

## Response ID ANON-9W22-T9WJ-2

Submitted to Updating Aotearoa New Zealand's Approach to International Climate Change Negotiations  
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### Submitter Details

What is your name?

Name:  
Peace Movement Aotearoa

What is your email address?

Email:  
s9(2)(a)

Association - please select any that apply

NGO

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, please provide your organisation name:  
Peace Movement Aotearoa

Location

New Zealand

### Section 1: What do you think New Zealand should be seeking to achieve through our participation at COP?

How can New Zealand best use COP to advance effective and ambitious global action?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand must push for the highest possible standards to limit global warming to 1.5° C or less, and advocate for the strongest possible mitigation measures to minimise disruption to stable environmental and oceanic conditions, and to protect biodiversity and humanity.

It is essential that New Zealand advocates for military emissions - estimated to be at least 5.5% of the global total - to be accounted for in national and international reporting, and to be substantially reduced.

It is essential that New Zealand listens to the voices and supports the proposals from those whose existence is most at risk due to the impacts of the climate emergency, and advocates for generous loss and damage financing. This includes supporting initiatives of Pacific island nations, such as negotiation of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and a just transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific.

It is essential that New Zealand's international position is based on its own national mitigation action, and its stated commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi - ensuring that hapū are fully involved in developing New Zealand's approach (not as an add on at the end of the process), and that New Zealand ensures and resources Māori representation at COP 28 as determined by Māori, not by MFAT or any other government agency.

All of the above points apply to all international climate negotiations New Zealand is involved with, not only to COP 28.

What areas are most critical for New Zealand to promote effective and ambitious global action at COP?

Importance - Global emissions reduction (Mitigation):  
Most Important

Importance - Increasing resilience (Adaptation):  
Very Important

Importance - Climate finance and technical support for climate action in developing countries:  
Most Important

Importance - Aligning global financial flows with the net zero transition:  
Most Important

Importance - Loss and damage:  
Most Important

Importance - Nature-positive climate action (e.g. through native ecosystems and nature based solutions, addressing the linkage between the biodiversity and climate crises):  
Most Important

Importance - Trade policies and instruments that support climate action:

Very Important

Importance - Agricultural sector climate action:

Most Important

Importance - Circular economy and sustainable industry (e.g., reducing plastic waste, etc.):

Very Important

Importance - Technology, innovation and transfer of technology:

Very Important

Importance - Other (please specify below):

Most Important

Why? Tell us more:

Military emissions - currently estimated to be at least 5.5% of the global total (a level exceeded only by three states: China, USA and India) - must be fully accounted for in national and international reporting, and substantially reduced.

Some states, including New Zealand, are promoting the dangerous notion that armed forces are somehow allies that will be of benefit in the "fight" against climate change - they will not, armed forces are major contributors to the climate emergency.

In addition to the level of military emissions, there is a huge opportunity cost for those states (including New Zealand) that maintain combat-ready armed forces by some states - the excessive amount of military expenditure, and levels of military research and development, are diverting financial and human resources away from the development of sustainable energy sources and other initiatives to slow the pace, and reduce the impact, of climate change.

Global military spending exceeded \$US 2,240 billion last year, while the amount allocated for New Zealand's armed forces in the 2022 Budget was more than \$NZ 6 billion (across the three Votes where most military spending is located - Defence, Defence Force and Education). Opportunity cost is opportunity lost when it comes to the financial and human resources urgently needed for action on climate change.

A substantial reduction in military activity (whether combat or day to day military training) would not only reduce military emissions and release much needed resources for action on climate change, but also be of benefit more widely to protect the environment, biodiversity and human security.

Both combat and day to day military training involve extensive live firing of the full range of land, sea, under-sea and air-based weapons and weapons systems, and together with the operation of military vehicles, vessels and aircraft on land, in marine and coastal environments, in the air and in space, this causes widespread - and in some cases permanent - damage to the environment, pollution and toxic contamination of ecosystems, and increases the risk of life-threatening hazards such as unexploded ordnance. Testing of a range of weapons systems is a further cause of long lasting environmental contamination and harm to human health. Military bases are an additional source of environmental contamination from toxic chemicals, such as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and a variety of fuel types, as well as heavy metals, such as lead. In addition, armed forces are a massive consumer of non-renewable resources including fossil fuels and rare metals.

Military activity is the epitome of unsustainable activity, and at this time when the climate emergency requires states to work together to find sustainable solutions, New Zealand must urge a substantial reduction in military emissions and a renewed focus on positive productive ways forward.

What is needed now more than ever before is diplomacy and cooperation among states, not endless preparation for war; and civilian agencies properly equipped and trained to deal with extreme weather events and disaster relief, not armed forces with inappropriate military equipment and personnel trained for combat.

How can New Zealand best leverage participation in COP to support our own low-emissions transition?

Enter your answer here:

What areas are most critical for New Zealand to promote our domestic transition through our participation at COP?

Domestic Transition - Insight into other countries' transition policies (e.g. on just transition, or implementation of nature-based solutions):

Most Important

Domestic Transition - Cooperation with other countries to support New Zealand's transition (e.g. on transport, attracting used EVs):

Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Promoting New Zealand as a low-carbon tech proving ground/green investment destination:

Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Access for New Zealand businesses to world-leading international businesses' transition technologies and business models:

Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Export opportunities for cleantech or carbon-efficient New Zealand exporters:

Very Important

Domestic Transition - Other (please specify below):

Why? Tell us more?:

If you are a business or you represent a Māori, civil society or industry organisation, are you considering participating in COP? Why/why not?

Enter your answer here:

Supporting the Pacific is a key component of our approach to COP. What do you think is important to consider as we do this, and why?

Enter your answer here:

Climate change is an immediate existential threat to Pacific peoples' survival, and it is crucial that New Zealand works closely with Pacific island nations (governments and NGOs) to provide practical assistance with their preparations for, and participation in, COP 28 as required; and supports their positions during the negotiations even when those positions do not match New Zealand's, including negotiation of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and a just transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific - not only at COP 28, but in all other international forums debating the climate emergency and related issues.

As per our comments in Q1 above, it is essential that New Zealand listens to the voices and supports the proposals from those whose existence is most at risk due to the impacts of the climate emergency, and advocates for generous loss and damage financing.

Indigenous leadership: What role should New Zealand play in amplifying indigenous voices in the global climate change regime? How can we do this most effectively?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand's interest in amplifying indigenous voices should start by demonstrating its stated commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi - ensuring that hapū are fully involved in developing New Zealand's approach (not as an add on at the end of the process), and ensuring Māori representation at COP 28 as determined by Māori, not by MFAT or any other government agency, is fully resourced.

Beyond that, New Zealand's support for indigenous voices can be shown in two ways: firstly, by providing resourcing for travel and assistance with other costs for indigenous peoples' organisations that wish to participate in COP 28; and secondly, by supporting indigenous peoples' proposals for action on mitigation and adaptation - even when those proposals may not be fully aligned with New Zealand's position.

Nature-positive climate action: How should we seek to ensure our global response to climate change also improves the resilience of our native ecosystems, and avoids harm to biodiversity?

Enter your answer here:

Our two key priorities for nature-positive climate action are:

i) New Zealand must push for the highest possible standards to limit global warming to 1.5° C or less, and advocate for the strongest possible mitigation measures to minimise disruption to stable environmental and oceanic conditions, and to protect biodiversity and humanity.

ii) It is essential that New Zealand advocates for military emissions - estimated to be at least 5.5% of the global total - to be accounted for in national and international reporting, and to be substantially reduced. As per our comments on military emissions above, military activity is harmful to the environment and biodiversity in a number of ways, and a substantial reduction would clearly be nature-positive climate action.

Should New Zealand be pursuing other aims at COP not mentioned above? If so, what, and why?

Other aims:

How should we be looking ahead to the prospect of an Australian COP in 2026 to support New Zealand and Pacific interests? Should it affect how we participate in COP in the run up to 2026?

Australia COP:

New Zealand must support the views of Pacific island nations on the prospect of an Australian COP - Australia's continuing commitment to fossil fuels appears to be at odds with Pacific initiatives such as the push for negotiation of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and a just transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific.

Section 2: How should New Zealand engage at COP?

What role do you think New Zealand should aim to play at COP? E.g. should we seek to be seen as a constructive bridge-builder, or be more prepared to be an outlier? Why?

Enter your answer here:

Who should we be working and aligning with, and why?

Enter your answer here:

Is New Zealand part of the right initiatives and coalitions to achieve our COP objectives?

Not Answered

Why? Why not?:

What should we do differently?:

How should we give effect to our Treaty partnership with Māori in how we engage at COP?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand must demonstrate its stated commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by ensuring that hapū are fully involved in developing New Zealand's approach (not as an add on at the end of the process), and ensuring Māori representation at COP 28 as determined by Māori, not by MFAT or any other government agency, is fully resourced.

Who do you think should be represented at COP to drive the outcomes New Zealand seeks?

Enter your answer here:

### Section 3: Specific Negotiation questions

#### Global Stocktake

What does a strong outcome of the Global Stocktake (GST) mean, for each of the Paris Agreement's goals - mitigation, adaptation and financial flows? What should New Zealand advocate for in each of, and across these pillars?

What should we advocate for in the GST on mitigation? :

Please refer to the ' Are there things we should advocate for across these pillars?' section below

What should we advocate for in the GST on adaptation?:

Please refer to the ' Are there things we should advocate for across these pillars?' section below

What should advocate for in the GST on financial flows?:

Please refer to the ' Are there things we should advocate for across these pillars?' section below

Are there things we should advocate for across these pillars?:

New Zealand must advocate for military emissions to be fully accounted for in national and international reporting, and to be substantially reduced.

As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is crucial for all three pillars.

How should the Global Stocktake and its outcomes increase action in this critical pre-2030 decade?

Enter your answer here:

How should the Global Stocktake outcomes feed into countries' consideration of NDC2?

Enter your answer here:

#### Mitigation Work Programme

What (e.g. sectors and measures) should this global mitigation work programme focus on, and how should it prioritise focus areas?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

How should New Zealand engage in this programme to support global action?

Enter your answer here:

How should New Zealand engage in this programme to support domestic action?

Enter your answer here:

What relation, if any, should this have to New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan?

Enter your answer here:

## Nationally Determined Contributions

NDCs are nationally determined, however are there processes or elements it would be desirable for all countries to focus on in the preparation of their NDC2?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

How should this link to the need to urgently reduce emissions in this critical decade, i.e. pre-2030?

Enter your answer here:

Should New Zealand be advocating for the implementation of NDCs to also promote biodiversity benefits – and if so, how?

Not Answered

If yes, how?:

## Adaptation

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

Are there any specific elements New Zealand should advocate for as a part of the work programme on the global goal on adaptation this year?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

What role should New Zealand play in advocating internationally for indigenous-led/co-designed approaches to local adaptation needs?

Enter your answer here:

How could this global decision influence New Zealand's domestic action on adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

How can consideration for biodiversity be built into the global goal and framework for adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

What role could New Zealand play in advocating internationally for adaptation actions that avoid harm or that protect or enhance biodiversity and native ecosystems?

Enter your answer here:

## Climate Finance

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to climate finance?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

What do you think New Zealand should do to support climate finance being accessible and effective for the Pacific?

Enter your answer here:

What kind of funding arrangements for addressing loss and damage from climate impacts do you think New Zealand should support?

Enter your answer here:

What features would you like to see in the new collective quantified goal on climate finance?

Enter your answer here:

How would you like to see New Zealand use COP to support broader reform in the financial system and the redirection of financial flows to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement?

Enter your answer here:

How do you think New Zealand can use COP to support the alignment of financial flows in our own country with the Paris Agreement and our climate change targets?

Enter your answer here:

## Loss and Damage

How should New Zealand promote successful operationalisation of the Santiago Network?

Enter your answer here:

How do you think we can seek to ensure the Santiago Network delivers effective support for the Pacific?

Enter your answer here:

Outside of the Santiago Network, what should New Zealand be advocating for on loss and damage, including through the Warsaw Implementation Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage?

Enter your answer here:

## International Cooperation on Mitigation

How should New Zealand promote environmental integrity and ensuring that only real and additional emissions reductions and removals can be used towards NDCs?

Enter your answer here:

How should New Zealand promote environmental integrity and ensuring that only real and additional emissions reductions and removals can be used towards NDCs?

Enter your answer here:

How should New Zealand ensure that sustainable development co-benefits (such as where funding mitigation outcomes also improves access to affordable energy for communities in the developing country partner) are mandated or weighted appropriately?

Enter your answer here:

What should New Zealand prioritise when engaging in the negotiations to support our access to sources of emissions reduction units with high environmental integrity?

Enter your answer here:

## Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to Nature-Based Solutions?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

Are there specific environmental or social safeguards, which New Zealand should be pursuing internationally? If yes, how?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

How can countries be encouraged to promote biodiversity benefits, and minimise risks of negative impacts on biodiversity from climate action?

Enter your answer here:

Are there insights New Zealand can bring to the international climate-biodiversity nexus from te ao Māori and a kaupapa Māori perspective?

Enter your answer here:

What else should New Zealand be doing internationally to promote more integrated global climate and biodiversity action?

## Just Transition

What outcomes would you like New Zealand to advocate for internationally in relation to just transition?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

How do you think the perspectives of groups disproportionately impacted by climate change should be included in global approaches to the transition to a low emissions future?

Enter your answer here:

## Response Measures

What outcomes would you like New Zealand to advocate for internationally in relation to Response Measures?

Enter your answer here:

Reduction of military activity: As per our comments in Section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

Are there any domestic climate policies in particular you are concerned will have negative impacts internationally?

Not Answered

If yes, how can we ensure New Zealand is not contributing to these?:

## Section 4: Provide General Feedback

You are welcome to provide feedback on any part of the proposal to update New Zealand's approach to international climate negotiations.

Add your comments, ideas, and feedback here:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. Due to other commitments, we have not had the chance to answer every question in this survey; but as you will see from our responses to those we answered, our focus is on ensuring military emissions are accounted for in national and international reporting, and are substantially reduced.

As per our comments in section 1, reducing military activity would not only help slow global warming, and protect the environment, biodiversity and human security, but it would also release much needed financial and human resources for action on climate change - it is essential for all of the options outlined in this survey.

File upload:

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## Consent to release your submission

Do you consent to your submission being published on this website?

Yes

If no to the above, please tell us if you have any objections to the release of any information used in your submission, particularly which part(s) you believe should be withheld, along with the reason. Reasons might include that it is commercially sensitive or it is personal information. We will take into consideration any objections when responding to OIA requests. However, any decision made to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may tell us to release it.

Enter your answer here: