

5 December 2024

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

Personal details removed for
proactive release

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

In accordance with the Official Information Act, please provide the following documents:

- A submission entitled 'Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings', dated 12 September 2024.*
- A submission entitled 'Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings', dated 20 September 2024.*

On 15 December 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 15 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Please note these two papers are almost identical. A number of updates were made to the paper dated 20 September 2024 to reflect the latest developments in the Middle East.

The information you have requested is attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

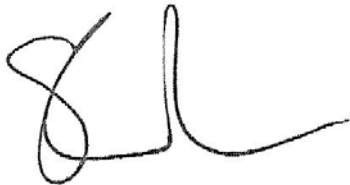
- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



12 September 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

20 September 2024

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE This submission outlines how the status quo in the Israel/Palestine conflict has changed and requests Ministerial direction on which policy options to pursue to support an end to the conflict and bolster the two-state solution. ^{s6(a)}

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	27 September 2024
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs	For information by	27 September 2024
Minister of Defence	For information by	27 September 2024

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
s9(2)(g)(ii)	Divisional Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	s9(2)(a)
	Senior Policy Officer	Middle East and Africa Division	

Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Key points

- Successive New Zealand governments have pursued an approach to the resolution of the Israel/Palestine conflict rooted in support for international law and support for the 'two-state solution'. The two-state solution has long been held as the best way for Israel and a Palestinian state to co-exist in peace and security. It is almost universally accepted by the international community.
- s6(a)
- Hamas and its actions have been despicable. s6(a)
Once the hostilities in Gaza end, the international community will need to continue to engage with the Palestinian Authority and other Palestinian actors to constrain those terrorist entities and actors from threatening Israel's security.
- Israel's conduct of the war, and its breaches of international law, has continued to worsen. s6(a)
- MFAT's current work programme on Israel/Palestine issues includes: diplomatic engagement with Israel, the Palestinians and regional countries; condemning continued Hamas transgressions, multilateral advocacy and public statements; travel bans on far-right Israeli settlers; humanitarian and development assistance; advice on terrorist designations; and, an export controls regime that considers New Zealand's reputation and international legal obligations when making permit decisions.
- It is timely to refresh our policy settings in light of events since 7 October in order to support our overarching policy objectives of supporting an end to the conflict and support for the two-state solution.
- s6(a)
- We also propose to provide you with further advice on the risks and benefits of the following policy options and seek Ministerial direction as to which options officials should focus further advice. s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Note that New Zealand has pursued a principled, and issues-based approach to the resolution of the Israel/Palestine conflict, taking neither pro-Palestinian nor pro-Israeli positions, that is rooted in international law, and which supports Israel's secure existence alongside support for a viable Palestinian state. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Agree that a principled, issues-based approach to the Israel/Palestine conflict, rooted in international law, and support for the two-state solution should remain New Zealand's overarching policy objectives. | Yes / No |
| 3 | s6(a) | Yes/No |
| 4 | Note that our current work programme related to the conflict includes: diplomatic engagement; condemning Hamas transgressions, multilateral advocacy; travel bans on far-right Israeli settlers; humanitarian and development funding to the occupied Palestinian territories (oPT); advice on terrorist designations; and, an export controls regime which considers New Zealand's reputation and international legal obligations in making permit decisions. | Yes / No |
| 5 | s6(a) | Yes / No |
| 6 | Agree that we should refresh our work programme because of the changed status quo. | Yes / No |
| 7 | Agree that officials should provide further advice to you and other relevant Ministers on the risks and benefits of the following policy options:
s6(a) | Yes / No
Yes / No
Yes / No
Yes / No |

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

s6(a)		Yes / No
8		Yes/No
9		Yes / No
10	Note that while humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on development support for a viable Palestinian state.	Yes / No
11	s6(a)	Yes / No
12	Refer a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister, the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Minister of Defence for their information.	Yes / No

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Report

1. Successive New Zealand governments have pursued an approach to the settlement of the Israel/Palestine conflict that is rooted in support for international law. In practice this has meant supporting Israel's secure existence alongside support for a viable Palestinian state. This 'two-state solution' has been supported by New Zealand as the best way for Israel and a Palestinian state to co-exist in peace and security.
2. s6(a)
The situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT) remains hugely concerning. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
3. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
4. We have designated Hamas as a terrorist entity. s6(a)
5. As a liberal democracy we expect Israel to behave in a manner which complies with international law, including international humanitarian law. s6(a)

The status quo has changed

6. The actions of Israel and Hamas since 7 October have altered the state of the conflict and the two state solution is further away than ever:
 - On 7 October 2023 Hamas carried out the worst terrorist attack in Israel's history, with approximately 1,200 people killed and 251 taken hostage. s6(a)
 - The Israeli Government has allowed 13,000 new housing units to be built by Israeli settlers in the oPT, the highest number on record since 2012. It has also 'legalised' (under domestic Israeli law) multiple settlement outposts, effectively integrating those settlements into the state of Israel.

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

- s6(a), s9(2)(h) including the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which ordered Israel halt its military offensive in Rafah. Israel has also ignored the ICJ Advisory Opinion that said that Israel's presence in the oPT is unlawful and that Israel must end its occupation and cease all new settlement activities.
- s6(a)

Israel has withheld
- and in some instances confiscated - PA tax revenue and threatened the viability of West Bank banking services.

7. s6(a)

New Zealand's foreign policy priorities

8. Israel/Palestine policy does not fall within New Zealand's Foreign Policy Reset, ^{s6(a)}

9. Nonetheless we have equities in the Israel/Palestine conflict:

- The conflict challenges the international rules-based order that New Zealand relies upon.
- The Israel/Hamas conflict has destabilised the broader Middle East and contributed to heightened tensions between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah, and Israel and Iran (and other proxies such as the Houthi). Nearly 15 per cent of global trade and 30% of containerised trade flows through the Red Sea and Suez Canal. Supply chain disruptions mean higher costs for New Zealand consumers and delays getting goods to and from markets in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Shipping costs in some instances have more than trebled.
- The ongoing conflict demands attention and resource from some of our closest partners that reduces their ability to focus on issues of priority for New Zealand.
- The positions New Zealand takes on Israel/Palestine are noticed by partners. ^{s6(a)}

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

10. MFAT has received over 200 OIAs or pieces of correspondence from the public on the Israel/Palestine conflict since 7 October, far greater than the public engagement on any other foreign policy issue over the same period. The tenor of the correspondence is either pro-Palestinian or pro-Israeli and reflects the deeply held views on both sides of the issue. MFAT management of engagement with the New Zealand public on this issue requires substantial resource.

Current work programme

11. We are currently taking the following steps to advance New Zealand interests in the protection of the rules based international order, promote compliance with international law and support the two-state solution (see Annex for further detail):

- Ongoing diplomatic engagement with the Israelis, Palestinians and other influential parties to register our views, including condemning Hamas transgressions, support for the two-state solution and compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law;
- UN advocacy and support for United Nations General Assembly action;
- Consideration of CANZ leaders or ministerial statements as appropriate, ^{s6(a)}
- Progress of a fourth tranche of travel bans on extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank;
- Advice to the Prime Minister on extending the existing Hezbollah terrorist designation to include the political wing of Hezbollah, as well as designation of the Houthi as a terrorist entity; and,
- An export controls regime that ensures that any exports of strategic goods to Israel are reviewed against a range of criteria, including consistency with New Zealand's obligations under international law as well as New Zealand's reputation

s6(a)

s6(a)

Additional policy options

16. New Zealand's humanitarian response to the conflict – including financial support totalling NZ\$22 million since October 2023 and strong advocacy – has been significant. However, needs remain extreme and the United Nations' appeal of US\$3.4 billion is only 47% funded.
s6(a)

17. Whilst humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on international support for a viable Palestinian state. Therefore, in addition to our humanitarian response, New Zealand can support the two-state solution by providing development assistance to support organisations that are working to strengthen the PA's governance. s6(a)

18. We also propose to provide you with advice on the risks and benefits of the following policy options. Further detail regarding these options is set out in the Annex. We would welcome Ministerial direction as to which options officials should focus further advice.

• s6(a)

• s6(a)

•

•

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

s6(a)

19.

20. To maintain a credible level of engagement on the Israel/Palestine conflict, while balancing this against the Government's Foreign Policy Reset, officials will apply the following criteria when making recommendations about additional policy options:

- Whether the proposed option builds on our policy positions to date and is consistent with our overarching objective of a principled issues-based approach to the Israel/Palestine conflict that is centred on international law, and support for the two-state solution;
- Working in concert with close partners, where possible, in order to maximise influence; and
- Level of resource required and ability to be met from existing baselines.

s6(a)

Resourcing

25. The recommendations made in this paper will be met from within existing baselines and do not require a reprioritisation of work. There are no people implications.

26. All additional policy options will be met from within existing baselines. A further assessment of risks will also be included in future advice.

Current Work Programme

Policy	Detail
1. Ongoing diplomatic engagement	<p>We will continue to look for opportunities to convey our views to Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other influential parties.</p> <p>This is currently done through regular meetings with the Israeli Ambassador in Wellington, engagement with the Palestinian representative in Canberra, official visits to Israel and the oPT, and engagement through our Posts accredited to Israel and the oPT. Ministerial interaction with counterparts via calls, letters and meetings (for instance on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly) is also considered when appropriate.</p> <p>Diplomatic engagement will also continue on this issue with partners outside the region. ^{s6(a)}</p> <p>^{s6(a)}</p>
2. UN advocacy and support for United Nations General Assembly action	<p>Following the recent ICJ Advisory Opinion on the <i>Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem</i> the Palestinian Observer Mission to the UN has circulated a draft UN General Assembly (GA) resolution calling on Israel to implement the Advisory Opinion. New Zealand is considering the resolution on its merits, consistent with our policy positions on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and international law. Further advice will be provided.</p> <p>New Zealand will consider appropriate opportunities to articulate our national positions on MEPP issues in the UN ^{s6(a)} We will also look to be engaged and constructive in the negotiation of UN resolutions, as required. The GA will once again consider a suite of MEPP-related resolutions in late 2024, as part of the annual 'suite' of resolutions brought by Palestine. New Zealand has a long-established and consistent approach to these resolutions but is not directly involved in their drafting. Other UN organs such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) also provide occasional opportunities for New Zealand to express our views.</p>
3. Consideration of CANZ leaders or ministerial statements as appropriate ^{s6(a)}	<p>We have made three CANZ statements at PM level since 7 October. ^{s6(a)}</p>
4. Progress of a fourth tranche of additional travel bans on extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank	<p>New Zealand has issued travel bans on 22 extremist Israeli settlers convicted of violence in the West Bank.</p> <p>^{s6(a)}</p>
5. Advice to the Prime Minister on extending the Hezbollah terrorist designation to include the political wing of Hezbollah, as well as designation of the Houthi as a terrorist entity.	<p>^{s6(a)}</p> <p>The Prime Minister must consult the Attorney-General before announcing a decision.</p> <p>These two terrorist designations (the political wing of Hezbollah in addition to the military wing, and Ansar Allah/the Houthi) have considerable foreign policy elements to them. ^{s6(a)} MFAT is working alongside DPMC and others to prepare a communications plan for the announcement of these designations, should the Prime Minister decide to designate.</p>
6. Export Controls Regime	<p>The purpose of New Zealand's Export Controls regime is to regulate the export of goods which may be intended for use that could, directly or indirectly, be to the detriment of New Zealand's security or national interests or contribute to human rights abuse or the contravention of international humanitarian law.</p> <p>Every export application is assessed on a case by case basis against six criteria. The criteria include: New Zealand's obligations and commitments under international law, including international human rights and international humanitarian law. The criteria also take into consideration New Zealand's national interests, and New Zealand's commitment to being a responsible exporter of strategic and military end use goods.</p> <p>^{s6(a)}</p>

s6(a)

There are no records of an approved export to the Israeli Defence Force (data goes back to 2003).

Released under the Official Information Act

Additional Policy Options: Further advice to be provided to Ministers

Policy	Detail
<p>1. New Zealand's humanitarian response to the conflict</p>	<p><i>Further humanitarian support in 2024-25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian needs in Gaza are likely to remain extremely high over the course of the 2024-25 financial year. Given the significant scale of need, scale of destruction in Gaza and severe protection risks for vulnerable groups, it is recommended New Zealand continue to prioritise the crisis for funding from the humanitarian allocation. s6(a) The Ministry will provide you with separate advice on New Zealand's future partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). <p><i>Resource considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding would come from within existing baselines, drawn from the non-departmental International Development Cooperation Appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs. Disbursing this humanitarian contribution would not have people resource implications. <p><i>Risks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s6(a) <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks associated with the response, including aid diversion, and extreme health and safety risks remain unchanged. Officials will assess agencies' risk management and mitigation systems when considering funding partners. <p>s6(a)</p>
<p>2. Development Assistance to the oPT</p>	<p>Whilst humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on international support for a viable Palestinian state. Therefore, development activities that contribute to a viable Palestinian Authority (PA) beyond the immediate humanitarian needs are necessary. Supporting organisations which are working to strengthen the PA's governance is a way for New Zealand to support the two-state solution.</p> <p>s6(a)</p>

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

Released under the Official Information Act



20 September 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

27 September 2024

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE This submission outlines how the status quo in the Israel/Palestine conflict has changed and requests Ministerial direction on which policy options to pursue to support an end to the conflict and bolster the two-state solution. ^{s6(a)}

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	1 October 2024
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs	For information by	1 October 2024
Minister of Defence	For information by	1 October 2024

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
s9(2)(g)(ii)	Divisional Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	s9(2)(a)
	Senior Policy Officer	Middle East and Africa Division	

Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Key points

- Successive New Zealand governments have pursued an approach to the resolution of the Israel/Palestine conflict rooted in support for international law and support for the 'two-state solution'. The two-state solution has long been held as the best way for Israel and a Palestinian state to co-exist in peace and security. It is almost universally accepted by the international community.
- s6(a)
- Hamas and its actions have been despicable. Once the hostilities in Gaza end, the international community will need to continue to engage with the Palestinian Authority and other Palestinian actors to constrain those terrorist entities and actors from threatening Israel's security.
- Israel's conduct of the war, and its breaches of international law, has continued to worsen.
s6(a)
- MFAT's current work programme on Israel/Palestine issues includes: diplomatic engagement with Israel, the Palestinians and regional countries; condemning continued Hamas transgressions, multilateral advocacy and public statements; travel bans on far-right Israeli settlers; humanitarian and development assistance; advice on terrorist designations; and, an export controls regime that considers New Zealand's reputation and international legal obligations when making permit decisions.
- It is timely to refresh our policy settings in light of events since 7 October in order to support our overarching policy objectives of supporting an end to the conflict and support for the two-state solution.
- s6(a)
- We also propose to provide you with further advice on the risks and benefits of the following policy options and seek your direction as to which options officials should focus further advice.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Note that New Zealand has pursued a principled, and issues-based approach to the resolution of the Israel/Palestine conflict, taking neither pro-Palestinian nor pro-Israeli positions, that is rooted in international law, and which supports Israel's secure existence alongside support for a viable Palestinian state. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Agree that a principled, issues-based approach to the Israel/Palestine conflict, rooted in international law, and support for the two-state solution should remain New Zealand's overarching policy objectives. | Yes / No |
| 3 | s6(a) | Yes/No |
| 4 | Note that our current work programme related to the conflict includes: diplomatic engagement; condemning Hamas transgressions, multilateral advocacy; travel bans on far-right Israeli settlers; humanitarian and development funding to the occupied Palestinian territories (oPT); advice on terrorist designations; and, an export controls regime which considers New Zealand's reputation and international legal obligations in making permit decisions. | Yes / No |
| 5 | s6(a) | Yes / No |
| 6 | Agree that we should refresh our work programme because of the changed status quo. | Yes / No |
| 7 | Agree that officials should provide further advice to you and other relevant Ministers on the risks and benefits of the following policy options:
s6(a) | |

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 8 | s6(a) | Yes/No |
| 9 | | Yes / No |
| 10 | Note that while humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on development support for a viable Palestinian state. | Yes / No |
| 11 | s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) | Yes / No |
| 12 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister, the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Minister of Defence for their information. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

Report

1. Successive New Zealand governments have pursued an approach to the settlement of the Israel/Palestine conflict that is rooted in support for international law. In practice this has meant supporting Israel's secure existence alongside support for a viable Palestinian state. This 'two-state solution' has been supported by New Zealand as the best way for Israel and a Palestinian state to co-exist in peace and security.

2. s6(a)

The situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT) remains hugely concerning. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

3. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

4. We have designated Hamas as a terrorist entity. s6(a)

5. As a liberal democracy we expect Israel to behave in a manner which complies with international law, including international humanitarian law. s6(a), s9(2)(h)

6. s6(a)

7. s6(a)

The status quo has changed

8. The actions of Israel and Hamas since 7 October have altered the state of the conflict and the two-state solution is further away than ever:

- On 7 October 2023 Hamas carried out the worst terrorist attack in Israel's history, with approximately 1,200 people killed and 251 taken hostage. s6(a)

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

s6(a)

- The Israeli Government has allowed 13,000 new housing units to be built by Israeli settlers in the oPT, the highest number on record since 2012. It has also 'legalised' (under domestic Israeli law) multiple settlement outposts, effectively integrating those settlements into the state of Israel.
- s6(a), s9(2)(h) including the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which ordered Israel halt its military offensive in Rafah. Israel has also ignored the ICJ Advisory Opinion that said that Israel's presence in the oPT is unlawful and that Israel must end its occupation and cease all new settlement activities.
- s6(a)

- and in some instances confiscated - PA tax revenue and threatened the viability of West Bank banking services. Israel has withheld

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

New Zealand's foreign policy priorities

11. Israel/Palestine policy does not fall within New Zealand's Foreign Policy Reset, ^{s6(a)}

12. Nonetheless we have equities in the Israel/Palestine conflict:

- The conflict challenges the international rules-based order that New Zealand relies upon.
- The Israel/Hamas conflict has destabilised the broader Middle East and contributed to heightened tensions between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah, and Israel and Iran (and other proxies such as the Houthi). Nearly 15 per cent of global trade and 30% of containerised trade flows through the Red Sea and Suez Canal. Supply chain disruptions mean higher costs for New Zealand consumers and delays getting goods to and from markets in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Shipping costs in some instances have more than trebled.

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

- The ongoing conflict demands attention and resource from some of our closest partners that reduces their ability to focus on issues of priority for New Zealand.
- The positions New Zealand takes on Israel/Palestine are noticed by partners. ^{s6(a)}

13. MFAT has received over 200 OIAs or pieces of correspondence from the public on the Israel/Palestine conflict since 7 October, far greater than the public engagement on any other foreign policy issue over the same period. The tenor of the correspondence is either pro-Palestinian or pro-Israeli and reflects the deeply held views on both sides of the issue. MFAT management of engagement with the New Zealand public on this issue requires substantial resource.

Current work programme

14. We are currently taking the following steps to advance New Zealand interests in the protection of the rules based international order, promote compliance with international law and support the two-state solution (see Annex for further detail):

- Ongoing diplomatic engagement with the Israelis, Palestinians and other influential parties to register our views, including condemning Hamas transgressions, support for the two-state solution and compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law;
- UN advocacy and consideration of United Nations General Assembly action, as evidenced through the recent GA resolution;
- Cooperation with close partners including CANZ leaders or ministerial statements as appropriate, ^{s6(a)}
- Progress of a fourth tranche of travel bans on extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank;
- Advice to the Prime Minister on extending the existing Hezbollah terrorist designation to include the political wing of Hezbollah, as well as designation of the Houthi as a terrorist entity; and,
- An export controls regime that ensures that any exports of strategic goods to Israel are reviewed against a range of criteria, including consistency with New Zealand's obligations under international law as well as New Zealand's reputation.

s6(a)

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

s6(a)

Additional policy options

19. New Zealand's humanitarian response to the conflict – including financial support totalling NZ\$22 million since October 2023 and strong advocacy – has been significant. However, needs remain extreme and the United Nations' appeal of US\$3.4 billion is only 47% funded.
s9(2)(g)(i)

20. Whilst humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on international support for a viable Palestinian state. Therefore, in addition to our humanitarian response, New Zealand can support the two-state solution by providing development assistance to support organisations that are working to strengthen the PA's governance. s6(a)

21. We also propose to provide you with advice on the risks and benefits of the following policy options. Further detail regarding these options is set out in the Annex. We would welcome Ministerial direction as to which options officials should focus further advice.

s6(b)(i)

-
-

Israel/Palestine: Policy Settings

s6(a)

22.

23. To maintain a credible level of engagement on the Israel/Palestine conflict, while balancing this against the Government's Foreign Policy Reset, officials will apply the following criteria when making recommendations about additional policy options:

- Whether the proposed option builds on our policy positions to date and is consistent with our overarching objective of a principled issues-based approach to the Israel/Palestine conflict that is centred on international law, and support for the two-state solution;
- Working in concert with close partners, where possible, in order to maximise influence; and
- Level of resource required and ability to be met from existing baselines.

24. ^{s6(a)}

25.

26.

27.

Resourcing

28. The recommendations made in this paper will be met from within existing baselines and do not require a reprioritisation of work. There are no people implications.

29. All additional policy options will be met from within existing baselines. A further assessment of risks will also be included in future advice.

Current Work Programme

Policy	Detail
1. Ongoing diplomatic engagement	<p>We will continue to look for opportunities to convey our views to Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other influential parties.</p> <p>This is currently done through regular meetings with the Israeli Ambassador in Wellington, engagement with the Palestinian representative in Canberra, official visits to Israel and the oPT, and engagement through our Posts accredited to Israel and the oPT. Ministerial interaction with counterparts via calls, letters and meetings (for instance on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly) is also considered when appropriate.</p> <p>Diplomatic engagement will also continue on this issue with partners outside the region. ^{s6(a)}</p> <p>s6(a)</p>
2. UN advocacy and support for United Nations General Assembly action	<p>Following the recent ICJ Advisory Opinion on the <i>Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem</i>, New Zealand voted in support of a Palestine led UN General Assembly (GA) resolution affirming the Advisory Opinion.</p> <p>New Zealand will consider appropriate opportunities to articulate our national positions on MEPP issues in the UN ^{s6(a)} We will also look to be engaged and constructive in the negotiation of UN resolutions, as required. The GA will once again consider a suite of MEPP-related resolutions in late 2024, as part of the annual 'suite' of resolutions brought by Palestine. New Zealand has a long-established and consistent approach to these resolutions but is not directly involved in their drafting. Other UN organs such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) also provide occasional opportunities for New Zealand to express our views.</p>
3. Consideration of CANZ leaders or ministerial statements as appropriate (with consideration given to including the UK)	<p>We have made three CANZ statements at PM level since 7 October. ^{s6(a)}</p>
4. Progress of a fourth tranche of additional travel bans on extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank	<p>New Zealand has issued travel bans on 22 extremist Israeli settlers convicted of violence in the West Bank.</p> <p>s6(a)</p>
5. Advice to the Prime Minister on extending the Hezbollah terrorist designation to include the political wing of Hezbollah, as well as designation of the Houthi as a terrorist entity.	<p>s6(a)</p> <p>The Prime Minister must consult the Attorney-General before announcing a decision.</p> <p>These two terrorist designations (the political wing of Hezbollah in addition to the military wing, and Ansar Allah/the Houthi) have considerable foreign policy elements to them. ^{s6(a)} MFAT is working alongside DPMC and others to prepare a communications plan for the announcement of these designations, should the Prime Minister decide to designate.</p>
6. Export Controls Regime	<p>The purpose of New Zealand's Export Controls regime is to regulate the export of goods which may be intended for use that could, directly or indirectly, be to the detriment of New Zealand's security or national interests or contribute to human rights abuse or the contravention of international humanitarian law.</p> <p>Every export application is assessed on a case by case basis against six criteria. The criteria include: New Zealand's obligations and commitments under international law, including international human rights and international humanitarian law. The criteria also take into consideration New Zealand's national interests, and New Zealand's commitment to being a responsible exporter of strategic and military end use goods.</p> <p>s6(a)</p> <p>There are no records of an approved export to the Israeli Defence Force (data goes back to 2003).</p>

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

Additional Policy Options: Further advice to be provided to Ministers

Policy	Detail
<p>1. New Zealand's humanitarian response to the conflict</p>	<p><i>Further humanitarian support in 2024-25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian needs in Gaza are likely to remain extremely high over the course of the 2024-25 financial year. Given the significant scale of need, scale of destruction in Gaza and severe protection risks for vulnerable groups, it is recommended New Zealand continue to prioritise the crisis for funding from the humanitarian allocation. s6(a) <p>The Ministry will provide you with separate advice on New Zealand's future partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).</p> <p><i>Resource considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding would come from within existing baselines, drawn from the non-departmental International Development Cooperation Appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs. Disbursing this humanitarian contribution would not have people resource implications. <p><i>Risks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) <p>Risks associated with the response, including aid diversion, and extreme health and safety risks remain unchanged. Officials will assess agencies' risk management and mitigation systems when considering funding partners.</p> <p>s6(a)</p>
<p>2. Development Assistance to the oPT</p>	<p>Whilst humanitarian needs, particularly in Gaza, remain critical, the long-term feasibility of the two-state solution depends on international support for a viable Palestinian state. Therefore, development activities that contribute to a viable Palestinian Authority (PA) beyond the immediate humanitarian needs are necessary. Supporting organisations which are working to strengthen the PA's governance is a way for New Zealand to support the two-state solution.</p> <p>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</p>

s6(a)

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act