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**Tenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues, 16 – 27 May 2011**

**New Zealand Statement for the dialogue with the Expert
Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Item 4 (b)**

**Ms Kim Ngarimu
Deputy Secretary, Te Puni Kōkiri**

Thursday 19 May 2011

Check against delivery

Tena ano koe Madame Chair, koutou hoki te tepu.

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP) is key mechanism of the Human Rights Council which enables States and civil society to draw on the experience of recognized experts and share best practices and lessons learnt. We welcome the election of Ms Janine Lasimburg from Malaysia and Mr Wilton Littlechild from Canada to EMRIP and look forward to working with them both.

One of the most valuable and useful aspects of EMRIP are the well considered studies produced by its members. New Zealand supports proposals for States to be able make further contributions to already existing studies, thereby ensuring that they remain relevant and useful.

Last year informative and valuable discussions took place on the issue of prior informed consent at the EMRIP meeting and we look forward to those continuing this year.

Issues for future consideration by EMRIP could include enhancing the rights of indigenous children and/or women and processes for settling historical grievances.

New Zealand supports the rights of indigenous peoples having greater prominence at the Human Rights Council. In this regard, we were particularly pleased that last year's Human Rights Council resolution on 'Human rights and indigenous peoples', which was led by Mexico and Guatemala, decided to hold an annual interactive dialogue with the members of EMRIP at the Human Rights Council. Also, we welcomed the decision in that same resolution to hold a panel on the role of languages and cultures in the promotion and protection of the well-being and identity of indigenous peoples.

Thank you Madame Chair.