

Policy Statement

New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD)

- 1 New Zealand cooperates for sustainable development as a Pacific country and a global citizen. The environmental, economic, governance, and human development challenges facing our region and the world are many and complex. They impact us and we are committed to working with others to meet them.
- 2 The purpose of our cooperation under this policy is to contribute to a **more peaceful world, in which all people live in dignity and safety, all countries can prosper, and our shared environment is protected.**
- 3 This policy confirms our primary focus on the Pacific region, in line with the Pacific Reset. It reflects a shift in how our government works in the region that includes deeper collaboration with Pacific partner countries and more ambition for our Pacific engagement.
- 4 This policy also confirms our support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. New Zealand will work for global solutions to global sustainable development challenges and particularly accelerated action to address climate change and its impacts, in line with the Paris Agreement. We will support an effective contribution from multilateral and regional institutions to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.
- 5 **This policy commits our global and regional cooperation to affirm:**
 - ✕ human rights, effective governance and democracy;
 - ✕ the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict;
 - ✕ gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - ✕ sound stewardship of the environment and climate; and
 - ✕ child and youth well-being.
- 6 New Zealand's international cooperation will reflect the broad and integrated nature of sustainable development. We will value, invest in and seek real progress across the social (people - **Ngā Tāngata**), environment (planet - **Te Taiao**), economic (prosperity - **Te Ōhanga**), and stability and governance (peace - **Te Rangimarie**) pillars of sustainable development.
- 7 In addition to our aid, New Zealand will work to advance sustainable development through our trade, environment, diplomatic, and security cooperation as an integrated approach to foreign policy. We will also pursue greater policy coherence in our domestic policy settings that impact on global development.
- 8 New Zealand will work in partnership with others and will cooperate with all who share our values and objectives.
- 9 New Zealand will work with Small Island Developing States to support their voice and advance their sustainable development interests.



Scope of New Zealand's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

10 New Zealand will maintain a strong ODA¹ contribution to sustainable development and humanitarian action in Pacific Island and developing countries.² The majority of our ODA will focus on countries most in need, particularly Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.

11 New Zealand's ODA will retain a primary geographic focus on the Pacific that will account for at least sixty percent of total ODA. Our relationships and ODA in the Pacific will be informed by principles of understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, sustainability and collective ambition. We will give particular consideration to our constitutional obligations to states within the Realm of New Zealand, and to Pacific countries most off track against the Sustainable Development Goals.

12 New Zealand's ODA will have a secondary geographic focus on Southeast Asia, particularly its Least Developed Countries and the regional role of ASEAN. New Zealand will focus on collaborating with partners to upscale our ambition and impact for the Asia-Pacific region.



13 New Zealand's ODA will achieve global reach through strong engagement in and support through the multilateral system, humanitarian assistance, regional programmes in Africa and the Caribbean, and assistance to specific fragile and conflict affected areas, particularly in the Middle East and Asia.

14 Beyond these priority areas, New Zealand will consider targeted ODA for middle-income and transitioning countries to access policy and technical expertise; support transition to more sustainable and inclusive development; and strengthen forms of cooperation with New Zealand that can be sustained without ODA.

15 New Zealand's ODA will draw on and engage New Zealand's people, public sector and other institutions, resources and expertise.

16 New Zealand will pursue impact through development outcomes that are:

- ✗ **Effective** – that are values driven, partnership focused, dynamic, and evidence-based;
- ✗ **Inclusive** – that address exclusions and inequality created across all dimensions of social identity, while promoting human rights, and equitable participation in the benefits of development;
- ✗ **Resilient** – that promote resilience, including to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and external shocks; and
- ✗ **Sustained** – that respond to context and are locally owned.

17 New Zealand will ensure its development cooperation is effective through the following principles for how we work:

- ✗ A values-based and transparent approach to engagement;
- ✗ A strong focus on mutually accountable partnerships;
- ✗ Adaptive approaches driven by local context and continuous learning; and
- ✗ Fostering a culture of results using evidence-based decision making.

¹ ODA is defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as government funding designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Development cooperation is broader than ODA and encompasses all of the ways in which New Zealand advances development.

² New Zealand's support under Vote Official Development Assistance is more expansive than the OECD DAC definition, in that developed Pacific Island countries are also eligible.