



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Kaitiaki

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Roundtable 2: “Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the National and Local Level”

Statement delivered by
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**NEW ZEALAND
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I extend warm greetings to all indigenous peoples, and to the representatives of all nations and Member States gathered here for this historic event.

In 2010, I delivered a statement in New York to declare Aotearoa New Zealand's support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This was a significant moment for the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand and for me personally as Māori, and as the Minister of Māori Affairs.

I would like to use this occasion to reaffirm New Zealand's support for the Declaration. As I stated in 2010, the Declaration contains principles that are consistent with the duties and principles inherent in Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the Treaty of Waitangi – one of our nation's founding documents. In keeping with our strong commitment to human rights, and indigenous rights in particular, New Zealand added its support to the Declaration both as an affirmation of fundamental rights and in its expression of widely supported aspirations.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi underpins the partnership between Government and Māori, New Zealand's indigenous peoples, and establishes relationships based on working together in good faith and mutual respect for each other's contributions as we work to build a better society for all New Zealanders. It is an integral part of the fabric of New Zealand society, and is central to New Zealand's legal and constitutional framework. It continues to form the basis for the Crown's relationships with whānau, hapū, and iwi Māori.

New Zealand welcomes the adoption of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and acknowledges the inclusive means by which Member States and indigenous peoples have joined together in a spirit of partnership to ensure the Conference's success.

Co-chairs,

New Zealand has developed its own unique approaches to support Māori to achieve their full potential. Central to our approach and relationship with Māori is respect for indigenous peoples' rights, underpinned by the principle of "partnership".

Co-chairs,

The Waitangi Tribunal is a mechanism for inquiry into historical grievances as well as contemporary issues relating to the Crown's Treaty relationship with iwi and Māori communities. Significant progress has been made, and we are now over half-way through completing Treaty settlements. Settlements typically include a Crown apology for historical wrongs, cultural and financial redress, and the restitution of traditionally held lands and resources. This process has resulted in strengthened partnerships between iwi and the Government.

The Government continues to develop and implement strategies together with Māori to deliver tangible outcomes. These benefit New Zealand as a whole.

Māori economic development continues to grow and thrive, and there are many stories of success within iwi, hapū and whanau across New Zealand. The Government supports Māori led economic development initiatives, including through *He kai kei aku ringa* – the Crown Māori Economic Growth Partnership.

The Government is also recognising the distinctive contributions that Māori make in the areas of research, science, and technology. Through the *Vision Mātauranga* policy, we support Māori to further unlock the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources, and people. Our language – *te reo Māori* – is a *taonga* (treasure). I have proposed the establishment of a new entity – *Te Matawai* – in New Zealand to provide leadership and give practical effect to the *kaitiaki* responsibilities that iwi and Māori have in relation to the health of the *te reo Māori*.

My hope is that the Crown and Māori will continue to acknowledge the contribution each make to our society and maintain at all times good faith in their relationships.

Co-chairs,

Despite progress in New Zealand, however, we recognise that there is still more to do.

This Conference represents a positive step forward in our shared journey.