reset over 2018, and the priority areas of effort over the next twelve months, as outlined in the paper under ERS-18-SUB-0028;
- 3 **agreed** that the increased tempo of activity in the Pacific under the Pacific Reset should be considered the new normal for New Zealand's regional engagement;
- 4 **noted** the importance of respectful relationships between the Pacific Island countries and New Zealand, and that opportunities will be identified as appropriate for New Zealand parliamentarians to undertake relevant visits to the region in the interests of New Zealand's refreshed approach to the Pacific;
- 5 **noted** that a further omnibus report on the implementation of the Pacific Reset will be submitted to Cabinet before the end of 2019.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Ron Mark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Defence

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair,
Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS)

The Pacific Reset: the first year

Proposal

1. This paper provides for Cabinet consideration a report-back on implementation of New Zealand's Pacific Reset.

Executive Summary

2. Over 2018, the scale and complexity of the challenges facing the Pacific Islands region has continued to increase, including heightened strategic competition, climate change, economic fragility and pressing human development issue. New Zealand's lift in engagement under the Pacific Reset, has built a foundation from which to secure and advance our interests.

3. The Reset has delivered results. New Zealand is positioning itself to generate creative solutions to challenges and to work in partnership in the region and beyond to advance these. The core message that New Zealand is a partner, and not just a donor, has resonated in the region and enabled frank conversations about policy priorities and challenges, including with the Pacific Realm countries. Progress has been made, but significant further effort is required over 2019 to embed and sustain the momentum.

4. Improved alignment between domestic and international policy is delivering better outcomes on issues as diverse as pension portability, adoptions and healthcare. New Zealand has also lifted the capacity of Pacific countries and regional institutions to tackle key challenges, underpinned by new development funding enabling additional investment in the well-being, prosperity and security of the region and its people.

5. In a challenging s6(a) environment, New Zealand has also lifted coordination with Australia, encouraged greater engagement from other s6(a) partners in a way that supports New Zealand's and regional interests, s6(a) s6(a)

6. This represents the beginning of our cross-government effort. The pace of investment will increase over 2019, and an increased tempo of delivery will become the new normal.

Background

7. In February, Cabinet agreed (CAB-18-MIN-0054) that the Government should take a refreshed approach to the Pacific Islands region, given the scale of the challenges the region faces, s6(a)

s6(a) Cabinet agreed that this refreshed approach would include the following elements:

- Building deeper, more mature political partnerships with Pacific Island countries, including by reinvesting in leadership diplomacy in the Pacific;
- Ensuring New Zealand Government decision-making on domestic policies considers the implications for the Pacific Islands region;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of Pacific regional organisations to better respond to shared challenges;
- Applying five key principles of engagement to New Zealand agencies' activities in the Pacific: Understanding; Friendship; Mutual Benefit; Collective Ambition; and Sustainability; and

s6(a)

8. Cabinet directed that a report-back on this refreshed approach be provided by the end of 2018. Cabinet also noted the associated increase to New Zealand's official development assistance (ODA) programme proposed as part of Budget 2018. In March, the refreshed approach agreed by Cabinet was publicly announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs as New Zealand's Pacific Reset, and in May the Government announced additional ODA funding of NZ\$714 million over four years.

Comment

9. **The regional outlook.** Since February, strategic competition in the region has become even more apparent. s6(a)

At the same time, the many other challenges facing the region - including climate change, economic fragility, and human development - are pressing and in some cases worsening.

10. This paper summarises outcomes from the first year of the Reset across the broad remit of New Zealand agency engagement, and highlights upcoming priorities. Four annexes provide: detail on specific outcomes over 2018; case studies of the Reset principles in action; s6(a)

s6(a) and details of New Zealand's expanded Pacific diplomatic footprint. The paper proposes that the increased tempo of activity and scale of effort in the Pacific Islands region under the Reset should be considered the new normal.

What has the Reset achieved: an overview

11. By setting the imperative to lift our strategic ambition and investment in the Pacific, the Reset has sharpened the focus on both what New Zealand does in the Pacific, and how it operates. Coordinated effort across the constituent elements of the Reset has contributed to New Zealand's long-term goal of a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific.

12. The Reset has helped shift regional attitudes about New Zealand's focus on and commitment to the Pacific. The emphasis on partnership and the undertaking to do more to tackle the region's many pressing challenges has been received positively. s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

13. New Zealand's fundamental interests in the region mean that, even without the Reset, agencies would be engaged in a broad range of activities in the Pacific. What is new, however, is the clear mandate for agencies to test assumptions, explore innovative approaches to complex issues, and seek greater coherence between domestic and international policy. With over 30 agencies active in the Pacific, the Reset is a true NZ Inc enterprise, and there has been a broad and positive response from agencies. Sustaining an NZ Inc approach is essential, given the cross-cutting nature of the challenges confronting the region.

14. Telling the story of the Reset is an important aspect of building support for the Government's investment in the Pacific. More can be done, and a range of Pacific Reset focused communications material will be developed to support engagement with stakeholders in New Zealand and the region.

Building deeper partnerships in support of our objectives

15. **Investing in leadership diplomacy.** Building and harnessing deeper partnerships with Pacific Island countries is at the heart of the Reset. An increased frequency of Prime Ministerial and Ministerial travel into the region over 2018 has helped grow more mature political relationships that have enabled frank discussion of bilateral and regional policy issues. This includes travel by Ministers representing a diverse range of domestic portfolios with Pacific linkages, supported by increased senior officials' engagement.

16. New Zealand has also hosted a number of senior political representatives from across the region. These visits reinforce to Pacific visitors the social, cultural and people-to-people connections between New Zealand and the Pacific. s6(a)

s6(a)

17. Our leadership diplomacy efforts have been welcomed in the region, and have for the most part confirmed a reciprocal interest in having frank discussions on regional challenges and opportunities. The Reset has also enabled a more ambitious approach to New Zealand's bilateral relationships. We are moving away from the donor/recipient dynamic, with dialogue now more strategic in nature, covering development, bilateral and regional policy issues. s6(a)

s6(a)

18. **A deeper partnership with the Pacific Realm.** New Zealand is prioritising its relationships with the three Realm countries of Tokelau, Cook Islands and Niue, in line with our unique constitutional relationships. s6(a), s7(a)

s6(a), s7(a)

19. Cabinet recently agreed (CAB-18-MIN-0537) to the establishment of a Pacific Realm Policy Framework; renewal of the 2003 Cabinet mandate on New Zealand's constitutional obligations and extension of this to the Cook Islands; work on new funding arrangements to facilitate engagement with the Realm countries; and a stocktake of existing agency activity. Taken together, these initiatives will help lift the quality and consistency of our engagement with, and support for, the Realm countries.

20. **Partnerships beyond government.** Ministers and officials have also deepened connections with a broader set of Pacific stakeholders. This reflects the importance of New Zealand's Pacific peoples and their perspectives, as well as the expertise of other partners. This has included establishing a new approach to partnering with and funding non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to more effectively deliver on development priorities; a programme of Pacific-focused dialogue with Pasifika community organisations, the private sector, academic and student bodies, NGOs and civil society organisations; and engaging with the Pacific Reset Group, convened by the Council for International Development.

21. *Looking ahead: upcoming priorities include:*

- Setting an ambitious calendar for 2019/20 of Ministerial engagement in the region across a range of portfolios, and inwards visits from Pacific leaders and ministers;
- Staffing the newly announced Pacific diplomatic and development positions;
- Completing the stocktake of agency engagement with the Pacific Realm countries and developing advice on new Pacific Realm funding arrangements; and
- High level participation in the 2019 Pacific Mission to Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (June) and the Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu (August).

Improving connectivity between domestic and international policy

22. New Zealand's Pasifika communities, and the movement of people across the region, means that Pacific policy is at the intersection between the domestic and the international. The Reset has prioritised greater coherence and connectivity between the two. Key elements of the Reset are increasingly reflected across agencies' respective strategic frameworks and policy documents as these are reviewed and refreshed. There are opportunities to further strengthen this strategic alignment across agencies.

23. **Improving policy outcomes.** Inter-agency efforts have focused on addressing policy issues with both domestic and regional implications. Examples include improving pension portability for Realm country residents; improving the management of criminal deportations from New Zealand to Polynesia; a focus on adoptions from Polynesia and associated children's welfare issues; seeking better Pacific health outcomes through greater alignment between health sector stakeholders; and ensuring Pacific interests are reflected in New Zealand's new international visitor levy.

24. **Pacific peoples, culture and heritage.** The Reset also focuses on the domestic and international dimensions of Pacific culture, heritage and language. At the centre of this is the recently launched Pacific Vision for Pacific peoples in Aotearoa¹, accompanied by the Lalanga Fou report which identifies four goals for achieving the vision: thriving Pacific languages, cultures and identities; prosperous Pacific communities; resilient and healthy Pacific peoples; and confident, thriving and resilient Pacific young people. Other initiatives in 2018 have included additional funding for Pacific broadcasting and

¹ "Pacific values are our anchor, with each generation weaving the foundations for the next to stand on. Pacific communities are innovative leaders within Aotearoa, the Pacific region and the world. We are confident in our endeavours, we are a thriving, resilient and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa."

journalism; and New Zealand support for the Oceania Exhibition at the Royal Academy in London, which showcased taonga and culture from 23 Pacific nations on the world stage. Across all of these activities, Pasifika Ministers and Members of Parliament play a critical role in advancing New Zealand's objectives, and highlighting our place in and of the Pacific.

25. Looking ahead: upcoming priorities include:

- Advancing the Pacific Aotearoa vision;
- Intensified cross-agency activity on priority policy issues, including pension portability, labour mobility, criminal deportations, adoptions and healthcare;
- Supporting delivery of the 2019 Oceania Exhibition in Paris; and
- Advancing options for strengthening the use of Pacific languages.

Promoting and supporting Pacific regionalism and collective action

26. **Supporting regionalism.** Advancing collective solutions to shared challenges in the Pacific requires effective institutions that can convert political will into action. s6(a)
s6(a)

New Zealand has focused on facilitating regional engagement; lifting regional capacity to tackle priority challenges, and investing our own time and energy demonstrating New Zealand's commitment to regionalism.

27. **Addressing regional security.** New Zealand played a leading role advancing the new Regional Security Declaration - the Boe Declaration². Agencies have also increased Pacific capacity-building and technical assistance activities. The priority accorded to the Pacific by the Defence Force was highlighted in the July 2018 Strategic Defence Policy Statement. s6(a)

28. **Supporting Pacific leadership on climate change.** New Zealand has continued to support Pacific countries' access to global climate finance, worked to advance shared priorities in multilateral negotiations, and bolstered Pacific capacity to participate in international climate change fora. Progress has been made advancing the Action Plan for Pacific Climate Change-related Displacement and Migration agreed by Cabinet in May (ENV-18-MIN-0013), including preparation for a regional dialogue on climate migration. New Zealand is focused on increasing Pacific Island countries' resilience to natural hazards and better managing the economic, environmental and social implications of climate change. This effort is underpinned by increased funding for climate-related support, and is aligned with New Zealand's domestic climate change work programme.

29. Looking ahead: upcoming priorities include:

- Delivering a significant new investment in key Pacific regional agencies;
- Supporting implementation of the Boe Declaration, through a refreshed regional security approach s6(a)
- Supporting Pacific leadership on climate change at the December COP 24 in Poland; convening Pacific and international leaders, policy makers and experts at the December Wilton Park conference on Pacific climate change in the UK; and

s6(a)

² In September 2018 Pacific Island Forum leaders endorsed the Boe Declaration on regional security, which sets out an expanded concept of security, including human security; environmental and resource security; transnational crime; and cybersecurity.

s6(a)

34. Looking ahead: upcoming priorities include:

- A priority focus on Pacific issues during the 2019 Prime Ministers' and Foreign Ministers' meetings with Australia, and increased policy and operational coordination;

s6(a)

- Lifting Pacific-focused engagement s6(a)

s6(a)

The expanded Pacific development programme

35. New Zealand's increased ODA budget is a critical enabler of the Pacific Reset, allowing additional investment in the well-being, prosperity and security of the region.

s6(a)

The Reset identified the following thematic priorities, key activities under which have included:

- **Climate Change:** announcement of a refreshed climate finance commitment of NZ\$300m over four years; progress on climate change-related infrastructure and

risk-reduction projects; increased support for Pacific disaster preparedness; responding to invasive alien species linked to climate change.

- **Economic Resilience:** ratification of PACER Plus s6(a) s6(a) new labour mobility initiatives; a programme of infrastructure and ICT activities; increased market access support; new disaster resilience initiatives; expanded economic governance activities; and fisheries sector support.
- **Education and Health:** aligning New Zealand's scholarships offering with the Reset; new education initiatives in distance and flexible learning, and improving regional recognition of qualifications; health initiatives addressing non-communicable diseases, newborn mortality and childhood stunting; and improving access to essential pharmaceuticals.
- **Human Rights and Gender:** additional funding for the development and strengthening of national human rights institutions; research into the intersection of trade, inclusivity and gender in the Pacific; developing options for supporting women's economic and political empowerment.
- **Governance:** A new policy framework to inform increased governance investment; new support for electoral processes in Vanuatu, Tonga and Nauru; judicial support in Vanuatu; plans for New Zealand to host in 2019 the Pacific Parliamentary Forum and the Pacific Public Service Commissioners Conference.

36. A new Strategic International Development Fund (SIDF) has been created, with \$180 million over three years. This fund provides greater flexibility to address challenges as they emerge. In alignment with New Zealand's development policy³, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SIDF will fund a pipeline of new initiatives across all thematic priorities, building on the activities highlighted above.

Tracking progress and next steps

37. As this paper identifies, the Pacific Reset comprises multiple workstreams, a number of which have existing reporting requirements either to Cabinet or to relevant portfolio Ministers. Key reporting steps over the next twelve months include:

- Reports on the stocktake of agency engagement with the Pacific Realm countries, and on new Pacific Realm funding arrangements (by February);

s6(a)

Consultation

38. The following departments and agencies have been consulted in the development of this paper: Treasury; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the National Security Group, the National Assessment Bureau); Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Transport; Ministry for Primary Industries; Ministry for the Environment; Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; Inland Revenue Department; Ministry of Defence; Ministry for Pacific Peoples; Ministry of Culture and Heritage; New Zealand Police; New Zealand Customs Service; New Zealand Defence Force; New Zealand Security Intelligence

³ A new Policy Statement on New Zealand's International Cooperation for Sustainable Development is currently under development, for Cabinet consideration in 2019. This will set the Government's approach to and priorities for aid and other contributions to international sustainable development.

Service; Government Communications Security Bureau; Maritime New Zealand; Department of Conservation; Department of Corrections; Statistics New Zealand; Office of the Auditor General; Office of the Ombudsman; and the Electoral Commission.

Financial Implications

39. There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

Legislative Implications

40. There are no legislative implications associated with this paper.

Impact analysis

41. A Regulatory Impact Analysis is not required as a result of this paper.

Human rights

42. This paper does not require a human rights implications statement.

Gender implications

43. This paper does not require a gender implications statement.

Disability perspective

44. This paper does not require statement on disability perspective.

Publicity

45. Officials will develop communications material to highlight achievements under the Pacific Reset, and how these support New Zealand's prosperity and security.

Proactive Release

46. This paper will be proactively released with the appropriate redactions.

Recommendations

47. The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Committee:

1. **Note** the continuing importance of the Reset in advancing New Zealand's goal of a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific, given the scale and complexity of the challenges facing the region;
2. **Note** the progress made against the different elements of the Reset over 2018, and the priority areas of effort over the next twelve months;
3. **Agree** that the increased tempo of activity in the Pacific under the Reset should be considered the new normal for New Zealand's regional engagement; and

4. **Note** that a further omnibus report on implementation of the Pacific Reset should be provided before the end of 2019.

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Pacific Reset Report-Back: Annex 1: Summary of key outcomes and developments over 2018

s6(a)

Building deeper partnerships in support of our objectives

Leadership diplomacy

- A successful Pacific Mission (Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Pacific Peoples, and Minister for Social Development) in March to Tonga, Samoa, Niue and Cook Islands demonstrated New Zealand focus on key bilateral relationships; deepened connections between New Zealand and Pasifika business, community and NGO leaders; and highlighted New Zealand's support following Tropical Cyclone Gita. Representation by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister at the Pacific Islands Forum in Nauru in September, and at the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in November, further highlighted New Zealand increased ambition and investment in the region under the Reset.
- Other outward Ministerial visits, both for regional meetings, and to advance bilateral relationships, have included:
 - Deputy Prime Minister Peters to: New Caledonia in May; the Forum Foreign Ministers' meeting in Samoa in August; Vanuatu in August;
 - Minister Parker to the APEC Ministerial Meeting on November;
 - Minister Robertson to the APEC Finance Ministers' meeting in Papua new Guinea in October;
 - Minister Faafoi to Tokelau in October, focused on disaster risk management (the first Ministerial visit since 2004);
 - Minister Sepuloni to the UK for the launch of the Oceania exhibition in October;
 - Minister Nash to the Forum Fisheries Ministers meeting in Rarotonga in July (the first Ministerial engagement at this meeting since 2009);
 - Minister Shaw to New Caledonia in May; Fiji in July for the Climate Action Pacific Partnership conference;
 - Minister Whaitiri to Fiji in April for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific;
 - Minister Salesa to the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Meeting in Fiji in February; and
 - Parliamentary Under-Secretary Tabuteau to: Tahiti in March; Palau in April; Papua New Guinea in May; Vanuatu in August.
- Inwards visits from a broad range of Pacific Leaders and Ministers, including from Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu
- Bilateral cross-agency policy consultations (held with Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tokelau, French Polynesia) have enabled progress on priority issues, and advanced our objective of more mature political relationships. Consultations with the Pacific Islands Forum in March enabled early engagement with Secretary-General Dame Meg Taylor on the Reset. Increased cross-agency senior officials' engagement with Pacific counterparts – including hosting visits in New Zealand – has reinforced New Zealand's network of relationships in the Pacific, and advanced specific policy and operational priorities.

Relationship policy settings

- An additional fourteen New Zealand diplomatic and development positions have been created, comprising ten positions at Pacific posts, and four positions outside the region in significant capitals focused on development policy and engagement on the Pacific.
- Cabinet endorsed a refreshed approach to the Pacific Realm (-CAB-18-MIN-0537), including a new Policy Framework to guide New Zealand's engagement with the Pacific Realm countries; renewal of the 2003 Cabinet mandate on New Zealand's constitutional obligations and extension to Cook Islands; work on new arrangements for agencies' engagement with Realm countries; and a stocktake of agencies' work in Realm countries. Appointment of a new Administrator for Tokelau has supported a re-energised relationship with Tokelau's leadership; a new Joint Cooperation Plan has been agreed with French Polynesia; and the relationship with Tuvalu will be supported by an increased in-country presence by the (NZ-based) New Zealand High Commissioner.

Stakeholder relationships

- Establishment of a new, more collaborative approach to partnering with and funding non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to more effectively deliver on the Reset, strengthen in-country civil society, and provide efficiencies in the delivery of development assistance. Ministers and officials have broadened Pacific-focused engagement with the private sector, academia, and NGOs/CSOs, deepening our network of contacts, especially in Auckland. This has included engagement with the Pacific Reset Group, convened by the Council for International Development, and including Pasifika community, NGO, and academic representatives, who meet quarterly with Parliamentary Under-Secretary Tabuteau and officials and provide feedback on Reset implementation and prioritisation.

Improving coherence and connectivity between domestic and international policy

Strategic alignment

- As agencies review and update their respective strategic frameworks and policy documents, the key elements of the Pacific Reset and its underpinning principles have increasingly been integrated. Key examples include:
 - The Strategic Defence Policy statement (which elevates Pacific operations to the same level of priority as New Zealand's sovereign territory);
 - Immigration New Zealand's Pacific Cooperation Framework;
 - The Department of Conservation's draft Pacific Strategy (which incorporates the five Reset principles, and sets out objectives and specific actions that flow from the Reset);
 - The Ministry of Education's International Education Strategy;
 - The Pacific Cooperation Foundation's refreshed 5 Year Strategy (which aligns strongly with the Pacific Reset and will promote regional collaboration); and
 - Development of a Pacific Framework Compendium of all key long term strategic and high policy documents to help improve the coherence and impact all agencies' work in the Pacific.

Pacific Reset Report-Back: Annex 1: Summary of key outcomes and developments over 2018 - continued

Improving policy outcomes: case studies

- Over 2018, there has been significant inter-agency effort advancing Pacific policy issues with both domestic and regional implications. Key examples include:
 - Changes to eligibility requirements allowing residency within the Pacific Realm countries to count towards the '5 years after 50' criteria for access to New Zealand superannuation were announced during the March Pacific Mission, and implementing legislation is being advanced;
 - Advice to Government on the implications for the Pacific of the new International Visitor Levy considered unique Pacific equities, including options for minimising the economic impact on the region. Cabinet agreed with the proposal that residents of Forum Island countries be exempt from the levy on the basis of a disproportionate impact on Pacific peoples, and the nature of our people to people relationships;
 - An unintended consequence of the new Auckland Regional Fuel Tax was the levying of tax on fuel exported from Auckland to a large number of Pacific Island countries; this was resolved through revised regulations that provided an exemption to the fuel in question, and a rebate of tax already paid;
 - Better management of criminal deportations from New Zealand to Polynesia has been the subject of greater focus by agencies, given the implications for Pacific security and the need for regional information-sharing to support reintegration. The issue of criminal deportees has also been raised with Australia and the United States, given the impact of their respective criminal deportations to the Pacific;
 - Adoptions from Polynesia (particularly Samoa and Tonga) and related child welfare issues have also been a priority focus, with the development of options for strengthening consideration of children's well-being as part of the adoption processes, and improving engagement with Pacific Island governments; and
 - The October Health Corridors event brought together health sector stakeholder from across Polynesia and New Zealand to identify how New Zealand can better support Pacific health outcomes through partnerships between institutions, government departments and individuals.

Pacific peoples, culture and heritage

- The Ministry for Pacific Peoples has engaged widely with Pacific communities over 2018 to inform the new Pacific Vision for Pacific peoples in Aotearoa, launched in November. The accompanying Lalanga Fou report identifies four goals for achieving the vision: thriving Pacific languages, cultures and identities; prosperous Pacific communities; resilient and healthy Pacific peoples; and confident, thriving and resilient Pacific young people.
- New Zealand was the driving force behind the cultural inclusiveness of the Oceania Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, which opened in September. Oceania showcased Pacific taonga and culture from 23 Pacific nations, and provided a platform for a broad range of associated events highlighting the contemporary challenges facing the Pacific, raising the profile of the Pacific and the Pacific Reset.
- Additional funding (\$10 million) for Pacific broadcasting and journalism was announced in September, including a dedicated channel to improve access to Pasifika TV content and increased training and capacity building in content production and broadcasting. This investment supports press freedom and quality in the Pacific and reinforces New Zealand's social and cultural linkages into the region.
- The Ministry of Culture and Heritage is advancing a range of cultural and historical initiatives, including: Tuia Encounters 250 (marking 250 years since the first sustained meetings between Māori and Europeans and Pacific); the 100th anniversary of the influenza pandemic in New Zealand and Samoa; the Pacific Island Memorial within the Pukeahu National War Memorial; and a project with New Zealand museums to identify human remains that can be repatriated to their source communities in the Pacific, New Zealand or overseas.
- Inter-agency work is underway to assess the cultural implications of climate change, and identify possible steps to support cultural resilience in the Pacific over the long term.

Promoting and supporting Pacific regionalism and collective action

Enhancing Pacific regionalism

- New Zealand has lifted its engagement and helped facilitate Pacific Island countries' participation across regional Ministerial and Senior Officials' meetings that consider collective responses to the challenges facing the region. A range of agencies have played a significant role working in partnership with and supporting Pacific regional agencies to promote and advance regionalism, including SPREP (Department of Conservation); OCO (Customs); PIDC (Immigration NZ); PICP (Police), and the Intergovernmental Coordination Group of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System (Civil Defence and Emergency Management).
- Options for a significant investment in Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies have been prepared, aimed at: increasing New Zealand's regional influence and ability to protect rules-based systems and counter external influence; scaling up the delivery of development activities; and strengthening regional agencies' sustainability, governance and leadership. New Zealand has also supported the establishment of the new Pacific Islands Forum Working Group on Advocacy and Engagement, which refines priority issues for regional and international advocacy and leverages shared resources and expertise amongst Forum members.

Addressing regional security

- New Zealand played a key role advancing the new Regional Security Declaration (the Boe Declaration) endorsed in September. The Declaration aligns with New Zealand's interests by articulating an expanded concept of security, securing Forum Leaders' commitment to strengthen regional security architecture, and giving prominence to climate change as a key threat to the livelihoods and well-being of Pacific people. Significant progress has been made on a refreshed New Zealand approach to regional security, intended to align with and support implementation of the Boe Declaration. s6(a)
- Security sector agencies have lifted the tempo of their regional and bilateral capacity-building and technical assistance activities in the Pacific, including activities delivered under the Pacific ODA programme. s6(a)

Supporting Pacific action and leadership on climate change

- New Zealand has continued to work closely with Pacific Island countries in the context of multilateral climate negotiations, advocate for Pacific access to sources of global climate finance, and build Pacific capacity to participate in international climate change fora. New Zealand supported Pacific Island participation at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bonn; regional climate change conferences; and in the negotiation of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy at the International Maritime Organisation. Minister Shaw attended the Climate Action Pacific Partnership conference in Suva in July in support of Fiji's regional leadership role on climate action. New Zealand is supporting Pacific leadership at the upcoming COP24 event in Poland and December through provision of funding for Fiji to host the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion, which will host various events, predominantly initiated by Pacific Island stakeholders, as well as the New Zealand government and other partners, under the umbrella of the COP23 Presidency.

Pacific Reset Report-Back: Annex 1: Summary of key outcomes and developments over 2018 - continued

- Cabinet in May agreed on an Action Plan for Pacific climate change-related displacement and migration, aimed at taking early, calibrated and transparent action on Pacific climate migration underpinned by core values under the Pacific Reset (ENV-18-MIN-0013). Key elements of this include: utilising ODA to avert and delay climate-related displacement and prepare for climate migration; facilitating a regional dialogue and exploring a regional instrument through the Pacific Islands Forum; strengthening international language and frameworks; developing international law to protect Pacific Island countries’ coastal state rights; and commissioning robust research to better understand future trends as well as social and economic impacts.
- In partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum and the UK, New Zealand has led preparation for the 16-18 December Wilton Park conference on Pacific Climate Change. The Conference will bring together approximately 60 Pacific and international leaders, policy makers, experts, practitioners, academics and civil society representatives to amplify Pacific voices and highlight Pacific climate change priorities. Minister Shaw will attend.
- Work in partnership with the Department of Conservation, Crown Research Institutes, and Pacific stakeholders on a region-wide approach to manage invasive species, including DOC’s hosting of the “Pacific Invasives Partnership” (PIP) in July 2018, bringing together invasive species experts from the wider Pacific region, Australia, the US and New Zealand.
- Other initiatives have included: a climate-focused Pacific and Australasian conference “Holding Governments to Account in a Changing Climate” hosted by Chief Ombudsman in November; the Ministry of Transport’s partnering with Pacific countries to enable them to participate in the Carbon Offsetting Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, and meet monitoring, reporting and verification obligations; and joint New Zealand and Australian support to bolster the capacity of the Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner (OPOC) through the recruitment of additional staff.

s6(a)

The expanded Pacific Development Programme

Climate change

- In addition to supporting Pacific regional and international action on climate change (see next section), climate-related development activities have included:
 - Announcement in September of New Zealand’s refreshed climate finance commitment of NZ\$300m over four years, within the framework of a Pacific and Development Climate Action Plan that aims to: ensure 50% of climate related funding focuses on adaptation initiatives; continue engagement with the region on Pacific-led solutions to climate financing; and mainstream climate change and disaster resilience across the aid programme, with a proportion of earmarked funding targeted at principal climate change activity;
 - Development of a programme of principal climate change activities (including climate-related oceans work) to complement other climate-related activity already underway or planned;
 - Advancing a range of climate-related infrastructure and risk-reduction projects in the Pacific, including technical studies on Tokelau’s coastal resilience; construction of climate change-resilient wharves and channels in Tokelau; and incorporating climate change-resilience measures in the Solomon Islands provincial airfield upgrade project;

Pacific Reset Report-Back: Annex 1: Summary of key outcomes and developments over 2018 - continued

- Work in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to advance risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery across s6(a) Pacific countries (Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga), focused on technical advisory and policy support, consultancy services, equipment and maintenance. Specific activities have included installation of new generators, radio networks and weather stations; public awareness campaigns; national exercises; and legislative drafting support. A network of Pacific National Disaster Management Offices has strengthened regional relationships and risk management arrangements.

Economic resilience

- Bolstering the long-term economic resilience and self-reliance of Pacific Island countries has comprised of four broad areas of effort: (1) addressing exposure to shocks and managing key risks; (2) investing in sources of sustainable private sector growth; (3) increasing sources of high quality development finance; and (3) enabling good governance and decision-making. Key activities have included:
 - New Zealand's ratification of PACER Plus (making us the first signatory to ratify), and other key PACER Plus-related efforts, including the development and regional consultation of a draft Aid for Trade Strategy; engagement with the private sector and civil society on the PACER Plus Implementation package; and development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for PACER Plus with social and SDG indicators that will give practical effect to the inclusivity component of New Zealand's Trade for All policy;
 - Labour mobility activities, including a Tourism Employment trial, and roll-out of the Fisheries Employment pilot, expanded to include other Pacific countries beyond Kiribati and Tuvalu;
 - Development (with Australia) of a new Pacific market access and export development initiative (A\$40m over 4 years) to help deliver on New Zealand's aid for trade commitments as well as strengthen collaboration with Australia; work with MPI to boost the number of its Pacific-focused staff to better help Pacific Island countries meet New Zealand's biosecurity requirements; and announcement of a new regional trade portal;
 - Disaster financing activities, including scoping a disaster risk insurance initiative for the Pacific, and supporting the development of the Pacific Resilience Facility endorsed by Forum Leaders;
 - A range of infrastructure activities including Pacific ICT infrastructure (including the Manutua Cable connecting Samoa, French Polynesia, Niue and Cook Islands); advancing with Australia the joint rebuild of Tonga's Parliament buildings; support to the Cook Islands on the rectification of the Te Mato Vai water reticulation project; identifying new opportunities with the US for airport and runway upgrades in Niue and Cook Islands;
 - Developing options for economic governance activities in Melanesia, including policy reform-related budget support initiatives, alongside existing economic governance programme in Polynesia and Kiribati.
 - Fisheries support, including initiation of a new traceability project with the Forum Fisheries Agency to support, maintain and enhance market access for Pacific tuna products; support for the Federated States of Micronesia to maximise fisheries returns; support for the Republic of Marshall Islands to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU); the hosting of a Food And Agriculture Organisation (FAO) fisheries and trade workshop in Auckland in June to improving coordination between regional fisheries and trade officials; and the development of options for additional support for Pacific Realm countries in managing their fisheries and broader exclusive economic zone (EEZ) maritime resources.

Health and Education

- Enhanced focus on a range of Pacific regional education priorities, including: improving science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) outcomes at secondary school level; increased access to secondary and tertiary education through open, distance and flexible learning; improving the ability for Pacific people to get their qualifications recognised in New Zealand and regionally for immigration and employment; and additional investment in a range of bilateral education programmes. A review of New Zealand's Scholarships offering for selection 2019 has been completed, improving alignment with Pacific Reset priorities.
- Progress has been made on a range of health initiatives, including: a new collaboration with Australia to address Pacific health security; addressing non-communicable diseases focusing on tobacco control and healthy diets; strengthened primary health care and greater cross-sectoral engagement; a new initiative focused on the first 1000 days of a child's life to address newborn mortality and childhood stunting; hosting health leaders from six Pacific countries for a Polynesia-NZ Health Dialogue; developing new health support programmes in Tonga, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea; and completing a feasibility study to improve access to essential pharmaceuticals.

Human Rights and Gender

- New Zealand has lifted its effort by: providing additional funding to the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) for their work in the Pacific; supporting regional initiatives to improve recognition and respect for the Rights of Women and Girls; supporting an activity to build the capacity and confidence of female political representatives in the Pacific; commissioning research on the intersection of trade, inclusivity and gender in the Pacific; increased officials' participation in a range of regional human rights fora; new work on human rights issues in the Pacific fishing fleet; and development of Pacific Youth Development and Pacific Gender Development Frameworks to provide an analytical base for needs and opportunities.

Governance

- An expanded focus on Pacific Governance has included: development of a new framework focused on four priorities (strengthening democratic institutions; promoting transparency and tackling corruption; improving access to justice; and making governance more inclusive); development of a strategic programme of new governance initiatives; additional support for electoral processes in Vanuatu and Nauru; work with the New Zealand Electoral Commission to develop support for additional Pacific countries, including Tonga; development of a new governance programme in Tokelau; and work underway on increasing our support to the Vanuatu judiciary and expanded support for Pacific parliaments. The Chief Ombudsman has bolstered engagement with Pacific counterparts and leaders over 2018, with visits to Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands, hosting training placements from Tonga, and initiating an e-newsletter "Waka Tangata". In 2019, New Zealand will likely host the Pacific Parliamentary Forum and the Pacific Public Service Commissioners Conference.

Humanitarian response

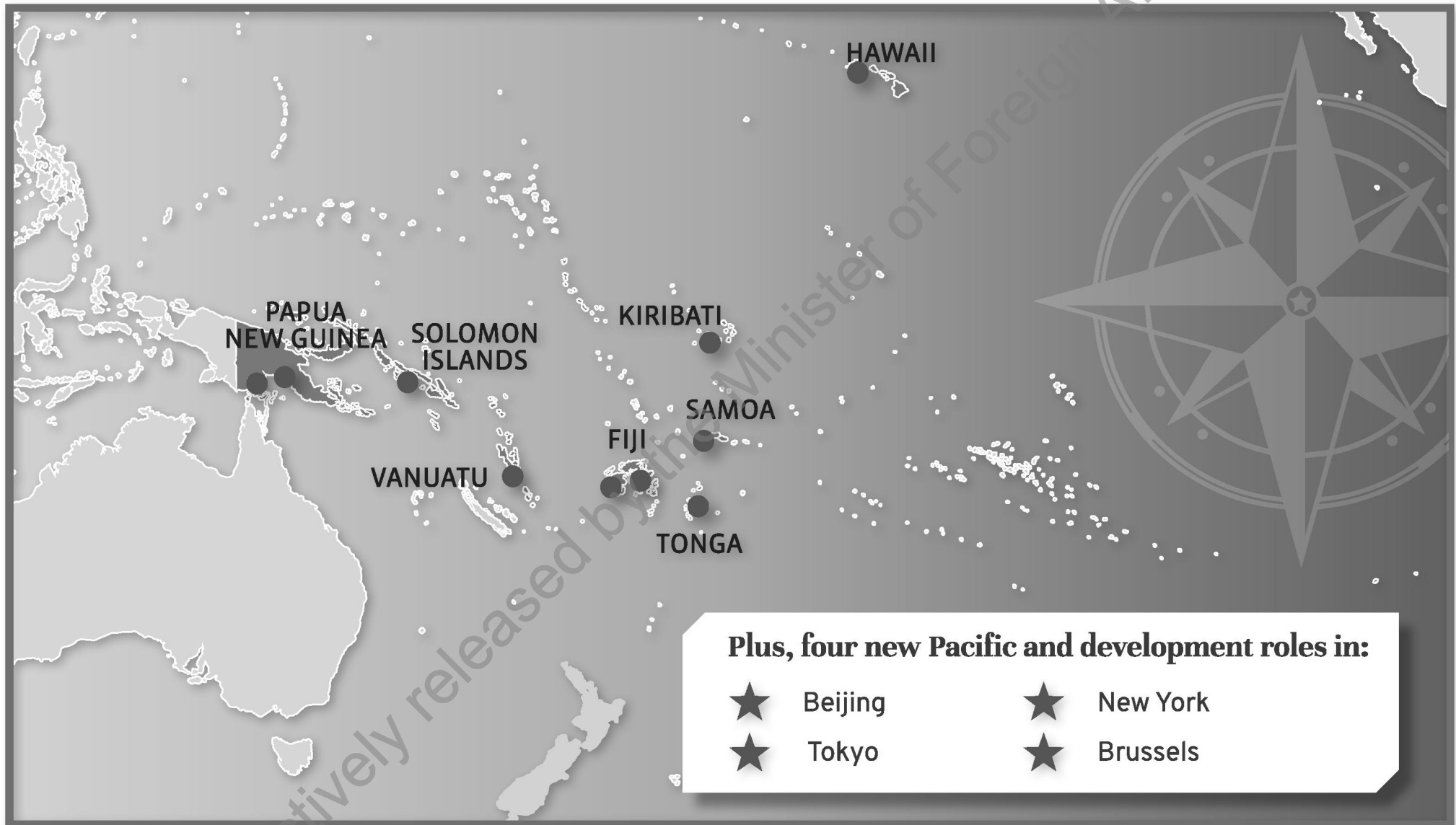
- Significant cross-agency humanitarian responses to series of major events over 2018, including Tropical cyclone Gita in Tonga and Samoa; two major eruptions of the Ambae volcano in Vanuatu; an eruption in Papua New Guinea; and the Papua New Guinea earthquake. A new five year partnership with the New Zealand Red Cross and new partnerships with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and WHO - to increase their ability to respond to emergencies. This includes enhancing Pacific capability to provide emergency medical and sexual and reproductive health services to their citizens, and enhancing the ability of local Red Cross branches to be effective first responders.

Pacific Reset Report-Back: Annex 2: Reset principles in action

The Pacific Reset sets out five principles to guide New Zealand agencies’ activities in the Pacific: Understanding; Friendship; Mutual Benefit; Collective Ambition; and Sustainability. This Annex highlights several case studies of the Reset principles in action over 2018.

<div>Polynesia-New Zealand Health Dialogue</div> <div><p>New Zealand and Polynesia (the Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu), are bound by the existence of what is informally referred to as ‘Health Corridors’- characterised by increasing movement of people between our countries, often seeking advanced healthcare in New Zealand.</p><p>In October, the Ministry of Health, Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade partnered to convene a high-level Polynesia-New Zealand Health Dialogue that brought together health sector leaders and clinicians from across Polynesia, highlighting our collective ambition for a healthier Pacific region.</p><p>The Dialogue, addressed by the Minister for Pacific Peoples, the Associate Minister of Health, and several Health Ministers from Polynesia, focused on the sustainable “building blocks” of health systems: Health Service Delivery; Health Workforce; Essential Medicines; and Leadership and Governance, recognising that the entire health system needs to work in unison and be resilient in order to deliver outcomes.</p><p>Participants highlighted the pressures on health systems and budgets, as well as a strong desire to deepen partnerships with New Zealand and each other to collectively tackle common challenges. The Dialogue identified steps to strengthen partnerships between institutions, individuals, and government departments for improved health in the region, and identified where targeted development assistance and whole of government approaches can deliver mutual benefit and shift the dial for Polynesian health systems.</p></div>	<div>Oceania Exhibition</div> <div><p>As principal partner of the Oceania exhibition, the New Zealand Government played an important role in assisting the Royal Academy of Arts in presenting one of the largest collections of traditional and contemporary Māori, Polynesian and Melanesian art ever displayed in the United Kingdom. This involved partnering with Pacific Island countries and applying New Zealand’s understanding of the significant and sensitive nature of the taonga involved, and ensuring respective tikanga and cultural protocols were observed for the items on display.</p><p>New Zealand’s support for Oceania was also aimed at deepening international understanding of the Pacific – of its history and its future. Associated events showcase the rich diversity of cultures, opportunities, and contemporary challenges in the Pacific.^{s6(a)}</p><p>New Zealand’s contribution required a significant level of collaboration across multiple agencies, including Creative NZ, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Te Papa, Auckland Museums, Auckland Library and Auckland Art Gallery. This was underpinned by a Tikanga reference group established with agency, lending institution, iwi and wider community representatives, focused on ensuring appropriate Māori and Pacific cultural requirements and providing guidance to the Royal Academy.</p></div>
<div>Inter-Country Adoptions</div> <div><p>The greatest number of overseas-born children being adopted by New Zealanders are from Samoa and Tonga. Neither country is a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and many of these adoptions are concluded in the child’s country of birth. New Zealand agencies often have limited oversight of the circumstances and wishes of the adoptive child or the suitability of the adoptive family. While most adoptions are within extended family and are successful, Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children is also coming across situations where adopted children have been at risk ^{s6(a)}</p><p>Oranga Tamariki has led a cross-agency working group (with Immigration New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and Police) focused on identifying and mitigating risks relating to the adoption of foreign children. Working in partnership with New Zealand’s High Commissions in Nuku’alofa and Apia, Oranga Tamariki has established working relationships with counterpart agencies in both countries.^{s6(a)}</p></div>	<div>International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy</div> <div><p>A key element of the Pacific Reset is ensuring that Government decision-making on domestic policies considers the implications and impact on the Pacific and its people, including by actively avoiding negative consequences and identifying opportunities for mutual benefit. This approach was reflected in the advice to Government and subsequent decisions on the introduction of the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) designed to contribute to New Zealand’s tourism infrastructure and to conservation.</p><p>^{s6(a)}</p></div>

New Pacific diplomatic and development roles



An additional fourteen New Zealand diplomatic and development positions have been created, comprising ten positions at Pacific posts, and four positions outside the region in significant capitals focused on development policy and engagement on the Pacific.