

PACDAC Meeting Minutes

09:00-14:00, Friday 18 February 2022 (via Zoom)

Members in attendance

Hon Phil Twyford (Chair)
Mary Wareham (Deputy Chair)
Edwina Hughes
Andrew Chen
Kevin Clements
Martin Donoghue (09:00-12:15)
Jamila Hodayun
Dylan Maynard
Lucy Stewart

Officials in attendance

Katy Donnelly (MFAT)
Jordan Allison (MFAT)
Mike Shaw (Minister's Office)
Will Blackler (Minister's Office)
Michael Carruthers (Minister's Office)

1. Apologies

Scott Nielson (DIA)

2. Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed by Hon Phil Twyford upon commencement of the meeting.

3. Welcome from the Chair, Hon Phil Twyford

Minister Twyford opened the inaugural meeting of the new PACDAC by welcoming the new members and thanking them for agreeing to serve on the Committee. The Minister reinforced the importance of the work undertaken by PACDAC to advance disarmament and arms control. The Minister recalled the Committee's legislative mandate in the 1987 New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act, and noted the important role of the Committee in providing independent advice to Ministers, dispensing disarmament education funding, and raising the profile of disarmament issues in New Zealand.

The Minister noted his expectations regarding the Committee's operation, encouraging members to be generous with their time and expertise. He noted the different roles and responsibilities of the Committee members, as appointed members, and of the Chair as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control. The Minister emphasised that Committee membership did not constrain the appointed members from continuing their advocacy. Noting that the Committee was responsible for determining its own priorities and work

plan for the current term, the Minister highlighted his hope that the Committee's work might support or complement the New Zealand Disarmament Strategy.

Some Committee members expressed an interest in ensuring continuity with the work of the previous Committee and requested access to relevant documentation.

Action: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to circulate the minutes of the previous Committee's meetings.

Action: Edwina Hughes, as the only re-appointed member of the previous Committee, undertook to continue to seek permission from former Committee members to share their draft proposals with the new Committee.

4. PACDAC member introductions

Each of the members introduced themselves, detailing their experiences and expertise with respect to disarmament and arms control, and touching on the issues they would like to prioritise during their term and their overall aspirations for PACDAC.

5. Official role and conduct of PACDAC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) outlined its role as secretariat of PACDAC and the support it provides to Committee members. PACDAC discussed the approach it would take to transparency, including in relation to requests received under the Official Information Act 1982. It was agreed that MFAT would process Official Information Act requests directed to the Minister and/or Ministry in consultation with the Committee. Committee members also agreed on the proactive release of meeting minutes via the MFAT website to strengthen the transparency of the work undertaken by PACDAC.

PACDAC received advice on its formal obligations with respect to the allocation of grants from the Government's Peace and Disarmament Education Trust (PADET) and the Disarmament Education United Nations Implementation Fund (DEUNIF), both of which are administered by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). The Committee requested information regarding investment practices for PADET.

The Committee agreed its approach to managing conflicts of interest.

Action: The Deputy Chair of PACDAC to coordinate intersessional work to update the PACDAC Handbook to reflect Committee decisions on transparency, Official Information Act requests, conflicts of interest, lobbying in connection with funding applications, and other administrative matters. Adoption of the updated Handbook will be put on the agenda for the next PACDAC meeting.

Action: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will load the agreed minutes of each formal Committee meeting onto its website.

Action: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will ensure the inclusion of requested standing items on the PACDAC agenda, including on OIAs.

6. Overview of Disarmament in 2022 by the Chair

The Minister provided an update on the current global security environment, which remains difficult due to a range of factors, including increased strategic rivalry, substantial investment by Nuclear Weapon States in nuclear modernisation programmes, ongoing nuclear proliferation risks, and new emerging security threats. It was against this backdrop that the Government had released its Disarmament Strategy for 2021-22. The Minister provided an overview of the Strategy, noting key achievements as well as the impact that COVID and other developments have had on its implementation. Committee members took the opportunity to ask questions about the Strategy and implementation plans in 2022, and highlighted specific areas and issues that PACDAC might want to consider.

7. Discussion of disarmament education and public awareness in New Zealand

Reflecting on the need to nurture and grow the constituency for disarmament and arms control issues, particularly in terms of increasing the involvement of younger generations, Committee members discussed the role PACDAC could play in advancing disarmament education and public awareness. It was noted that one of the primary ways PACDAC does this is through its allocation of grant funds from PADET and DEUNIF, the respective purposes of which are to promote international peace, disarmament and arms control through education, and to implement non-government organisations' disarmament education programmes. Committee members discussed how the visibility of both funds might be improved and what additional funding processes could be instituted to strengthen the role of PADET and DEUNIF in advancing disarmament education and public awareness.

As part of the discussion on funding, Mary Wareham provided an overview of PADET funding to date, drawing from her informal review of PADET's annual reports, which are publicly available from DIA. In summary, PADET has spent more than NZ\$4 million over the past 35 years on educational projects and post-graduate research relating to international peace, disarmament, and arms control: \$3.3 million in 1987-2020 on 600 projects and \$775,000 on 84 Master's Degree and PhD scholarships by 68 students in 1992-2020.

Action: The Committee agreed to hold an intersessional meeting to discuss funding in advance of the next formal funding round.

Action: It was agreed that the agenda for the next PACDAC meeting will include a specific item on disarmament education, to be led by Lucy Stewart on the basis of her report.

Action: It was agreed that the agenda for the next PACDAC meeting will include a specific item on constituency-building. The Deputy Chair will work intersessionally with the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control to frame up a discussion paper to share in advance.

8. Deciding upon PACDAC priorities and workstreams for 2022-24

Committee members shared a range of ideas relating to the priorities and programme of work for PACDAC for 2022. Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to continue discussing these intersessionally with a view to adopting a programme of work at its next regular meeting.

Action: Deputy Chair to lead the intersessional development of a programme of work for PACDAC for 2022, to be considered and adopted at the next regular meeting of the Committee.