

**4 June 2024**

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER OF NIUE, HON DALTON TAGELAGI AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND, RT HON CHRISTOPHER LUXON**

1. Premier of Niue, Hon Dalton Tagelagi, and the people of Niue hosted the New Zealand Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, and delegation, in Niue on 3 – 4 June 2024.
2. The visit coincided with the celebration of His Majesty King Charles III's Birthday on Monday 3 June 2024, and during an important year as both countries commemorate Niue's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of self-government in free association with New Zealand. Both leaders acknowledged the timeliness of Prime Minister Luxon's visit, and other high-level visits from New Zealand this year.
3. As Niue begins to celebrate 50 years of self-government in free association with New Zealand, Premier Tagelagi and Prime Minister Luxon agreed that the anniversary provided the opportunity to not only acknowledge and celebrate our shared history, but to also look with ambition to the future of the partnership. The leaders signalled their intention to further enhance the relationship through the development of a high-level political declaration during the anniversary year. Leaders also agreed to formalise an annual leaders' meeting befitting the closeness of the relationship.
4. Premier Tagelagi and Prime Minister Luxon emphasised the special and enduring nature of the constitutional relationship between Niue and New Zealand, and the strength of the connection underlined by the closeness of our peoples, our societies, and our economies. This closeness has enabled Niue and New Zealand to enjoy a long-lasting relationship of candour and warmth that is highly valued by both countries. The leaders reconfirmed the commitment of both countries to consult each other on significant issues, and the mutual responsibilities of trusted partnership and close cooperation that underpin the relationship.
5. Leaders acknowledged the shared priorities of:
  - strengthening the public sector;
  - developing and maintaining resilient infrastructure;
  - supporting the sustainable growth of tourism and the private sector;
  - protecting Niue's environment and supporting Niue's climate priorities; and
  - targeting improved outcomes in education, health and community safety.
6. Leaders acknowledged the steadfast role New Zealand has played over the years in supporting infrastructure in Niue and New Zealand's commitment to continue to partner with Niue to support its efforts to provide high-quality climate resilient infrastructure to advance Niue's well-being and prosperity. In this regard, the Leaders welcomed the timely upgrading of Niue's aviation infrastructure, including the recently completed resurfacing of the runway at Hanan International Airport funded by New Zealand.

7. The Leaders recognised the breadth and depth of bilateral cooperation touching all sectors and the long-standing agency-to-agency relationships that form the backbone to this cooperation.
8. Premier Tagelagi and Prime Minister Luxon also discussed our increasingly contested and complex region and had a candid discussion on the strategic issues affecting both nations. Leaders reiterated their commitment to Pacific-led solutions to challenges in the region. The leaders also emphasised the centrality of the Pacific Islands Forum and noted its critical role in advancing the region's long-term vision and amplifying the Pacific's voice on the global stage. They highlighted the importance of working through the Forum and other Pacific-led regional organisations to secure the future of our region and deliver on our priorities as articulated in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. Leaders agreed to work together to ensure the Forum remains an influential and unified organisation capable of facilitating collective action on shared challenges. Leaders acknowledged this year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tonga in August as another important opportunity to further strengthen Pacific regionalism.
9. Leaders acknowledged with sympathy the tragic landslide in the Enga province of Papua New Guinea. Leaders expressed their condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and to the Government of Papua New Guinea during this sad time. Leaders expressed their deep concerns with the ongoing situation in New Caledonia and affirmed the role of the Pacific Islands Forum in supporting constructive and respectful dialogue between the parties.
10. Leaders discussed the security of the Realm, and the foundational mutual constitutional obligations that underpin our closest of partnerships on matters of defence and security. Acknowledging the special nature of this partnership, leaders agreed to continue to work closely together, and to proactively consult each other, on a range of defence and security issues. Both leaders positively acknowledged the collaborative work under way to develop Niue's National Security Strategy, a commitment made by Leaders at Pacific Islands Forum 2018 as part of the Boe Declaration.
11. Prime Minister Luxon formally conveyed his congratulations and New Zealand's best wishes to Premier Tagelagi and the people of Niue for its 50th anniversary of self-government in free association with New Zealand.