



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern:

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
(CAB-22-SUB-0545 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-MIN-0545 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction code:**

- 6(a), the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

## Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to London and New York on 14 – 26 September.

### Report

- 1 I travelled to London to attend the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. During my time there, I attended the Lying-in-State of Her Majesty, had audiences with His Majesty King Charles III and the Prince of Wales, and met with Prime Minister Liz Truss. I was accompanied by staff from my office, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and my partner Clarke Gayford.
- 2 From 20-26 September, I attended the United National General Assembly (UNGA) high-level week in New York. This was the first in-person UNGA I had attended since 2019, and it provided a crucial opportunity to meet with several counterparts, co-chair the Christchurch Call Leaders' Summit, deliver the New Zealand National Statement and attend a range of side events. I was accompanied by staff from my office, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and a delegation of 9 media.

### London

- 3 I arrived in London on 15 September, and met with the NZDF contingent at a Commemorative Gathering at the High Commission, including Willie Apiata VC, those deployed on Op TIEKE (the NZDF mission to support the training of the Armed Forces of Ukraine), and those representing New Zealand marching in the funeral procession.
- 4 On 16 September the Governor-General and I recorded a message for a broadcast being prepared to commemorate the late Queen and signed the condolence book. At Lancaster House, I had an impromptu meeting with Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for South Asia, North Africa, the United Nations and the Commonwealth.
- 5 The following day, I attended an audience with the King, where he reflected on the late Queen's fondness for New Zealand.

6 On 18 September the High Commission, with support from Ngāti Rānana, hosted a gathering for those New Zealanders attending the funeral service, alongside Prime Minister Brown of the Cook Islands. I spoke at the event and acknowledged the significance of having so many esteemed rangatira together.

7 I also attended an evening reception hosted by the King at Buckingham Palace for all Overseas Representatives invited to attend the State Funeral Service. The King engaged with Commonwealth representatives as a priority. I took the opportunity to meet informally with a number of UK Cabinet Ministers and overseas leaders, including from the Pacific, and had a brief exchange with President Biden.

8 On 19 September I attended the State Funeral and the Committal service.

9 While in London I also had my first in-person meeting with new UK Prime Minister Liz Truss. The meeting was substantive and ran for just over an hour. I offered my condolences on Her Majesty's death. Prime Minister Truss underlined that the UK's foreign and trade policy will not shift significantly on issues that matter to us. We agreed that the UK – NZ Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was an important part of the bilateral relationship.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

[Redacted]

10 I noted that our Government was talking quite openly to our exporters about the need to diversify their markets, and the importance of the UK FTA in supporting this.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

[Redacted]

11 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[Redacted]

12 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[Redacted]

13 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[Redacted]

s6(a)

- 14 Finally, we discussed the Christchurch Call and Ukraine. I reiterated an invitation to Prime Minister Truss to attend the Christchurch Call Summit at UNGA and thanked her for the UK's support for New Zealand's response to Ukraine. I noted in particular that the New Zealand troops currently training Ukrainian soldiers in Salisbury were learning valuable lessons from the recent experience of the Ukrainians, as well as teaching. Prime Minister Truss responded that New Zealand's support for Ukraine has been "fantastic".

15 s6(a)

#### *New York*

- 16 I travelled to New York on the Canadian Defence Force plane with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. During the flight we discussed the importance of close relationships with likeminded partners and exchanged views on key international issues such as s6(a) and Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy.

#### *Christchurch Call*

- 17 On 20 September I jointly hosted the Christchurch Call Leaders' Summit with President Macron. My objective was for an inclusive, in-person Leaders' conversation with all sectors of the Call community – government, online service providers and civil society – to galvanise further action to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.
- 18 It was a hybrid meeting with 30 leaders attending in-person, and all other 120 Call supporters participating online. Attendees included Prime Ministers Sánchez and Trudeau, President von der Leyen, King Abdullah, senior executives from Microsoft, Google/YouTube, Meta, Twitter, Amazon, and 12 representatives from the Call's Advisory Network.
- 19 The discussion addressed advances in crisis response, further investment in understanding algorithms, and keeping the Call relevant in the future, including youth and gender angles.

#### *UNGA*

- 20 On 23 September I delivered New Zealand's national statement to the General Assembly. My address focused on the lessons to be learnt from COVID, support for the UN and the international rules-based system, disarmament and denuclearisation, and countering violent extremism.

## Bilaterals

21 I meet with President of Chile, Gabriel Boric. We discussed the support New Zealand and Chile are providing in Ukraine; CPTPP; indigenous engagement; and oceans and climate.

22 I also met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres. We discussed the growing economic and political gaps between the global West and global South; Ukraine; disinformation; challenges facing the Pacific; <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[REDACTED]

23 I attended a meeting between the Pacific Island Forum and Secretary-General Guterres on 23 September. Climate change, oceans and economic development were top of the agenda with the leaders of Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia making interventions for the Pacific. The Secretary-General praised the Pacific for the influential role it was playing on climate and oceans and tasked the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States to work with the Office of Legal Affairs to provide support to legal questions on the impacts of climate change. The Secretary-General then went on to speak about sea-level rise and the need to “guarantee” borders.

24 During my meeting with GAVI Board Chair José Manuel Barroso, he thanked New Zealand for our championing of the COVAX facility, briefed me on the 18 million “zero dose children” who have missed out on basic and well-established vaccines, and shared concerns about the strong link between climate change and public health pandemics.

25 I also met with the President of Timor Leste, Ramos Horta. We discussed children as a policy priority, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[REDACTED]

26 In my meeting with Prime Minister Kishida of Japan, we recommitted to advancing areas of cooperation, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

[REDACTED]

I expressed my condolences for the passing of former PM Abe, and the devastating floods in Kyushu. Prime Minister Kishida said Japan looked forward to working with New Zealand when we chaired CPTPP in 2023.

27 My meeting with international lawyer Amal Clooney, who was due to chair a UN meeting on the issue of accountability in Ukraine, provided an opportunity for me to discuss the resources New Zealand is providing to support legal cases against Russia.

28 I met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. The meeting took place hours after the announcement by President Putin that he intended to mobilise hundreds of thousands of Russian troops to enter the war in Ukraine. I offered condolences on behalf of New Zealand and committed our continued support for Ukraine. Prime Minister Shmyhal expressed appreciation, especially for New Zealand's military support.

29

s6(a)

30

On troops and sanctions, I noted that that New Zealand troops were learning a lot in supporting Ukraine, and that they were humbled by the level of commitment they were witnessing. In thanking New Zealand for the support, Prime Minister Shmyhal observed it would be needed "for a long time".

31

s6(a)

32

s6(a)

33 I concluded by saying that New Zealand would keep looking at all forms of support. We both extended invitations to visit each other's countries in future.

#### *Engagements and announcements*

34

I delivered opening remarks at a meeting of Heads of State/Government of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). As the only non-SIDS invitee, the high regard in which New Zealand was held amongst SIDS was evident.

- 35 Attending a discussion on the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change hosted by the President of Vanuatu, I assured participants that New Zealand took seriously the existential risk posed by climate change to the Pacific/SIDS, and assured the core group that New Zealand would lend its support. I encouraged Vanuatu and the core group to think about how to best balance ambition (in the form of the question to the Court) with securing support (in the General Assembly when the resolution comes up for a vote).
- 36 I was also able to briefly attend the New York-based launch of the PIF's 2050 Strategy hosted by Fiji and Australia. I outlined New Zealand's commitment to the region and my expectation that partners, including the UN, support Pacific-led development priorities.
- 37 I used the opportunity of an informal event I co-hosted with the Fijian Prime Minister to meet informally with Pacific leaders, including the Prime Minister of Samoa. The event was attended by most PIF leaders and PIF Secretary-General Henry Puna. I also met with President Biden at a reception he hosted.
- 38 Throughout UNGA week I also interacted with the Presidents of the Seychelles, Poland, and the European Commission; the Chancellor of Germany; the Prime Ministers of Kosovo, Antigua and Barbuda, Mauritius, Suriname, Bahamas, Pakistan, Belgium, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Denmark, Iceland, Morocco <sup>s6(a)</sup> Luxembourg, Norway, and the Netherlands; and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Singapore, the Netherlands. I also had brief meetings with the Leaders and Foreign Ministers of Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and the Marshall Islands.
- 39 I delivered remarks at the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Friends Leaders' Summit. The event was co-hosted by Japan's Prime Minister Kishida and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and featured statements by the Foreign Ministers of Canada, Finland and the Netherlands, and Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) Rob Floyd. The importance of the CTBTO was a common theme. While the treaty it supports has yet to enter into force, the CTBTO's monitoring system and geographically diverse membership has generated confidence that nuclear weapons testing is constrained – <sup>s6(a)</sup>. In addition to these points, I set out New Zealand's clear opposition to nuclear weapons and called on nuclear weapons states that had not ratified the treaty to do so.
- 40 I also spoke on a panel moderated by former Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, on political leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic. Clark praised New Zealand for its role in securing a UN High Level Meeting on Pandemic Preparedness in 2023.

- 41 I attended the Global Food Security Summit hosted by the US, African Union, European Union, and Spain. Most countries participated at leader level, with many attributing current food insecurity issues to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with others emphasising that the drivers existed well before or were much more complicated than the Ukraine conflict.
- 42 In the absence of William, Prince of Wales, I delivered a keynote address at the Earthshot Prize Innovation Summit. The event provided an opportunity for me to meet with the host, the former mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg, and other environmental activists.
- 43 Although much of the tourism and investment programme was led by Minister Nash, I was able to host a roundtable with the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) on 23 September. The roundtable was chaired by MPAA Chair Charlie Rivkin and participants included senior executives from Walt Disney Company, Paramount Global, NBC Universal, Warner Bros. Discovery and Netflix.
- 44 The discussion canvassed various contributions from the MPAA participants, with the key points being: appreciation of the Government's leadership through the pandemic and support for continuing screen production activities; recognition of the support for employment and development of local talent; appreciation for international investment in screen productions; and certainty around the Uplift programme.
- 45 Overall, the roundtable discussion confirmed that New Zealand is well placed to grow screen sector productions and attract further investment, and that the wider benefits of the screen industry to New Zealand were well understood. We noted that New Zealand's existing regimes need to be dynamic and meet the changing global environment, and that skills and infrastructure development are part of managing the scope of the screen production grant settings.

#### *Media*

- 46 On 18 September I had an interview with BBC Political Journalist Laura Kuenssberg, which aired on both BBC One and BBC World. While the key focus was on events related to the Funeral and my interactions with Her late Majesty, the interview also touched on the likelihood of New Zealand becoming a republic, as well as New Zealand's COVID response. I was also interviewed by ITV London, which focused on the legacy of Her Majesty and her influence in New Zealand.

#### **Proactive release**

- 47 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.



**Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Proactively Released



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

---

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

---

### Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister**

On 28 November 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-22-SUB-0545 on her travel, from 14 to 26 September 2022, to London, England to attend the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and New York, United States of America to attend the High-Level Week of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet