



**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 10th session 10 –
14 July 2017**

**Item 4: Study and advice on good practices and challenges in business
and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples**

Delivered by Permanent Representative Jillian Dempster

Mr Chair,

New Zealand supports Māori economic development as a key vehicle for higher standards of living for iwi, hapū and whānau Māori.

New Zealand's approach to Māori economic development is coordinated through the *Crown-Māori Economic Growth Partnership*, or *He Kai ki aku Ringa*. This strategy was released in 2012, and has five key themes. These themes are:

- Employment;
- Enterprise;
- Education;
- rangatahi (youth); and
- Increasing Māori participation in regional economies.

Over the past five years, the New Zealand Government has focused on driving employment opportunities for Māori. This has included:

- Supporting purposeful connections between whanau (family), education providers and employers through the Sector Workforce Engagement Programme;
- Strengthening trade training opportunities for young Māori;
- Encouraging the development of ICT skills for our future-focused economy through the Māori Digital Technology Innovation Fund; and
- Developing a range of programmes to support Māori youth who are not in employment, education or training.

We also support Māori small-to-medium enterprises and Māori Authorities to strengthen their commercial operations. We have provided governance training and access to commercial advisors through the Māori Innovation Fund, and have enabled Māori enterprises to partner with R&D institutes through Vision Mātauranga. We have utilised the Regional Economic Development (RED) Programme to position Māori as key figures within the development and implementation of regional growth plans. We have also established a forum for iwi leaders to engage directly with economic development Ministers and help drive improved economic outcomes for Māori.

Since the He Kai ki aku Ringa strategy was released in 2012, there have been some significant gains: Of particular note:

- 40,000 more Māori are in work;
- Māori median income has increased by \$NZ3000;
- There are more Māori businesses; and
- Tribes have continued to be key partners within our Regional Growth Programme.