



NEW ZEALAND

United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations

19th Session
Geneva, 23-27 July 2001

Item 5: Review of Development

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on behalf of the New Zealand Delegation

Check against delivery

Introduction

Increased Māori social and economic participation in all aspects of New Zealand life is seen as bringing benefits for Māori and for the country as a whole. Māori social and economic development are equally important: one does not occur without the other.

Māori social development

Māori currently make up over 15 percent of the New Zealand population. By the middle of next century the Māori population is projected to almost double in size again to reach almost one million people and make up 22 percent of the total New Zealand population. Māori population has a young age structure and although it is expected to age over the next half century, it should remain relatively young compared to the non-Māori population.

With a young Māori population, education is a crucial matter to consider. The Prime Minister recently stated that "education is the key to driving Māori forward in a modern and prosperous economy". The challenge for iwi (*tribes*) and Government is to improve the transition of young Māori from intermediate to high school, and high school to tertiary education.

Participation and attainment by Māori in education have improved over the past decade, including at tertiary level, but disparities between Māori and non-Māori remain. Further improvements for Māori are needed if disparities in educational outcomes are to be reduced.

Hui Taumata Mātauranga

In order to help identify how to achieve better education outcomes for Māori, in February this year the Tuwharetoa iwi hosted the Hui Taumata Mātauranga, a national meeting of Māori educationalists. Discussions covered several key themes, such as Māori participation in decision-making, the family as the cornerstone of education, striving for quality in education, how the education system can prepare people to successfully participate in the changing world, and the value of Māori language and custom in education.

The Hui (*gathering*) produced over 100 recommendations, not only identifying some of the obstacles to Māori attaining education but also proposing solutions for these obstacles. The government is considering these recommendations, and will consult further with Māori before presenting its response at a second Hui Taumata Mātauranga expected to be held later this year.

Māori health

Māori health remains a strategic priority area for the New Zealand government. Though there have been gains, the health status of Māori is still lower than non-Māori. As an example, more focus must be given to Māori mental health and the health of children. A Māori Health Strategy has been developed and is presently being discussed with Māori before publication.

The most dramatic change in the health sector has been the growth of Māori health providers. Māori providers in the health sector number over 220 and a majority of these providers deliver primary health care. Māori providers reflect the diversity of the Māori population and they include: iwi providers; providers which emerged from within mainstream health providers; providers built by Māori health professionals; and community-based Māori social service providers. This expertise must be retained within the whānau (*family*), hapū (*sub-tribe*) and iwi (*tribe*) to ensure their continued development.

Māori housing strategy

The Ministry of Māori Development continues to oversee work to increase the supply of quality housing for Māori. The Kapa Hanga Kainga programme has provided low-income families with homes. This programme is closely aligned with other Government housing programmes.

Māori economic development

In the previous twelve months the New Zealand government has continued to work towards accelerating Māori economic, social and cultural development. In particular, the government is committed to supporting 'bottom up' approaches tailored to meet local need.

Regional Development funding

New Zealand's economic development relies on regional economic development, and Māori economic development is a key to this. The New Zealand government is committed to creating opportunities for whanau, hapū, iwi and other Māori communities to participate in their own development. People are encouraged to plan, direct, control and co-ordinate efforts across local and central government, tribal authorities and structures, other cultural structures, the business community and Māori communities.

A recent development has been the establishment of Te Ahi Kaa Roa, a partnership between the Government and Puao Te Ata Tu a Tuhoe, a Māori Trust. Te Ahi Kaa Roa is about setting up and developing centres of knowledge to enable an integrated approach to service delivery. There will be five sites where two-way relationships will operate between government agencies and the community. Te Ahi Kaa Roa will not deliver the service of the government agencies, but it will facilitate, co-ordinate and advocate on behalf of the agencies and community people. This is an opportunity to test innovative new ideas, and it is an opportunity for government to support a unique way for working with Māori. Government agencies do not have to control the development process – they can support community decisions to do things in their own way.

Māori tourism

As part of Budget 2001, funding has been made available to boost Māori participation in the New Zealand tourism industry. The funding will be used to develop Māori regional tourism organisations. It will assist with planning and implementation to address some of the issues facing Māori in tourism, for example the need for better business skills, for resources to improve the quality of Maori tourism and to promote the interests of Māori in tourism.

This funding initiative coincides with the release of the New Zealand Tourism Strategy, which also emphasises the importance of increasing Maori participation at all levels of the industry.

Māori language and culture

Māori TV

This year the Government has committed over \$20 million to the establishment of a Māori television channel. The Māori television service will promote te reo Māori (*Māori language*) and Māori culture through the provision of a television channel which informs, educates and so reflects New Zealand society, culture and heritage.

Survey on the health of the Māori language

In May and June of this year around 7,000 Māori aged 15 years and over were included in a national survey on the health of te reo Māori. The survey was conducted to assess how well the Government's strategy to revitalise the Māori language is working. The survey results will be published in April 2002, and will assist iwi, government, and the community to continue to revitalise the Māori language and to provide effective programmes for Māori language development.

Māori electoral option

Another important undertaking this year is the Māori electoral option campaign. This five-yearly campaign aims to foster Māori participation in the electoral system. Māori voters have the option of registering on either the Māori electoral roll or the general electoral roll. The number of electors registered on the Māori roll determines the number of parliamentary seats specifically allocated to Māori. There are currently 16 Māori members of parliament (out of a total of 120) of whom 6 hold Māori seats.

Treaty Settlements

Progress has been made over the past year in negotiating the settlement of claims arising from historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi. Settlements generally include a formal apology from the Crown for breaching the Treaty of Waitangi, the transfer of cash and assets, and recognition of the interests of the claimant group in particular sites and species of significance to them. To date, over \$635 million has been provided as Treaty settlements redress, \$22 million this year with a further \$56 million promised in binding agreements. Claims covering more than half of New Zealand's land area have been settled, including most of the South Island. All historical claims over commercial fisheries have been settled.

Two (binding) Deeds of Settlement have been signed between Maori claimant groups and the Crown in the last year, and one non-binding agreement. Upon settlement, \$67 million in cash and assets will be provided as Treaty settlement redress to these claimant groups. Negotiations are currently underway with several other claimant groups.

The government has a set of Treaty settlement principles designed to provide certainty in its general approach to negotiations. This approach allows for flexibility in negotiations and is intended to ensure that settlements are fair, durable, final, and occur in a timely manner. Negotiations are to be conducted in good faith, based on mutual trust and co-operation towards a common goal. Each claim is to be treated on its merits, and there must be consistency in the treatment of claims. The strengthening of the relationship between the Treaty parties is recognised as an integral part of the settlement process. The settlement of historical claims is also to be understood within the context of wider government policies that are aimed at restoring and developing the Treaty relationship, for example, through development initiatives.

International activities

Permanent Forum

Concerning indigenous issues at the international level, an important and historic milestone was achieved last year with ECOSOC's decision to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the United Nations system. New Zealand is cooperating with the OHCHR in its role as lead agency for establishment of the Forum, and is committed to working with states and indigenous peoples in preparation for its inaugural meeting in 2002.

Special Rapporteur

We congratulate Senor Rodolfo Stavenhagen of Mexico on his appointment as the first Special Rapporteur on indigenous people. New Zealand is interested in ongoing discussions with states, indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur to clarify some of the unresolved issues regarding the new position, such as details of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and the relationship to the Permanent Forum and other parts of the UN system.

International Decade

In support of the International Decade, the New Zealand Government continues its work on translating the major international instruments into the Māori language. So far, translations have focussed on human rights instruments, but Te Puni Kōkiri (*Ministry of Maori Development*) will soon publish a bilingual booklet on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

WCAR

Indigenous issues is a priority area for New Zealand for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and we believe there are good prospects for consensus on indigenous issues in the Programme of Action and Declaration.

WHA

This year at the 54th World Health Assembly New Zealand led a resolution regarding the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. By leading this resolution New Zealand wished to emphasise our commitment to achieving the objectives of the Decade, but also to highlight our concern about the disparities in health conditions of indigenous peoples worldwide.

Concluding remarks

In conclusion, in keeping with its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi, and in the spirit of partnership that underlies the International Decade, the New Zealand Government remains firmly committed to providing Maori with the opportunities to exercise greater control and management over their own development.