

**New Zealand –  
Independent State of  
Papua New Guinea  
  
Statement of  
Partnership**

**Aotearoa –  
Whenua Motuhake o  
Papua Niu Kini  
  
Tauākī Mahitahi**

**Niu Zilen –  
Independen Stet  
bilong Papua Niugini  
  
i tokaut lo wok bung  
wantaim**

**2021-2024**



*He waka eke noa*

*We are all in the waka together*



*Wok bung wantaim*

*Working Together*

This Statement of Partnership sets out the shared principles, priorities and understandings that will guide cooperation and engagement between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea in identified areas.

In coming together under this partnership, we recognise our shared geography and history, our people-to-people connections, and our mutual interest in a secure and prosperous Asia-Pacific region.

We note our long-established bilateral relationship founded on the principles of mutual trust, respect and sovereign equality, governed by the spirit of friendship.

We acknowledge Papua New Guinea's Medium Term Development Plans III and IV. We also acknowledge the key principles that underpin New Zealand's Pacific engagement in support of long-term resilience, across an integrated environmental, social, economic and peace agenda.

We acknowledge the importance of thriving indigenous cultures and economies, and their significance in the overall wellbeing and advancement of our respective countries. Both governments acknowledge the importance of tangible improvement of outcomes for indigenous peoples and communities, facilitated in part through mutual collaboration, information sharing, and learning from one another.

We reaffirm the fundamental shared values at the heart of our partnership, in particular our respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality, effective governance, inclusiveness, environmental stewardship, economic empowerment, human development, strong regional and international cooperation and sustainable economic development.

We acknowledge the challenges our countries face in addressing the wide-ranging implications of COVID-19 at a national, regional and global level, and our intention to support each other and cooperate closely in our responses.

**Partnership  
Principles**

**Ngā Mātāpono  
Mahitahi**

**Oi as bilong wok  
bung wantaim**

Under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will work collaboratively through line government agencies of respective countries to:

- Maintain ongoing, open communication at all levels to ensure effective cooperation, coordination and accountability, across our relationship;
- Develop a deeper understanding of our respective foreign policy and development interests and priorities, seeking closer alignment as appropriate;
- Pursue development activities that are inclusive, resilient, sustainable and effective;
- Pursue flexibility to respond to emerging priorities as they arise; and
- Be mindful of obligations arising from international law which both partners are bound by, and respect each other's prevailing domestic laws and regulations.



**Priority Area 1: Partnership** – *Sharing our resources, knowledge and experience*

- Foster deeper cooperation between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea counterpart institutions to deliver mutual benefits;
- Share views and deepen cooperation to strengthen and protect the international rules-based system and institutions;
- Support regional and sub-regional governance and progress regional and sub-regional priorities on the global stage through plurilateral and multilateral partnerships;
- Work together with our like-minded partners to promote coordination and collaboration in areas of common interest, and on priorities approved by both Governments; and
- Pursue opportunities to share data and information on trade and investment between relevant government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

**Priority Area 2: Security and Peace** – *Working towards a more peaceful, safe and secure Pacific*

- Recognise our long-standing commitment to a safe and stable Pacific region where Pacific sovereignty is respected, and unhindered access to open water ways and marine resources are preserved, in line with the international rules-based system;
- Recognise the Boe Declaration on Regional Security endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2018, and the Boe Declaration Action Plan endorsed in 2019;
- Commit to strengthening our respective national security strategies, promoting the rule of law, and strengthening national security capacity;
- Recognise that an increasingly complex regional security environment driven by multifaceted security challenges and a dynamic geopolitical environment is leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region;
- Recognise the breadth of security issues of shared interest that underpin an 'expanded concept of security' comprising both traditional

and non-traditional security challenges, including those that relate to: human security, health security, environmental and climate security, energy security, food security, cybersecurity and transnational organised crime, including transnational border security; and

- Commit to providing humanitarian and disaster relief as needed and when requested.

### **Priority Area 3: People-to-People – *Deepening our connections***

- Work together to deliver targeted scholarship and tertiary education programmes that enable leadership and professional capability development aligned with Papua New Guinea's development priorities;
- Work together across the public sector, including through strengthened institutional partnerships, to promote capacity-building initiatives in targeted areas that enhance accountability, transparency, and the delivery of public services;
- Promote more regular parliamentary exchanges, including virtually if required, in particular between women leaders from Papua New Guinea, and Pasifika and Māori women leaders, Members of Parliament and Ministers from New Zealand;
- Work together to maximise Papua New Guinea's participation in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme and other labour mobility programmes, in line with relevant domestic policies and regional arrangements; and
- Work together to promote deeper understanding and appreciation of respective cultures and histories, including through tourism and other people-to-people linkages.

**Priority Area 4: Prosperity** – *Fostering trade and investment geared towards building resilient economies*

- Foster effective governance through joint dialogue and support policy reform initiatives to stimulate broad-based sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- Build a resilient economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19;
- Prioritise Papua New Guinea's State-Owned Enterprises and Public Sector as areas for reform and cooperation;
- Promote business engagements between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea for mutually beneficial trade and investment outcomes; and
- Pursue opportunities to strengthen bilateral trade and investment, and explore opportunities for closer economic integration regionally through established plurilateral and multilateral mechanisms, with a view to expanding economic opportunities for our businesses and our people.

**Priority Area 5: Inclusive and Sustainable Development** – *Ensuring official development assistance promotes equal access to benefits*

- Promote and invest in improvements to policy, systems and capacity of key institutions and agencies, including State Owned Enterprises, state services, and the public sector, in line with Papua New Guinea's Medium Term Development Plan III, and the theme of securing the future through inclusive sustainable economic growth;
- Ensure official development assistance and domestic policy supports the participation and inclusion of the marginalised in Papua New Guinea society, particularly girls, women, youth, the elderly, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups which may be excluded from opportunity or experience discrimination; and
- Work together to improve service delivery including in the sectors of transport, energy, higher education, research and development, agriculture and health to promote broad-based economic and inclusive social development that is transparent, accountable and nationally-led.

**Shared  
Understandings**

**He Māramatanga  
Tahi**

**Wok bung wantaim  
lo bungim tingting  
na mekim wok i  
kamap**

In order to give practical effect to our ambitions under this Statement of Partnership, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will work together according to the following shared understandings:

- High-level bilateral Ministerial visits and consultations on issues of mutual interest, including periodic meetings between our Prime Ministers, should be promoted;
- A Partnership Update document should be developed, maintained, and endorsed by officials to effectively coordinate and implement the five (5) priority areas approved herein;
- High Level Consultations should be held annually in order to discuss progress made towards advancing the priorities outlined in this Statement, and consider the implementation of the Partnership Update document which will be reviewed every three (3) years;
- Regular and timely financial updates on the Papua New Guinea development assistance programme should be provided, and reported to our respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

This Statement of Partnership will take effect on the date of its signature. Any jointly approved amendment to the priorities, objectives, or principles will be decided by both Partners in writing.



Signed

At \_\_\_\_\_  
(location)

At \_\_\_\_\_  
(location)

on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**For New Zealand**

**For the Independent State of  
Papua New Guinea**

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*Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern*  
*Prime Minister*

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*Hon James Marape*  
*Prime Minister*