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**New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**



**Te Māngai o Aotearoa**

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**Twelfth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous  
Issues, 20 – 31 May 2013**

**Indigenous women in politics**

Mr Anaru Mill

Head of the New Zealand Delegation

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**As  
delivered**

Ngā mihi ki a koe Mr Chair

In New Zealand, Māori women are positioned well in terms of their participation in political and state processes. While Māori women make up around 7.7 percent of the residential population, as at 31 December 2010, Māori women held up to 8.0 percent of the total number of Ministerial appointees on state sector boards and committees.

Māori women represent 12.7 percent of female senior managers in the public sector (compared with 6.9 percent of Māori men). The first Māori woman Chief Executive of my agency, Te Puni Kokiri - the Ministry of Māori Development, was appointed in 2012.

In terms of New Zealand's nationally elected representatives, Māori women make up 6.6 percent of total Members of Parliament. The newest government MP to be appointed shortly is a Māori woman and her appointment will raise the proportion of Māori women in our House of Representatives to 7.4%.

Of these (soon to be) nine Indigenous women, three hold ministerial positions, and two-including one of the women holding a Ministerial position - are Co-Leaders of two of our eight parliamentary parties.

As importantly, with the revitalisation of tribal and Māori institutions and organisations, there is an increasing number of Māori women taking political, governance and management leadership roles in New Zealand. As with New Zealand's mainstream public and private sector landscape, there are a growing number of Māori women in Tribal leadership positions and on our national Māori organisations.

Two of the three Māori NGO representatives at this forum in 2013, are influential Māori women and recognised for their contributions to their tribes and their tribal organisations, - one from Te Rarawa, a tribe in the far north of our country, and the other from the Māori Women's Welfare League. The Māori Women's Welfare

League established in 1951 has been hugely influential in the affairs and efforts to support the well-being of Māori families and communities throughout the country.

And of course we acknowledge the work of Valmaine Toki, an accomplished Māori academic in New Zealand who makes an important contribution to the work of the Permanent Forum. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe e te tuahine.

Specific examples of Māori women in Tribal leadership positions include the chairperson of Ngāti Whātua, one of our tribes in the region of our largest city, Auckland. The two largest tribes, Ngai Tahu and Waikato-Tainui, who reached settlements with the Crown in the mid 1990's each valued at around \$170 million, and have now grown those assets to an estimated value of \$1 billion each - have in the last 2 years both appointed Maori women as their Chief Executives.

The growing influence and leadership of Māori women reflects the important role they have in all aspects of New Zealand society and the valuable part they play in leading, influencing and driving fundamental decision-making processes in the future development of our nation.

Thank you Mr Chair.