

Proactive Release

Date: 14 November 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	CAB-23-MIN-0448
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Visit to United States: 19-28 September 2023	

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 2 October 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nanaia Mahuta under CAB-23-SUB-0448 on her travel, from 19 to 28 September 2023, to the United States of America to attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, and the US-Pacific Summit in Washington D.C.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet

Report to Cabinet: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Visit to United States: 19-28 September 2023

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to New York and Washington DC, United States, 19-28 September 2023.

Report

- 2 The focus of my visit to the United States was to lead Aotearoa New Zealand's delegation to the high-level week segment of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from 19-23 September, and to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the US-Pacific Summit which was held in Washington D.C. from 24-26 September.

New York, 19-23 September

- 3 UNGA High-Level Week provided an opportunity to advance Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy interests through engagement with political and other global leaders and to reaffirm Aotearoa New Zealand's strong commitment to the multilateral system.
- 4 While in New York, I delivered Aotearoa New Zealand's National Statement during the UNGA General Debate. I also represented Aotearoa New Zealand in a range of high-level meetings and side events, including signing the United Nations Global Oceans Treaty on High Seas Biodiversity, and held bilateral meetings with key Ministerial counterparts.
- 5 My substantive programme in New York from 19-23 September accomplished the following objectives, where I:
 - Delivered Aotearoa New Zealand's National Statement that set out our priorities in the multilateral system;
 - Signed the United Nations Global Oceans Treaty on High Seas Biodiversity;
 - Attended high level meetings and summits including the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development; the Climate Ambition Summit; the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting; a Feminist Foreign Policy High Level Event; a Ministerial level dialogue on the Initiative on Arbitrary Detention; and participated in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting with the United Nations Secretary General;
 - Viewed the High-Level open debate at the United Nations Security Council on the conflict in Ukraine;
 - Hosted two side events in the margins of High-Level Week which explored the impact of Contemporary Security Situations on Women and Girls (in addition to my attendance at a separate event of the informal network of women foreign

ministers); and also hosted a reception at the New Zealand Mission for Pacific Islands leaders who were attending the United Nations High Level Week.

- Held bilateral meetings with counterparts including the Foreign Ministers of Chile, Egypt, Germany, Palau and Palestine. These meetings provided an opportunity to further discussions with important relationships and to better understand developments in their respective regions.
- Attended a breakfast summit on sea level rise co-hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Tuvalu, Palau and the Marshall Islands. Attendance at this event underscored the importance Aotearoa New Zealand places on the challenges of climate change while supporting our valued Pacific partners;
- Participated in the Partners of the Blue Pacific (PBP) Ministerial Meeting hosted by US Secretary of State Blinken which was attended by Leaders or Foreign Ministers of Pacific Islands Forum members. This meeting provided a useful opportunity to explore with PBP partners key areas of cooperation across the Pacific and to ensure cooperation with international partners remains coordinated, strategic and effective;
- Met with representatives of the Lenape people, the tangata whenua of modern day Manhattan to learn more about the indigenous history of the land of which the United Nations is based and to convey Aotearoa New Zealand's experiences of addressing historical injustices, including through the Waitangi Tribunal.

Washington D.C: 25-26 September

- 6 The centrepiece of my time in Washington D.C was to participate in the US-Pacific Summit, together with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Ministers. Hosted by President Biden on 25-26 September, this was the third US-Pacific Summit and provided a valuable opportunity to demonstrate Aotearoa New Zealand's support for US engagement with the Pacific region; to position New Zealand as a critical partner for the US in the Pacific; and to advocate and work alongside Pacific Leaders to advance Pacific priorities. The majority of Pacific countries attended at Leader level.
- 7 Aotearoa New Zealand's attendance at the summit reinforced to the United States and Pacific partners that we are committed to supporting our region to build resilience to the broad range of complex challenges the region faces, including in development, financial, climate, and geopolitical challenges.
- 8 The purpose of the visit was also to discuss Pacific regional issues with the United States, signal Aotearoa New Zealand's concern about the deteriorating global geostrategic environment, and to reinforce our intention to work with likeminded partners to uphold a strategic landscape that is consistent with our shared values and interests.
- 9 My visit to Washington achieved the following objectives, where I:
 - Demonstrated Aotearoa New Zealand's support for greater US engagement in the Pacific region while reinforcing the importance of utilising regional architecture to achieve Pacific priorities.
 - Reinforced to President Biden of Aotearoa New Zealand's value to the US as a reliable partner.

- Worked alongside Pacific Leaders to advance Pacific priorities and reinforced the importance of regional unity.
- Communicated Aotearoa New Zealand's Pacific Resilience Approach, where New Zealand works in partnership with Pacific countries to build individual and regional resilience to the shared challenges all Pacific countries.

Proactive Release

10 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18)4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that Cabinet:

1 note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs

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