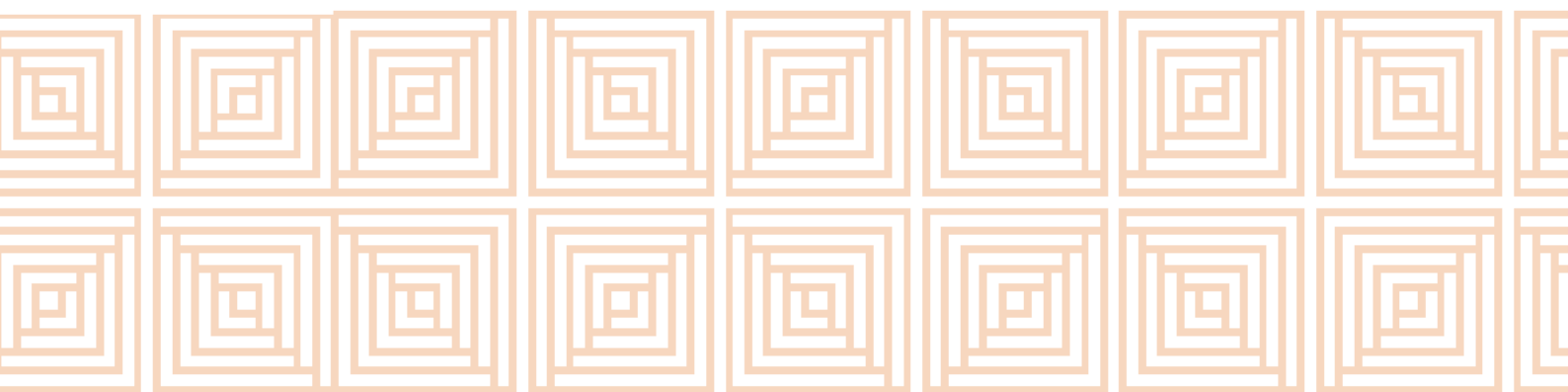


BRIEFING FOR INCOMING

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere



Cover photos (top to bottom):

- Kiribati Family Health Association - Youth Volunteers. Credit: MFAT
- Approaching Apolima Island Samoa. Credit: DOC
- Manaaki Scholarships. Credit: MFAT
- Tuna fishing with a net. Credit: SPC
- RSE workers. Credit: MFAT
- Local Fijian Market. Credit: MFAT

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How this brief is organised

This brief is organised into four parts:

- **Part One – Your role as Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)**
Provides a brief summary of your role and the responsibilities and processes that come with it, as well as information on how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports you in your role.
- **Part Two – New Zealand’s foreign policy**
Provides New Zealand’s foreign policy priorities and a strategic foreign policy overview, an overview of New Zealand’s Pacific Resilience Approach, and a summary of New Zealand’s International Development Cooperation.
- **Part Three – Key areas of responsibility**
Provides a brief overview of thematic and policy issues that will require early ministerial awareness and/or your decisions.
- **Part Four – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
Provides contextual information about the Ministry.

**Part One:
Your role as Associate
Minister of Foreign Affairs
(Pacific Region)**

Part One: Your role as Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)

Your role and formal portfolio responsibilities

Aotearoa New Zealand is a Pacific country. We share an ocean, a past and a future with our Pacific whanaunga. We work actively to secure a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand is a true partner. Our geography and strong community/diaspora connections shape New Zealand's outlook and priorities in the world.

The Pacific region is facing an array of challenges and changes – climate, social, environmental, economic, and security. New Zealand's Pacific Resilience Approach provides a framework for our approach to working in the Pacific, protecting New Zealand interests and promoting our values, affirming Pacific-owned and led development, and working within established regional practices while supporting regional institutions. Our strength and success as a region rely on Pacific countries acting together. We have continued to support regional unity, good governance, and strong regional institutions.

As Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region), you hold the following specific functions and responsibilities delegated to you from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

- Providing strategic leadership for a number of thematic issues for New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific Islands region:
 - Pacific Arts, culture and heritage, including connections with Pacific diaspora
 - Education, including the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships programme in the Pacific
 - Pacific Ocean and Fisheries, including the US Tuna Treaty negotiations and – in cooperation with the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and the sustainable blue economy
 - Labour mobility development cooperation (the Minister of Immigration is responsible for the domestic policies that facilitate labour mobility)
- Advocating for Small Island Developing States interests in international fora (United Nations, OECD), including at the 2024 UN Small Island Developing States Conference and as Aotearoa New Zealand's advocacy champion for small states under the United Nations – Commonwealth Small States Advocacy Strategy.
- Replying to Ministerial correspondence and Parliamentary Questions on issues relating to the above.
- Representing Aotearoa New Zealand as agreed on a case-by-case basis at internationally focused events and meetings at home or abroad.
- Other initiatives as agreed from time to time with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Close coordination with other Ministers, particularly the Minister of Foreign Affairs but also the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, the Minister of Immigration, the Minister of Climate Change, the Minister for Trade and Export Growth and the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth will be essential to ensure a cohesive and impactful approach in the Pacific region.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

International and Domestic Connections

With the exponential growth and reach of digital communications, and New Zealand's super-diverse population, including a large, engaged Pacific diaspora, there are diminishing barriers between domestic and foreign policy. Most government decisions will now be reported offshore through diaspora community linkages and digital networks. This can influence official and government perceptions in foreign governments and bring benefits or pose problems to New Zealand's foreign relationships.

Ensuring that the Pacific diaspora in New Zealand is informed about New Zealand's Pacific foreign policy position is an essential part of honouring New Zealand's connections with the Pacific. It places a premium on Ministers and officials clearly and consistently communicating New Zealand positions, especially on sensitive issues, supporting broad ranging public affairs programmes and engaging regularly with diaspora communities and foreign language community media. MFAT's Pacific Connections Unit, which has staff in Auckland and Wellington, conducts regular consultations across New Zealand with Pacific stakeholders and Pacific diaspora communities.

We will engage directly with you and the Minister of Foreign Affairs on prioritising contacts for your early engagement with foreign counterparts.

How the Ministry supports you

The Ministry can engage with you in a number of different ways, adapted to suit your preferences and schedule, including:

- Regular issues-based meetings with the Deputy Secretary, Pacific and Development Group and other Ministry officials
- Issue-specific written briefings, and inputs to speeches and external communications
- Weekly written updates on thematic and policy portfolio developments
- Diplomatic reporting (known as Formal Messages) from the Ministry's overseas posts on issues related to your portfolio
- Support from accompanying senior officials for your engagements, including arrangements and accompanying support for any international travel and
- Regular engagement through Ministry staff supporting your office.

You will also receive regular intelligence briefings from the New Zealand Intelligence Community.

**Part Two:
New Zealand's foreign policy,
Pacific Resilience Approach
and the International
Development Cooperation
programme**

PART TWO

Part Two: New Zealand's foreign policy priorities¹, the Pacific Resilience Approach and the International Development Cooperation programme

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acts in the world to build a safer, more prosperous, and more sustainable future for all New Zealanders. We hold values that guide the way we interact with people within and beyond the Ministry. These values demonstrate to our regional and global partners, and to New Zealanders, the qualities of the country we represent: a tolerant, diverse, open, inclusive and welcoming society.

In line with our purpose, we pursue outcomes that protect and advance New Zealand's interests and values:

- A rules-based international system that supports New Zealand priorities.
- A security environment that keeps New Zealand's people and activities safe.
- International conditions and connections that enable New Zealanders to prosper.
- Global action on sustainability issues that matter to New Zealand.

New Zealand's essential and enduring interests and values, and how we partner with others are described in Figure 1.

A strategic overview

The strategic outlook for the international environment within which you will exercise your delegations is very challenging. Globally there is growing uncertainty and risk, rising geostrategic competition, a rules-based international order under pressure, and an amplifying effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry forecasts a more challenging period ahead for progressing New Zealand's interests and values in the international sphere, after decades where the strategic environment and economic conditions for New Zealand were comparatively favourable. We anticipate a world that will be less open, less prosperous, less secure, and less free. This passage provides a summary of key issues and relationships. More information can be provided on request.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has settled into a grinding war of attrition. In addition to its direct impacts on Ukraine, the invasion was an assault on some of the most fundamental tenets of the rules-based international system, including state sovereignty and territorial integrity. While drawing wide condemnation at the UN General Assembly, Russia's aggression also highlighted the shortcomings of the UN Security Council, charged with preventing and resolving such conflict.

China has pivoted dramatically in recent months from a zero COVID policy to rapid reopening. This will boost China's economic growth which had dropped to its lowest level in a generation, and tourist and student travel to New Zealand is expected to grow. Internationally, China is increasingly assertive in the pursuit of its interests. China is one of New Zealand's most significant relationships.^{s6(a)}

¹ Foreign policy is used in this Briefing as a catch-all to encompass foreign policy, trade policy, development assistance, international environment and climate change policy as well as consular and protocol responsibilities.

We have essential and enduring interests:

- **A safer future for New Zealanders – He ao-haumarū**
 - » Protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Realm of New Zealand¹, including freedom from foreign interference and coercion; and
 - » Stability and security in the Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific, including respect for sovereignty and freedom from coercion.
- **A more prosperous future for New Zealanders – He ao-tōnui**
 - » Conditions and connections that support New Zealand economic resilience and enduring prosperity of New Zealanders, Tangata Tiriti and Tangata whenua, and of our whanaunga in the Pacific.
- **A more sustainable future for New Zealanders – He ao-pāmau**
 - » Successful global action on climate and environmental imperatives for the benefit of future generations.
- **Effective rules based international order – He ao-tika**
 - » Rules, norms and other international frameworks governing global affairs, which reflect New Zealand's interests and values.



We stand for: Wā mātou i āki ai:

- Peace and security;
- Adherence to and belief in the rule of law;
- Human rights, dignity, equality and development everywhere;
- Integrity, democratic principles, fairness, accountability and transparency;
- Kaitiakitanga² of the natural world; and
- Liberal rules-based economic norms.



We hold mana and credibility for intrinsic national features:

He mana, he here hoki ā mātou ki ngā āhuatanga motuhake ā-motu:

- Commitment to human rights, equality and freedom;
- Belief in and adherence to the rule of law;
- Strong democratic institutions and principles, including fairness, accountability and transparency;
- Difference as a developed “western” democracy and “northern” economy in the geographic “south” with an indigenous people and growing indigenous identity;
- Distinctive bicultural society and Te Ao Māori insight and relevance to international issues;
- The experience and example of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Crown-Māori partnership; Pacific orientation and Pasifika population;
- Diverse multicultural society and tolerant and cohesive communities;
- Robust and reputable domestic policy settings (open economy, ease of doing business, high transparency and low corruption);
- Consistency; and
- Kaitiakitanga.



We earn respect from the contributions we make:

Tau mai ai te kauanuanu ki a mātou mō ā mātou i hoatu ai:

- Effective International Development Cooperation, and humanitarian assistance programmes;
- Diplomatic networks and expertise;
- Creative and constructive developer of innovative foreign, trade and development policy and architecture that helps sustain the existing rules-based international system and addresses new and emerging issues;
- Strong investment, credibility and achievement in Antarctic science;
- Promotion of international and regional security through the deployment of a professional and capable New Zealand Defence Force;
- New Zealand Police, respected for its modern, community-based policing approach;
- High quality analysis of classified and open source intelligence; and
- History of being a constructive and effective bridge-builder.

We are enabled by our partnerships Nā ō mātou hononga i taea ai e mātou

- Effective multilateralism that enables collective action on global problems and maintains predictability and stability in global rules and norms;
- Active membership and influence in key regional architectures and multilateral institutions; and
- A suite of fit-for-purpose relationships that support our interests and amplify our values.

¹ This includes protection for Crown obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi where potentially impacted by the international context or issues.

² Kaitiakitanga refers to protection or guardianship of those things that sustain life now and for future generations; it is particularly applied to the environment and natural world and humanity's place and role within it but can also be applied to other taonga important for human well-being.

Figure One: New Zealand's essential and enduring interests

New Zealand is a *Pacific* country. We share a past, a whakapapa and a future with our Pacific whanaunga. We are connected through our peoples, our culture, our economies, our health, and our strategic environment. We also share the region's vulnerabilities. Pacific Leaders have been clear that climate change is the single greatest threat to the security, well-being and prosperity of Pacific peoples, and other transboundary threats are intensifying. In a context of increased interest in the Pacific from external actors, we are concerned that geostrategic competition has potential to distract from the region's most pressing priorities. And, New Zealand does not want to see our home region becoming a theatre of military competition between major powers. In line with our Pacific Resilience Approach, we are working closely with Pacific partners to share information on our own experiences, exchange perspectives on what we're seeing in the region, and to collaborate on how we respond – including via Pacific-led solutions. New Zealand's message to Pacific countries is simple: we are all navigating these challenges and we are stronger when we do so together as Pacific whanau.

Australia is also an indispensable partner and force multiplier for New Zealand in the Pacific.
s6(a)

The last 18 months in particular have demonstrated the increased visibility and intensification of geostrategic competition in the Pacific and we remain concerned about its impacts.

Australia is our indispensable partner across almost every portfolio of government and is our only formal ally. We are fortunate that we have a neighbour and ally that shares almost entirely our interests and we do not take that for granted. New Zealand and Australia's economic success is inextricably linked - the Single Economic Market is a powerful engine for growth on both sides of the Tasman. Australia is a key ally in international affairs, and a fellow advocate and protector of the global rules-based system, including at the World Trade Organisation, regional arrangements and the UN. 2023 is a big anniversary year for the trans-Tasman relationship - 40 years since Closer Economic Relations (CER) was signed, 50 years of the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, and 80 years since establishment of diplomatic representation in each other's countries. We will be working together to mark these significant milestones.

The United States is our most consequential and powerful international partner. It remains fundamental to the underpinning and functioning of the international system that has worked in New Zealand's favour for 80 years. Its actions in the world inevitably affect our current and future prosperity, security and sustainability as a nation. Amidst simultaneous global crises, the US remains the world's leading power. It is the global financial, technological and economic hub; it has the most powerful and well-resourced military; and its network of alliances and partnerships is unparalleled. We share a common agenda across many issues including on international and regional security, Pacific resilience, the response to climate change, and on democracy and human rights. Our relationship with Washington DC is strong and broad^{s6(a)}

The *impacts of a changing climate* are being experienced tangibly and directly by many people in the Pacific and around the globe, through higher temperatures, extreme weather events and resulting floods, droughts, and wildfires. The climate change trajectory is clear and gravely concerning, with global emissions reaching their highest-ever level in 2022. The climate response must be dramatic and immediate with the window for urgent action being this decade. The related trends of biodiversity loss and pollution are connected, are of equally of grave concern, requiring urgent action.

Global growth projections have fallen while interest rates and inflation have risen. Households, businesses, and governments have all had to absorb additional costs. *The global economy* is at significant risk of financial instability in an environment where many governments are carrying increased debt and there is uncertainty over asset prices.

The worst impacts of *COVID-19* on the health and movements of people have diminished, but disrupted economies, shipping, and supply chains remain. In many developing countries, the Pacific in particular, direct and indirect economic impacts have deepened, setting back development progress, exacerbating poverty and inequality, squeezing private-sector activity and public services, and adding to debt. All face a protracted recovery.

The Pacific Resilience Approach

The Pacific Resilience Approach, which was agreed by Cabinet at the end of 2021, puts Pacific countries at the centre of our engagement, recognising the mana of each nation and reinforcing our whanaungatanga (kinship) connections to the wider Pacific. It reflects our independent, foreign policy, with the Treaty of Waitangi providing a reference point for us to look to as we manage and create enduring relationships.

The goal of New Zealand's foreign policy and International Development Cooperation (IDC) in the Pacific is to support a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient Pacific in which we operate as a true partner, collaborating with others in the shared stewardship of Te Moana-nui-a Kiwa.

The Pacific Resilience Approach articulates five principles to guide our engagement in the region:

1. Tātai Hono (the recognition of deep and enduring ancestral connections).
2. Tātou Tātou (all of us together).
3. Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga (journey towards a circular economy).
4. Turou Hawaiiki (navigating together).
5. Arongia ki Rangiātea (focus towards excellence).

These principles build upon our four development quality domains – effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained, and further contextualise how we will apply them in the Pacific.

International Development Cooperation (IDC) Programme

New Zealand's current strategic priorities for International Development Cooperation in the Pacific are:

- Fostering long-term resilience through country ownership and inclusive, locally-led development
- Delivering climate action
- Strengthening resilience to wide-ranging security threats (climate, human and humanitarian, environmental and resource, criminal, cyber-crime) and
- Supporting regional and multilateral solutions to shared challenges

Our priorities are shaped and implemented in a way that we think maximises their effectiveness. The International Development Cooperation (IDC) Programme, which is our aid programme, is guided by a comprehensive framework of policies and implementation strategies. The policies articulate fixed commitments, values and guiding principles. The strategies set out time-bound objectives or goals, and the roadmap for achieving these goals.

International Development and Pacific Policies

The International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development Policy (ICESD), alongside the Pacific Resilience Approach, help guide 'how' New Zealand delivers IDC across integrated settings (development, foreign policy, security and trade). The Pacific Resilience Approach complements and

reinforces the ICESD Policy, to guide our development cooperation in the Pacific region. The two policies are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

The International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development Policy (ICESD)

The ICESD Policy was agreed by Cabinet in late 2019. The policy sets out guiding principles for the allocation and delivery of our IDC (both financial and policy). The policy confirms our support for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with its four pillars of people, planet, prosperity and peace. It states that our funding will have a primary geographic focus in the Pacific (at least 60 percent of our total IDC funding), a secondary focus on South East Asia, and achieve global reach through a range of programmes, including strong multilateral engagement and humanitarian assistance.

The Policy also establishes four development quality domains to ensure our IDC seeks effective, inclusive, resilient, and sustained outcomes. This reflects our commitment to global agreements on development effectiveness.

Strategies which guide IDC programme delivery

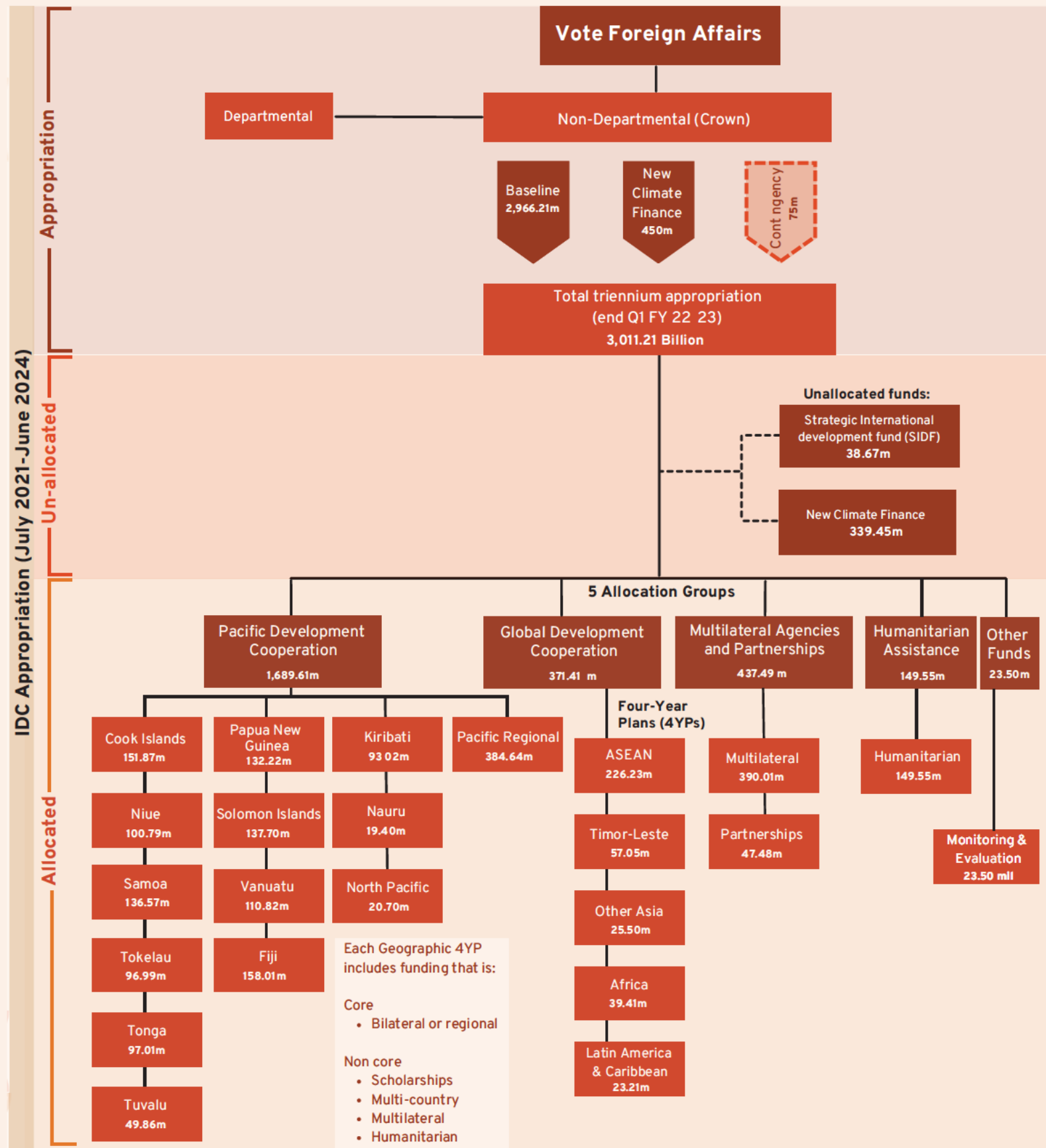
The IDC programme's planning and performance system is based on a set of strategies and corresponding four-year plans (as outlined in Figure 2). These documents provide the strategic and planning mechanisms to help us determine 'what' outcomes we will deliver, and how we will know if we have delivered them.

- Pacific **country and regional strategies** are classified documents that set out New Zealand's long term goals and interests in each Pacific country and for our regional engagement (across integrated development and foreign policy settings). They represent an all of New Zealand Government view, and are consulted and shared with other New Zealand Government agencies, which have an interest in these countries.
- The Ministry's **global development strategy** guides our IDC beyond the Pacific, and provides strategic direction for relevant four-year plans.
- The Cabinet-endorsed **International Climate Finance Strategy**, provides the goals, outcomes and preferences for delivery of New Zealand's new NZ\$1.3 billion Climate Finance Commitment, which will be delivered in its entirety through the IDC appropriation.
- PDG's **Four-year plans** are rolling plans, which guide the integrated planning and management of New Zealand's overall engagement and guide a pipeline of IDC programme investments. Most are geographic, but some are thematic (partnerships, multilateral, humanitarian). The plans are published on MFAT's external website.

Strategies and four-year plans reflect New Zealand interests and values, the commitments and policies we have signed up to internationally and domestically, and align to our partners' priorities. The strategies and four-year plans reinforce our commitment to partnership and country ownership, reflecting both the Resilience Approach and the ICESD Policy commitments to development effectiveness.

Aotearoa New Zealand's The International Development Cooperation (IDC) Appropriation

Ngā Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti

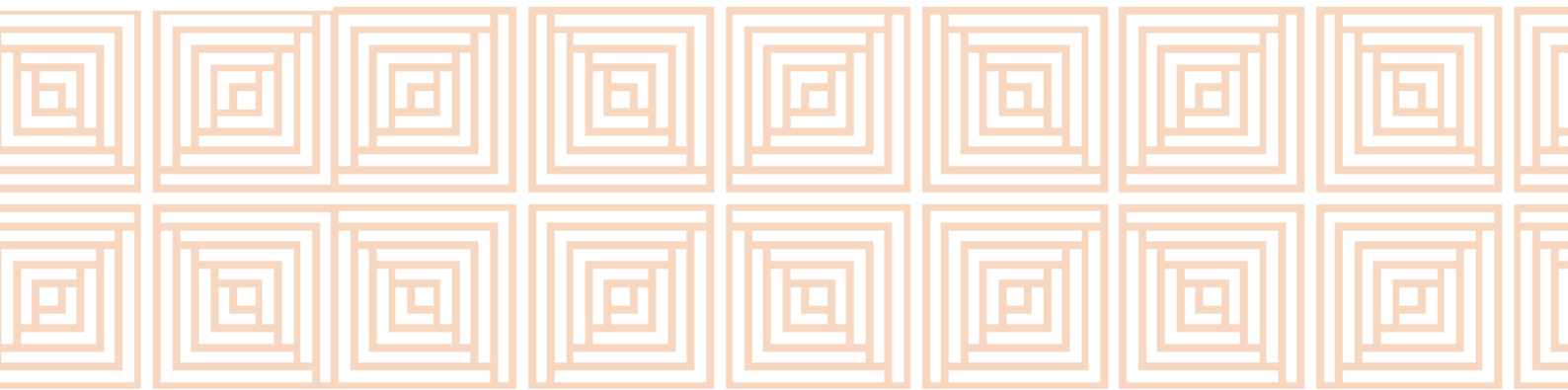


- Aotearoa New Zealand's IDC Programme is funded by a **non-departmental appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs**.
- The **Pacific and Development Group** manages the **IDC Programme**, disbursing the funding provided under this appropriation to a **range of delivery partners** (including Aotearoa New Zealand government agencies, partner governments, non-government organisations, companies, and regional and multilateral organisations).
- Aotearoa New Zealand's IDC (both policy and financial) is an **integral pillar of our foreign policy**. It reflects our network of international relationships and commitments, and is an expression of our values.
- In October 2021, Cabinet confirmed that Aotearoa New Zealand would commit NZD1.3 billion between 2022 and 2025 to support developing countries in their response to the **climate change emergency**. This commitment comprised existing finance (\$500m) and **new finance appropriated to the IDC appropriation**. **\$450 million of this funding will be delivered in the current funding triennium**.

IDC Funding Commitments:

Amount and percentage of <u>Crown IDC</u> spent on:	Target
The Pacific	60% for the triennium (+/- 5% for any give year)
Vulnerable countries	Increasing trend
Activities where climate change is a principal objective	Increasing trend
Activities where gender equality and women's empowerment is a principal objective	At least 4%
Aid for Trade in the Pacific	At least 20%
Scholarships	No more than 10% of core baseline annual spend
Amount and percentage of <u>new climate finance</u> spent on:	Target
Activities which target adaptation	At least 50%
The Pacific	At least 50%

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Part Three:
Key areas of responsibility

PART THREE

Part Three: Key areas of responsibility

Pacific Arts, Culture, Language, Heritage, and connecting with Pacific Diaspora

Key current issues

- MFAT has a dedicated Pacific Connections Unit, led from our Auckland office, which leads our engagement and consultations with the Pacific diaspora communities in New Zealand. MFAT also provides support for a widespread range of arts and culture events. We will work with your office seeking your support for some events and talanoa.

Upcoming events

- Meeting of Culture Ministers in Noumea, New Caledonia, 15-19 May 2023
- FestPAC, the world's largest celebration of indigenous Pacific Islanders will convene in Hawai'i, 6-16 June 2024
- MFAT domestic "Pacific Updates" around New Zealand, April – June 2023.

Background

Arts and Culture Diplomacy

Arts and culture are a vital strand of our Pacific engagement, especially given their place at the heart of Pacific identity. We have supported several arts and cultural projects that promote New Zealand's whanaungatanga and shared values with the Pacific, such as partnerships with Auckland based Lagi Maama Cultural Consultancy and the Falemata'aga Museum of Samoa to provide on-line training/mentoring sessions and cultural exchanges in: conservation, collection management, mentoring and connecting. MFAT also supported Te Maeva Nui in 2021, the largest celebration of Cook Islands arts, culture and heritage in New Zealand. The Pacific Enabling Fund, drawn from MFAT's baseline funding, exists to help support these connections between New Zealand and the Pacific.

Separately, MFAT and Creative New Zealand have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on four key projects in the region under a joint fund of activities called the Moana Nui a Kiva Fund. We are also exploring opportunities for partnerships in the Pacific with the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector such as Auckland Art Gallery, Te Papa, National Library, Pataka Museum, Otago Museum, and Auckland Museum.

MFAT's Engagement with Pacific Diaspora in New Zealand

Ensuring that the Pacific diaspora in New Zealand is informed about New Zealand's Pacific foreign policy position is an essential part of honouring New Zealand's connections with the Pacific. This is a key role for MFAT's Pacific Connections Unit, which has staff in Auckland and Wellington.

Last year, MFAT led a series of nine “Pacific Updates” consultations across New Zealand with Pacific stakeholders and Pacific diaspora communities on a range of issues such as climate change, and the health and economic response to the impacts of COVID-19 in the Pacific.² MFAT’s Pacific Updates are an annual roadshow aimed at improving Pacific communities’ understanding of MFAT’s work and priorities in the Pacific.

MFAT continues to support the work of other Government ministries by facilitating consultations/talanoa with Pacific communities on a range of topics including the Adoption Law Reforms in partnership with Ministry of Pacific Peoples (MPP) and Ministry of Justice; and New Zealand’s National Security Strategy with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

A refreshed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MFAT and MPP will be signed next month. This MoU will formalise opportunities to collaborate on Pacific community engagement in New Zealand and provide Pacific language revitalisation support to the Pacific, particularly Cook Islands and Niue.

Pacific Language Revitalisation

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Festival of Pacific Arts

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is responsible for New Zealand’s engagement in the Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPAC), the world’s largest celebration of Pacific Arts. The event, organised by the Pacific Community (SPC), will be hosted in Hawai’i from 6-16 June 2024.

² These open forums were advertised widely, with targeted invitations sent to Pasifika leaders and organisations. Attendees included Pacific diaspora community members and leaders, Pacific Business Councils, businesses operating in the Pacific, NGOs, academics, and non-Pacific diaspora community members with an interest in the Pacific. The series was delivered in partnership with MPP, MBIE, NZTE, Pacific Cooperation Foundation (PCF), WINTEC, University of Canterbury, McMillan Brown Centre, Otago University, PACIFICA Inc., South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services Trust and the Oamaru Pacific Islands Community Group INC.

Education in the Pacific

Key current issues

- Improving education outcomes is a priority and challenge for all of our Pacific partners. Governments have made significant progress in improving education access and outcomes over the last decade. As a result, there is now almost universal enrolment in basic education across the region. There has been an impressive increase in students meeting literacy and numeracy benchmarks and most teachers have now completed the minimum required level of training.
- The quality of education, however, continues to constrain the region's ability to address key challenges. Participation and retention rates in early childhood, secondary and post-secondary education remain a concern in many Pacific countries. The reasons for this include a lack of placements, the direct and indirect costs to families, and a perception that education at these levels is not relevant. Learners with disabilities and those in remote areas are particularly disadvantaged.
- Equally, literacy rates have risen by over thirty percent since 2015 but this still results in only 56% of students being classed as minimally proficient in literacy by the end of primary school. The 2022 World Bank's Human Capital Index estimates that students in the Pacific go to school for 10.9 years on average, but only achieve 6.6 years' worth of learning.
- Pacific countries face unique challenges in delivering education due to their size, geography and histories. While education receives the largest share of the government budget in most Pacific countries, this is often almost entirely taken up with teacher salaries and scholarships. Globally, official development assistance (ODA) for education has dropped over the last decade, including in the Pacific.

University of the South Pacific

- The University of the South Pacific (USP) is a vital Pacific institution, and the only tertiary education option for most students in the region. A key issue that the region has been grappling with in recent years is a series of management, governance and financial challenges at the USP.

s6(a)

including through working to repay Fiji's significant arrears to the university.^{s6(b)(i), s9(2)(b)(ii)} New Zealand is represented in this conversation by our Council member, Emeritus Professor Pat Walsh. New Zealand is in the final stages of finalising the next five year phase of our partnership with USP^{s9(2)(f)(iv)}. Officials will provide you with further details on our approach to engaging with USP.

Upcoming events

Conference of Pacific Education Ministers – 20-22 March 2023

- New Zealand will host the inaugural Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM) in Auckland on 20-22 March 2023. Previously known as the Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM), the Conference provides an opportunity for Pacific Ministers of Education to engage in dialogue and provide strategic direction for regional education. The meeting has been reframed to allow space for civil society organisations to inform discussions.

Background

Education is critical for development and acts as a multiplier for other outcomes. New Zealand invests in education through the International Development Cooperation programme to maximise capabilities and growth so that people have equitable opportunities for economic, social and cultural well-being. The goal of our education investments is that people acquire skills, attributes and values they need to thrive in a changing world. This contributes to our wider foreign policy and development objectives to support a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific.

Our education portfolio is broad and covers the full education pathway. This reflects the priorities of our partners and the opportunities and issues at all levels of education. In the current triennium (2021-24), we are forecast to spend NZ\$130.1m on education (not including scholarships), of which:

- 82% is in the Pacific
- 61.4% is bilateral programming, 18.1% is regional programming and 20.5% is across several countries (multi country programming) and
- NZ\$22.1m (17%) is provided through budget support.

We are focusing our investments in early childhood education and secondary education. Both of these subsectors have a long history of underinvestment but are critical for building foundational literacy, technical and life skills. A major and ongoing feature of our education portfolio is supporting our partners' education sector strategic plans.

We are also investing in testing innovative approaches for potential 'game-changers'. These include technology-enabled learning, distance and flexible methods, and inclusive approaches (for example a significant programme that targets inclusive education, with a focus on learners with disabilities).

Our education programme is informed by the policies and priorities set out in the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy and Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF). PacREF is also the regional response for Sustainable Development Goal 4. We have a strong programme of support to regional programmes and organisations to give life to this.

USP is the premier regional institution for higher learning in the Pacific, uniquely positioned to support and validate the development of Pacific knowledge. Established in 1968, USP is jointly owned by twelve Pacific Island Governments. New Zealand has supported USP throughout its 54-year history. Our engagement with USP stakeholders is broad and is driven by our wider principles for engaging with Pacific partners. Supporting Pacific learning and knowledge generation aligns strongly with our values.

Historically, USP has demonstrated its Pacific research and knowledge excellence and leadership through its established Pacific academic thought leaders. Much of these leaders' work now anchors the policy, political, educational and scientific discourse on the Pacific and in framing international development perspective of the region.

The largest contributor to USP's income is student fees. USP also receives grants from Member Countries based on a formula comprised of the relative size of their student population and the costs of maintaining the in-country campuses. The formula is reviewed on a triennial basis by the University Grants Committee (UGC) and agreed by Members' Ministers of Finance. USP also receives development assistance from a range of partners. This includes the contributions by New Zealand and Australia.

The Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme: Pacific Engagement

Key current issues

- The Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships Programme (MNZSP) aims to assist partner countries progress their development goals and to build and strengthen relationships between partner countries and New Zealand to our mutual benefit.
- The MNZSP is made up of four types of schemes:
 - Tertiary study in New Zealand
 - Tertiary study in the Pacific
 - Professional Cohort Scholarships (examples include our Geothermal Energy specialists course, English Language Training for Officials, He Manawa Titi) and
 - Vocational Short Term Training Scholarships.
- Education New Zealand, as New Zealand's lead agency for international education, is responsible for operational management of the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme. MFAT retains responsibility for strategic direction setting and alumni relationships.
- The MNZSP has recently established an alumni programme that will enable Pacific Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship alumni to continue receiving networking and professional development opportunities as well as opportunities to build affinity with New Zealand.

Upcoming events

- He Manawa Titi scholarships – part of the suite of reparations announced during the Dawn Raids Apology in 2021 – will commence on 27 February, with scholars from Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu arriving in New Zealand on 9 March. Officials will advise you on potential participation in events for He Manawa Titi, along with the Minister of Pacific Peoples.
- The Pacific Education Ministers Conference will be held in Auckland 20-22 March 2023. Officials will advise you on potential participation in events at the Conference.

Background

The New Zealand Government has been funding scholarships to developing countries since 1951 when they were first offered as part of the Colombo Plan. Since this time there have been tens of thousands of scholars who have studied under various schemes on a New Zealand Government scholarship.

Pacific alumni of the MNZSP continue to occupy key positions in Government, civil society, and regional organisations. We continue to seek opportunities to engage, empower and elevate our alumni.

Tertiary Scholarships and Short Term Scholarships

Since 2015, 988 tertiary scholars from the Pacific have studied in New Zealand. Currently there are:

- 298 scholars currently studying in, and 268 awaiting travel to study in, New Zealand tertiary institutions

- 88 scholars currently studying in, and 123 awaiting travel to study in, Pacific tertiary institutions

Since 2014, New Zealand has provided short term scholarships for 1,195 scholars to study in New Zealand across a wide range of topics. 150 have been selected and are awaiting arrival. There are 16 scholars currently studying with New Zealand training providers (some remain online due to COVID-19).

The 2023 Intake and 2024 Selection

In 2023 the MNZSP is offering 182 scholarships for Pacific scholars. 127 of these scholarships are for study in New Zealand and 55 scholarships are for study in the Pacific.

The MNZSP also offers scholarships for up to 32 Samoan students who are undertaking foundation programmes at the National University of Samoa (NUS) or the University of the South Pacific (USP). Twenty six (26) of these scholarships are allocated for students to study at New Zealand tertiary institutes and 6 are allocated for Pacific-based study.

The MNZSP will also deliver a short term training scholarship for up to 30 emerging Pacific leaders from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu named 'He Manawa Titi'. This offering was funded through the NZ\$1 million committed by MFAT to support the suite of reparations announced during the Dawn Raids Apology in 2021.

Selection for Tertiary Scholarships for study commencing in 2024 is now under way. Prioritised study subjects (set through consultation with Pacific partner governments) cover climate change, disaster risk management, renewable energy, good governance, information technology, education, agriculture, health, and veterinary science.

International Development Cooperation (IDC) Programme Funding

The MNZSP has a funding envelope of up to NZ\$254 million from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024, and is capped at 10% of the IDC Programme in the current triennium. The envelope enables officials to manage changes in the mix of scholarships and delivery modes at the country and regional level while ensuring that scholarships remain a key tool for achieving foreign policy and development outcomes.

COVID 19 Impacts

Between 2020 and 2022, Pacific scholars studying in New Zealand and the Pacific were supported to return home safely, and no new scholars were mobilised given our border settings. The majority of Pacific scholars will resume/commence their studies from Semester 1, 2023.

During the pandemic, we were able to respond to the constraints of border closures by offering some of our short course offerings online and partnering with local in-country training institutions, to deliver in-country training.

Pacific Ocean and Fisheries

Key current issues

- **Pacific tuna fisheries** are a significant economic resource. Continuing to manage them sustainably for the long term requires Pacific partners to work together closely in fisheries negotiations, alongside New Zealand. We also provide development funding to regional agencies that support related Pacific priorities.
- **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing** can have significant environmental, economic and security impacts. Our Pacific partners are very active in combatting IUU, and New Zealand is exploring opportunities to strengthen Pacific-led regional coordination and capacity building to support positive maritime security outcomes.
- The **United States Tuna Treaty (USTT)** is a significant platform for US engagement and financial support in the region. The Treaty extends to – and provides significant economic benefit for – Tokelau as a territory of New Zealand. The renegotiation of the Treaty for 2024 and beyond between the Pacific Island Parties and the United States is currently under way.
- The future of the **Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)** is currently under discussion,
s6(a)
- In the Pacific, the impacts of **climate change** on the ocean are far reaching and are increasing in intensity. Ocean warming, acidification and sea-level rise will have dramatic adverse effects on the economies, livelihoods and sociocultural wellbeing of Pacific Island communities.

Upcoming events

- Annual Forum Fisheries Agency Ministerial and Regional Fisheries Ministers meetings, Republic of Marshall Islands, July.
- Pacific Community (SPC) Ministerial Conference, Tuvalu, November.

Background

The ocean and its resources are at the heart of Pacific geography and cultures, and are critical for food security, livelihoods, and economic resilience. Coastal fisheries provide 50-90 percent of animal-sourced protein for rural populations and tuna represents the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50 percent of households in the Pacific region. Tuna fisheries contribute more than US\$1 billion to Pacific economies annually, generating nearly 25,000 jobs. Maintaining abundant, sustainable fisheries is therefore core to ‘security’, as viewed by Pacific nations.

Many Pacific economies depend on tuna, but its value is also leading to intensifying competition among some larger nations, and to instances of foreign governments using economic leverage to gain political advantage. Maintaining a strong regional voice is critical to withstand these unwelcome developments.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) is a key regional partner for New Zealand. New Zealand’s International Development Cooperation (IDC) programme supports the work of the FFA to strengthen national capacity and regional solidarity so its seventeen members can manage, control and develop their tuna fisheries now and in the future. We invest in IDC activities to improve economic benefits and food security, combat IUU fishing, improve science for decision-making and build resilience to climate change.

The Pacific fisheries sector is prone to IUU fishing, with a 2020 study estimating it had cost Pacific countries US\$333.49 million for 2017-2019. Reducing IUU fishing is one of the key strategies to achieve

Pacific fisheries goals for the region. New Zealand contributes to global and regional efforts to tackle this issue through engagement in international and regional bodies, and maritime security assets and personnel.

The United States Tuna Treaty (the Treaty) is a regional fisheries agreement that provides access to Pacific tuna for the US (through a commercial arrangement including fisheries access days and fees) and a vehicle for the distribution of economic assistance to the region. The US announced last year its funding under the Treaty would increase from US\$21 million to US\$60 million per year over ten years, from 2023.

Beyond fisheries, the Pacific places great weight on safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the ocean. Marine ecosystems are under strain from pollution and over-exploitation. Degraded coastal ecosystems increase the Pacific's vulnerability to climate change. Along with being a key food source, coral reefs and coastal habitats provide a natural buffer to the damage communities experience from sea-level rise and storm surges.

We work closely with the region to secure our collective ambition for the ocean, as set out in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* – the long term vision for regionalism agreed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in 2022. This ambition is for all Pacific peoples to live in a sustainably managed Blue Pacific Continent, while maintaining resilience against threats to its environment.

Along with calling for strong action in combating threats to ocean health, Pacific countries are increasingly looking to deliver economic development through the sustainable blue economy. Fisheries and shipping investment is already well established, but countries are increasingly exploring marine renewable energy, marine genetic resources, and deep sea mining as potential avenues for economic resilience. The expansion of any blue sector, but especially the legislatively and technologically immature ones, brings significant challenges. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the lack of regional consensus on deep sea mining, which remains a source of tension.

The role of OPOC is to strengthen the coordination of ocean governance across the Pacific, with a focus on regional approaches to sustainable development, management and conservation. Currently OPOC sits within the PIF Secretariat in Suva, and is at the heart of ocean governance in the region. However,

s6(a)

Leaders agreed that OPOC would be based in Micronesia. s6(a)

Pacific Labour Mobility

Key current issues

- The Pacific labour mobility landscape has evolved significantly over the last few years. This has been driven primarily by a massive uptick in recruitment under Australia’s scheme, the inception of the PACER Plus trade agreement, and geopolitical developments across the region. Changes to patterns of recruitment during COVID-19 border closures have also contributed to a more uneven share of opportunities across the region. Some countries, ^{s6(a)} are now facing domestic labour shortages, while others ^{s6(a)} have expressed a desire for more opportunities.
- Concerns around “brain drain” and criticism from the private sector have led to countries increasingly asserting their own approach to managing labour mobility (for example, Samoa and Vanuatu are both undertaking labour mobility reviews, with changes to recruitment practices and government oversight likely to be implemented). New Zealand is committed to working alongside countries to ensure worker flows are sustainable and skills and experience are circular in nature and able to be utilised at the Pacific end.
- The well-being and living conditions of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme workers continue to receive regular media coverage. Pacific partners have emphasised their confidence in New Zealand’s oversight of the scheme. The RSE policy review currently under way is seeking to improve pastoral care, accommodation and worker benefits.
- Cyclone Gabrielle has affected a significant number of RSE workers predominantly in Hawke’s Bay where large numbers are based ahead of the harvest. Officials and industry are urgently determining the extent of the impact, including on accommodation, work availability, and the implications for incoming workers.

Upcoming events

- The **Forum Trade Ministers Meeting** (July) and **PACER Plus Ministers Meeting** (July) will feature labour mobility items. Both the Minister of Trade and Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth has previously represented New Zealand at these meetings.
- The annual **RSE conference**, hosted by Horticulture New Zealand, will take place in August. The RSE industry has sought to bring a greater Pacific voice to the conference. The Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a pre-recorded speech in 2022.
- The **Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting** (PLMAM) will take place in Vanuatu in November. The meeting, organised by the Labour Mobility Secretariat within the PACER Plus Implementation Unit, brings together labour mobility stakeholders from across the region to discuss key issues. Ministerial participation is not normally a feature; ^{s6(a)}

Background

Supporting Pacific countries to access New Zealand’s labour market, where a matching domestic labour force is not available, delivers on important strategic foreign policy and development objectives.

^{s6(a)}

New Zealand's Pacific labour mobility programme is delivered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), who lead on the policy and operational delivery of immigration policies that facilitate labour mobility, including the RSE scheme and the Immigration Rebalance.

MFAT supports MBIE's delivery through International Development Cooperation (IDC) activities that support Pacific countries to participate in labour mobility and maximise the benefits of participation, as well as ensuring policy and development coherence within the framework established by our Pacific Resilience approach.

New Zealand engages on regional labour mobility issues primarily through the Labour Mobility Arrangement (LMA), which was signed in 2017 alongside PACER Plus. The LMA established the PLMAM, which is the pre-eminent regional forum for considering labour mobility issues, including for non-PACER signatories, and for reviewing progress towards achieving the objectives of the LMA.

New Zealand's approach to labour mobility is underpinned by principles that emphasise aligning labour mobility opportunities to Pacific countries' own development aspirations; enhanced skills and training; circular opportunities; prioritising worker well-being; maximising the benefits and mitigate negative impacts on communities; and collective regional responsibility.

There are three key pieces of labour mobility policy and development work under way. MFAT is organising a consultation talanoa in Auckland that will bring Pacific representatives together to consider these policy proposals and our development support.

- MBIE is progressing the review of the RSE policy,^{s9(2)(f)(iv)} The review seeks to lift the scheme to a "gold standard".
- MBIE is progressing the development of new Pacific labour mobility programmes in the meat and seafood processing; and care and construction sectors. The meat and seafood programmes align well to the short-term, circular labour mobility requested by partners, and will likely come online in 2024. The care and construction programmes will move on a slower timeframe.
- MFAT is progressing a redesign of our IDC-funded labour mobility activity, the Strengthening Pacific Labour Mobility programme. It will look to formulate a programme that maximises the development impact of labour mobility for partners and supports their overall social and economic development and resilience.

Advocating for Small Island Developing States interests

Key current issues

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group – representing 28 percent of developing states – facing particular social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.
- There has been a noticeable uptick in international engagement on SIDS issues in the multilateral development system, which officials expect to continue in the lead up to the United Nations (UN) SIDS conference in 2024.
- Aotearoa New Zealand prioritises engagement in the multilateral development system on issues of importance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), especially those of importance to Pacific countries.

Upcoming events

- UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit, New York, 19-20 September 2023
- UNSIDS conference, Antigua and Barbuda, date to be confirmed (likely second half of 2024).

Background

SIDS are a distinct group – representing 28 percent of developing states – that face particular social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. These underlying vulnerabilities are related to remote geography, small landmasses, limited populations and susceptibility to climate change and other external shocks. These unique characteristics mean SIDS are often characterised by narrow economies and a significant dependence on imports; limited human resources capacity, which inhibits the ability to access finance and to implement development programmes; and challenges related to connectivity that limit uptake of technological advances. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, which triggered a global economic crisis, with steep recessions seen in many countries, including SIDS.

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development first recognised SIDS as a special case in development. Since then, a number of international agreements have called for specific action in support of SIDS. The 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the Paris Agreement set out ambitious development objectives for SIDS.

All of our Pacific country development partners are SIDS. New Zealand therefore prioritises engagement in multilateral fora to advocate and amplify SIDS issues, including at the United Nations, at the OECD, and with multilateral development banks (e.g., World Bank, Asian Development Bank). SIDS cooperate and collaborate with each other in international fora, including through the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), which is currently chaired by Samoa (New Zealand provides some financial support to Samoa's New York office to enable this role).

There are a broad range of issues of concern to SIDS. Current advocacy attention is on climate change mitigation, climate finance for adaptation, loss and damage finance, access to development assistance, debt sustainability, protecting existing maritime rights (from the impact of sea level rise), and developing sustainable blue economies.

Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

Improving access to finance is prompting attention on the development and use of Multidimensional Vulnerability Indices (MVIs). MVIs are a composite development indicator that seek to quantify a country's economic, environmental and social vulnerability. They are promoted as mechanisms for incorporating vulnerability into decisions about access to development assistance beyond usual – and inadequate – assessments which are principally based in income per person. Because many SIDS experience uneven patterns of development in which national income increases, but this is not matched by equal increases in development progress, they become classified as middle or high-income economies and are therefore ineligible for concessional financing.

The UN is developing an MVI to assist in accurately understanding the situation of SIDS and as a mechanism for guiding future concessional financing decisions to ensure SIDS have access to vital concessional development finance. New Zealand has been actively supporting this work at the UN, and is beginning to advocate for preparatory work on its potential application across the development finance system.

UN SIDS Conference

The UNSIDS Conference in 2024 will be an opportunity to intensify international attention and commitment to partnering with SIDS in their sustainable development, in the face of their unique challenges and vulnerabilities. New Zealand will be involved in shaping both the format and the content of the conference.

A preparatory committee is being established to lead preparations, consisting of two members from each regional UN group, as well as the host (Antigua and Barbuda) and the incoming Chair of AOSIS (Samoa).^{s6(a)}

The OECD DAC and AOSIS have formed a taskforce to identify a common set of issues and areas for collaboration, to improve the effectiveness and impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and to consider the issue of vulnerability. It will oversee work to address those agreed areas and launch a “Partnership for Action” at the UN SIDS Conference. New Zealand is participating as a member of the Taskforce (along with Samoa as AOSIS Chair) and in DAC discussions on the Taskforce’s outputs.

UN-Commonwealth Small States Strategy

- In June 2022, the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting of Leaders (CHOGM) welcomed the United Nations-Commonwealth Small States Advocacy Strategy, which focusses on:
- Improving recognition and measurement of economic vulnerability, which feeds into
- Improving access to development finance and addressing debt sustainability, and
- Addressing and adapting to climate change.
- A collection of champions have been appointed advocate for the Strategy. Because of New Zealand’s desire to support SIDS and advance their sustainable development interests, the previous Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was appointed as a champion. This role has now been delegated to you.
- This role is opportunity to lead and enhance our current engagement to amplify SIDS interests, particularly those of our Pacific whānau, into international fora and to New Zealand audiences. Officials are available discuss actions for you to consider^{s9(2)(f)(iv)}

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Calendar of upcoming events

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

**Part Four:
The Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and Trade**

PART FOUR

Part Four: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministry's functions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the Government's principal agent for pursuing New Zealand's interests and representing our country internationally. We build connections with and influence other countries to advance New Zealand's interests, project our values and secure outcomes that matter to New Zealand. We pursue the Government's international priorities and provide advice to the Government on the implications for New Zealand of what is happening in the world.

We lead the New Zealand Government diplomatic network, a unique national asset, safeguarded by international law, able to speak with an authoritative voice, and with heads of mission and posts formally charged with representing the state. This network is shown in Figure three.

We are the Government's specialist foreign, trade and development policy adviser, international legal adviser and negotiator. We are responsible for delivering Aotearoa New Zealand's international development cooperation; for international engagement on climate change; for providing consular services to New Zealanders overseas; and for coordinating offshore emergency responses.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is at the core of our work

Te Tiriti o Waitangi³ sets out a partnership framework between Māori and the Crown and provides the foundation for New Zealand's approach to foreign policy.

As the Ministry is a public service department, Te Tiriti principles of partnership, active protection, and redress have implications for our work. The Ministry must actively protect Māori interests and provide redress where previous wrongs are identified. The Ministry has an ongoing commitment to deliver on our obligations as a Treaty partner with authenticity and integrity — including through appropriate engagement with Māori.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Aotearoa New Zealand's bicultural experience also help to define our unique identity as a nation. The Ministry's work is also guided by values that derive from this bicultural heritage — manākitanga, kotahitanga, kaitiakitanga, and whanaungatanga.

In this way, Te Tiriti offers a foreign policy framework where respect and equality between peoples and countries are recognised, and where relationships are exercised in ways that affirm kāwanatanga and tino rangatiratanga. The Māori-Crown relationship therefore shapes and informs the goals outlined in the Ministry's Strategic Framework.

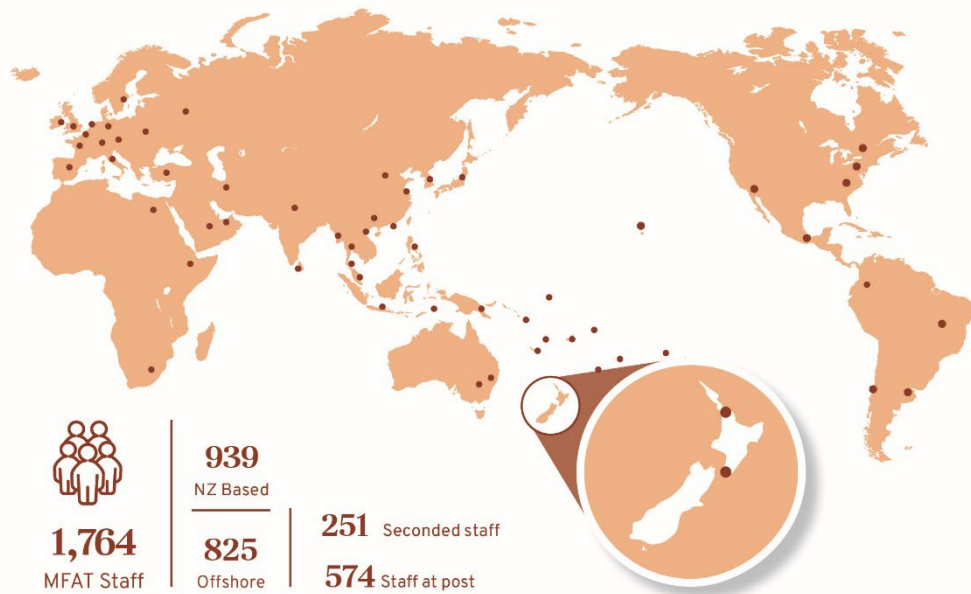
The Ministry continues to explore ways to ensure Māori views and interests are actively sought and reflected in our work. We continue to refine through our engagement approach a model that enables and leverages te ao Māori perspectives across foreign policy domains. The Ministry is also continuing its efforts to strengthen its capacity to be an effective Treaty partner, drawing on mātauranga Māori in our work. As part of our work, the Ministry has committed to actions in a range of areas including leadership, structure, capability, governance, decision-making, and strategic planning.

³ Te Tiriti in this document refers to all versions of Te Tiriti o Waitangi — in Te Reo Māori and English.

As at 22 February 2023

The Ministry at a glance He paku tirohanga ki Te Manatū

MFAT locations around the world and in NZ



In 2022–23 MFAT's global network comprised of **58** posts in **52** countries with **119** accreditations to other countries and **70** Honorary Consuls.

The MFAT network supports NZ Inc to achieve its international objectives.

MFAT acts in the world to build a safer, more prosperous, and more sustainable future for New Zealanders.

MFAT supports

- 4** ministerial portfolios
- 33** pieces of legislation administered
- 13** NZ Inc agency partners offshore
- 271** missions/consular posts resident in or accredited to New Zealand

Vote Foreign Affairs Appropriations for 2022/23

\$1,804
MILLION

INCLUDING:
International Development
Cooperation
\$1,073 MILLION
Capital
\$138 MILLION

Figure three: A snapshot of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Where we operate and how we organise ourselves

The Ministry is organised into Groups, based around geographic regions, policy functions and corporate functions. The Ministry's Senior Leadership Team, and leaders who will support you in your role as Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region) are shown in Figure four.

In New Zealand, in addition to our Wellington head office, we have an office in Auckland which is focused on business engagement and outreach to the Pacific community, through the Pacific Connections team. The Auckland office can serve as a base for your Auckland engagement. It is co-located with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE). This office also assists with VIPs visiting or transiting through Auckland.

The Ministry's global network comprises 58 posts in 52 countries. Beyond these 52 countries, posts have diplomatic cross-accreditations to a further 119 countries. These cross-accreditations are a cost-effective way of extending the reach of our network beyond the countries where we have established physical posts, and are in some locations usefully supplemented by the appointment of Honorary Consuls. In addition, NZTE Trade Commissioners lead a further nine Consulates-General.

Heads of Pacific missions and posts are shown in Figure five.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Leaders

As at 22 February 2023



Chris Seed
Chief Executive



Ben King
Deputy Chief
Executive
Policy



Victoria Hallum
Deputy Secretary
Multilateral and
Legal Affairs Group



Vangelis Vitalis
Deputy Secretary
Trade and
Economic Group



Bernadette Cavanagh
Deputy Secretary
Pacific and
Development Group



Rob Taylor
Deputy Secretary
Europe, Middle East
and Australia Group



Deborah Geels
Deputy Secretary
Americas and Asia
Group



David Wood
Deputy Chief
Executive
People and
Operations



Angela Hassan-Sharp
Divisional Manager
United Nations, Human Rights
and Commonwealth Division



Joanna Kempkers
Divisional Manager
Global Development and
Scholarships Division



Llewellyn Roberts
Divisional Manager
Development People and Planet
Division



Mark Ramsden
Divisional Manager
Pacific Melanesia and
Micronesia Division



Jonathan Austin
Divisional Manager
Pacific Regional Division



Felicity Bollen
Director for Pacific Connections
Pacific and Development Group



Deb Collins
Divisional Manager
Partnerships, Humanitarian
and Disaster Management



Jane Coombs
Divisional Manager
Pacific Polynesia and
French Pacific Division



Omar Aziz
(Acting) Divisional Manager
Development Economy and
Prosperity Division



Ben McKenzie
Principal Adviser
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Pacific Development Group

Figure four: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Leaders

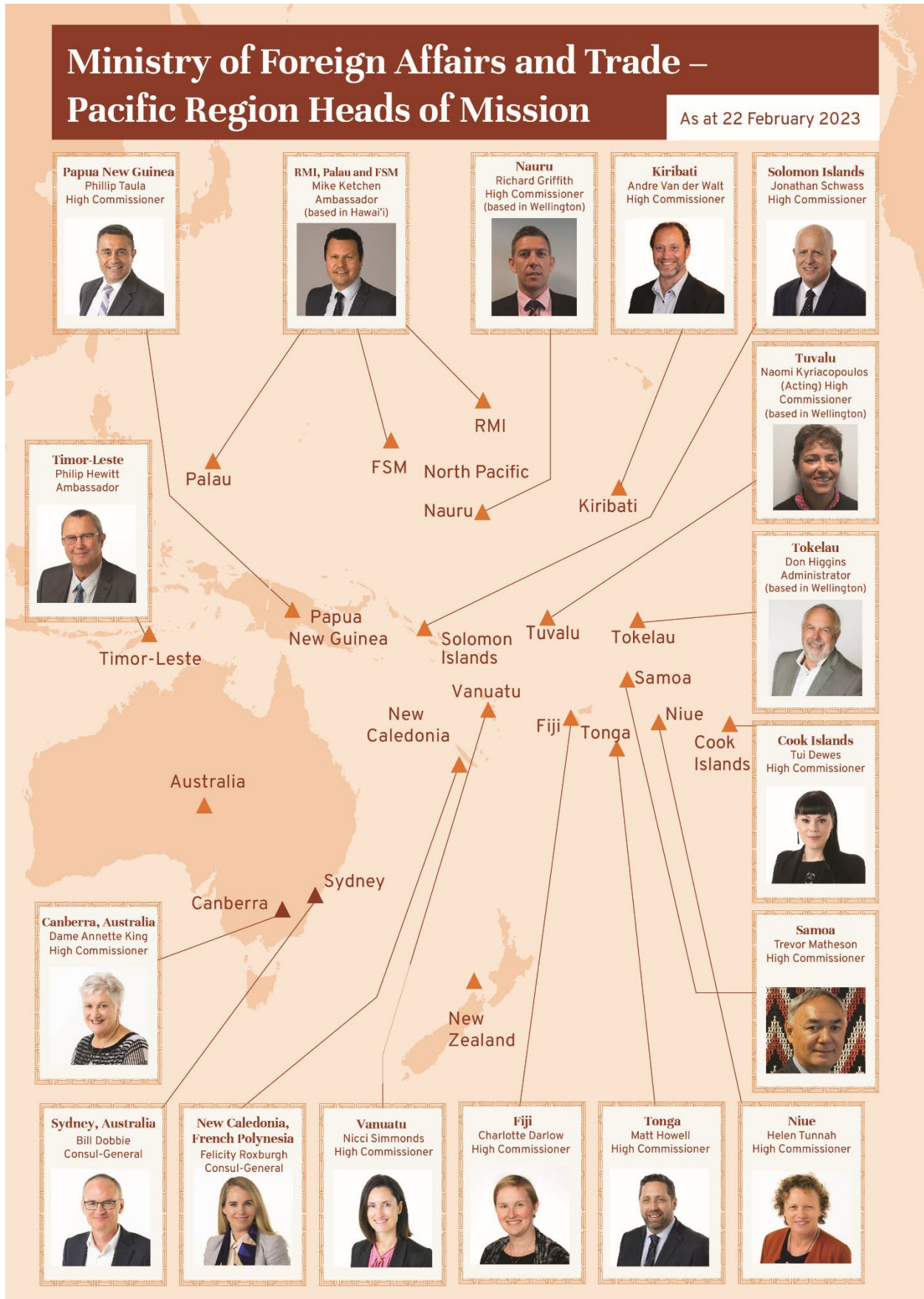


Figure five: Pacific Region Heads of Mission

Strategic Framework Te anga rautaki

TŌ TĀTOU KAUPAPA

Kia hāngai ake e te Manatū
he ao-haumarū, ao-tōnui,
ao-pūmau, ki te oranga
tonutanga mō Aotearoa
whānui



The Ministry's Strategic Framework sets out the Ministry's purpose, the value we deliver to New Zealanders, and the collective impact we aim to achieve over a ten year period through our seven strategic goals, support by our organisational capability goals (Figure six). The strategic goals are:

- **International Rules and Institutions** – Strengthen, protect and use international rules and institutions to pursue Aotearoa New Zealand's values and interests
- **Economic Returns and Resilience** – Grow sustainable economic returns and resilience from trade, investment and other international connections
- **Indo-Pacific** – Embed Aotearoa New Zealand as an active and integral partner in shaping an Indo-Pacific order that delivers regional stability and economic integration
- **Pacific** – Promote a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Pacific in which Aotearoa New Zealand's interests and influence are safeguarded
- **Climate Change and Environment** – Promote sustainable international solutions to global environment and natural resource challenges that impact on Aotearoa New Zealand
- **Security and Safety** – Lead Aotearoa New Zealand's international action to advance and protect New Zealanders' safety and Aotearoa New Zealand's security
- **International Relationships** – Build and leverage targeted international relationships to achieve our goals

The organisational capability goals are:

- **NZ Connections** – Foster mutual beneficial relationships with NZ Inc partners, Māori, domestic stakeholders and New Zealanders
- **Organisational Foundations** – Deliver optimal outcomes for Aotearoa New Zealand through our people, network, systems and services

The International Development Cooperation programme contributes across all of MFAT's goals, but most significantly the Pacific Goal. The Pacific Goal references and reinforces both the ICESD Policy and the Resilience Approach, and clarifies how PDG contributes to the Ministry's objectives.

Contributing to New Zealanders' well-being

The Ministry contributes to New Zealanders' well-being by delivering on four value propositions: Kaitiakitanga; Security; Influence; and Prosperity, which sit at the heart of the Ministry's Strategic Framework.

The Ministry's Strategic Framework is linked to The Treasury's Living Standards Framework for New Zealand and its four capitals of natural, human, social, financial/physical – the foundations for generating well-being now and in the future.

We have a role in building New Zealand's long-term capital and managing related risks through our work to establish and maintain strong international connections, effective relationships with a diverse range of partners, a voice in international fora and a range of robust institutions, rules and norms that serve New Zealand's interests. New Zealand relies on global goods, such as the atmosphere, economic stability and global institutions, rules and agreements. We both invest in and benefit from these international assets.

In turn, New Zealand's value proposition internationally is underpinned by the domestic strengths and values that make up the wellbeing capitals. These include our commitment to democracy and rule of law, honouring our Treaty partnership with Maori as New Zealand's indigenous people, the integrity of our public service and governance institutions, the strength of our economic and environmental management, and our values of fairness, freedom, inclusiveness, openness and tolerance. We leverage these intrinsic advantages to promote New Zealand's international assets.

Our value propositions for long-term well-being

Kaitiakitanga – Generations of New Zealanders benefit from sustainable solutions to global and regional challenges

New Zealanders' long-term wellbeing depends on the international community working together to safeguard shared global resources, promote global norms and achieve resilient development. The Ministry leads efforts to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand has a say on decisions that affect us and people around the world now and in the future. Specifically, the Ministry:

- supports the international and regional institutions tasked with resolving problems that cross borders and impact on global well-being
- works with other countries to negotiate and implement agreements on issues, such as climate change and over-fishing
- contributes to global sustainable development efforts
- delivers New Zealand's international development cooperation, with a focus on the Pacific region, and lead responses to humanitarian crises and natural disasters
- promotes global rules and legal frameworks on issues, including human rights, and support the international justice system
- pursue New Zealand's interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean



Security – New Zealanders are able to live, do business, travel and communicate more safely at home and offshore

New Zealanders' ability to operate in safe environments, whether in New Zealand, offshore or online, can be threatened by international factors ranging from conflict to cyber-attacks.

The Ministry is New Zealand's voice in fora that address security issues affecting our country, our region and the world. We also provide consular services that help keep New Zealanders safe and informed when they live or travel overseas. Specifically, the Ministry:

- leads New Zealand's contribution to global and regional efforts to promote peace and security
- works with international partners on rules and capacity building to reduce threats from cyber and terrorist attacks, illegal migration, transnational crime and other threats

- helps advance global disarmament and rules against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- provides safe travel information, helps New Zealanders affected by crises and other problems overseas, and ensures their rights are protected.

Influence – New Zealanders have confidence their country can influence others on issues that matter to them, now and in the future

New Zealand's ability to influence the decisions of other countries and organisations supports New Zealanders' well-being. The Ministry works to ensure that New Zealand has the relationships and levers to achieve what matters to New Zealanders. Specifically, the Ministry:

- sustains New Zealand's reputation for being a principled, fair and constructive participant in global and regional affairs
- works to strengthen institutions and rules to give small states influence and protect their interests
- builds trust and long-term capital with other countries, so we can secure their support when we need it
- creates global coalitions to support initiatives on issues that are important to New Zealanders and where we have expertise

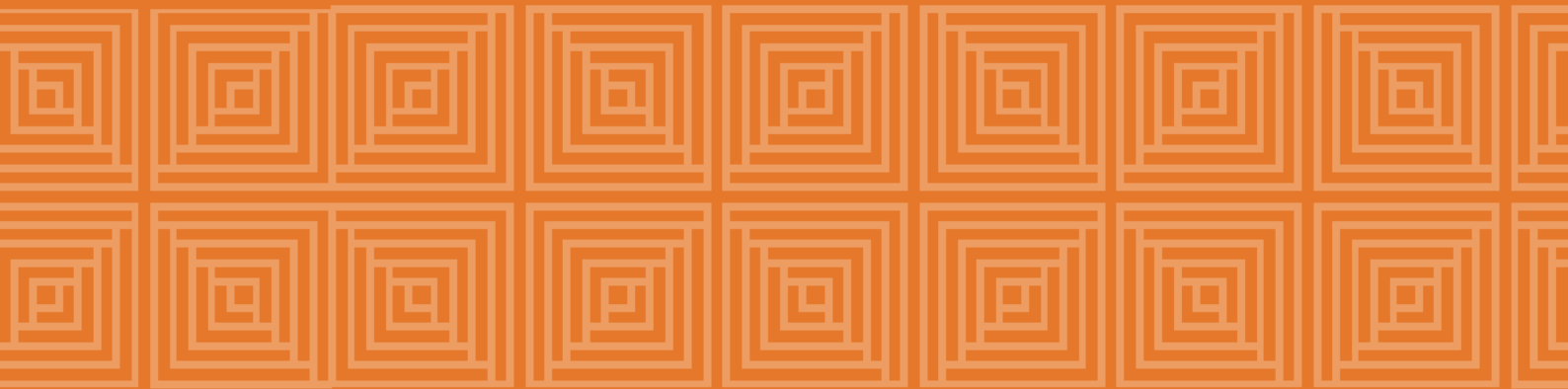


Prosperity – New Zealanders have better job opportunities and incomes from trade, investment and other international connections

International trade and investment are essential for New Zealanders' prosperity and standard of living. One in four jobs depends on exports. The Ministry negotiates the reduction and removal of barriers to trade and investment, supports access to overseas markets and helps exporters succeed. Specifically the Ministry:

- helps build global and regional trade rules and frameworks through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other fora, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to make it easier for New Zealanders to transact international business
- opens up and protects diverse exporting and investment opportunities through negotiating free trade agreements and reducing non-tariff barriers
- defends Aotearoa New Zealand's access rights including through taking dispute settlement action when other countries do not keep their commitments
- supports New Zealand businesses through our network of overseas posts to succeed in international markets and support international connections in areas such as research
- promotes and protects the Aotearoa New Zealand brand





MFAT

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
MANATŪ AORERE