



# NEW ZEALAND

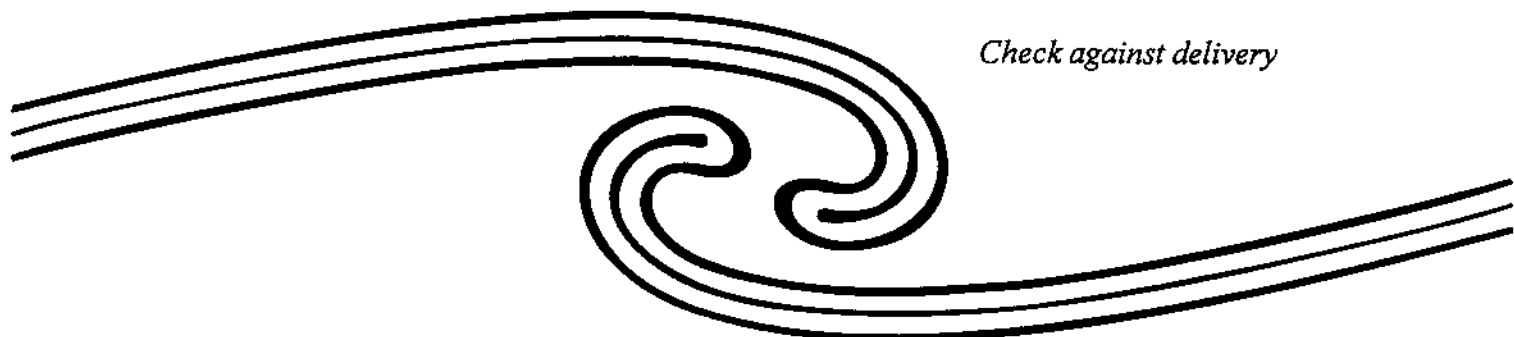
## United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations

19th Session  
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### Item 4: Indigenous Peoples and Their Right to Development

Statement by Ms Georgina Roberts  
on behalf of the New Zealand Delegation

*Check against delivery*



New Zealand is pleased to make a statement on the principal theme of indigenous peoples and their right to development, including their right to participate in development affecting them.

This theme is exceptionally relevant for the indigenous peoples of New Zealand.

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand and the basis of constitutional government in our country. It is a living document that must be capable of adaptation to new and changing circumstances as they arise. This provides a direction for future growth and development, and has been expressed by the Waitangi Tribunal in New Zealand as the right to development.

Inherent in its duties as Treaty partner is the Government's obligation to make informed decisions in its dealings with Māori. This means that Māori should be consulted on and have the right to participate in development affecting them.

Te Puni Kōkiri: Ministry of Māori Development is the lead government agency with responsibility for elaborating government's objectives in Māori development. However, achievement of these objectives depends on the involvement and collaboration of Māori communities as well as the whole range of government departments.

Te Puni Kōkiri's vision statement is *Kia tū rangatira ai te ao Māori*: "Māori leading Māori development". The Ministry's mission is "to lead the state sector in enabling Māori to realise their full potential as Treaty partners and determine their own development".

Māori whanau (*families*), hapū (*sub-tribes*) and iwi (*tribes*) are determined to play their role in their own development. It is a combined Māori and government willingness that will allow dynamic, innovative and positive changes to accelerate Māori development.

The Government's policy for Māori development aims to address disparities and drive Māori development through a new partnership approach between 'whanau, hapū and iwi' and the state sector, business, local government and the wider community.

A key programme for achieving this is the Capacity Building programme. Over the next three years the Government has committed significant funds towards capacity building for Māori, assisting whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities to identify needs and develop initiatives to achieve long term economic and social development. Capacity building will strengthen whanau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations and Māori communities, so they can achieve their own objectives, with a view to reducing the social and economic inequalities.

Capacity building is a continuous process. The first step is about communities setting their own direction. The second step is about securing the right resources to do the work. The third step is about making sure the short and long term goals are being met and that resourcing is being well used. Some communities may start at step one. Others are further down the track.

Since inception last year, there has been an encouraging response from Māori to capacity building.

Some examples of Capacity building initiatives include:

- Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust (Te Karaka) - a marae-based cultural initiative

- Ngati Kapo o Aotearoa Inc. (Hastings) - National Maori Blind Association
- Ohomairangi Trust (Auckland) - a strategic plan for education
- Mokai Community - community development and employment opportunities

Capacity building in this context will take all the undoubted intelligence, creativity, entrepreneurial skill, passion and commitment of whanau, hapū and iwi, because it requires them to be focused on capability, and not on need and deficiencies.

Development and, therefore, capacity building, is not a nebulous process for which the results are invisible. Indeed, it is a process - the results of which can be seen on Māori faces, and is evident in Māori hearts and minds.

Development, like whakapapa (*family tree*), is a dynamic process and is always changing and evolving. It is never static, nor are the mechanisms and processes by which it is achieved. It will result in people taking control of their own lives and life situations.

Development for whānau, hapū and iwi is recognition and an acknowledgement of the interdependence, the nature of reciprocity and the obligation and responsibilities that whānau hapū and iwi have toward each other.

Development for Māori means affirming our cultural values, beliefs and practices that lead to respectful interaction with each other and with the environment that we occupy. Then we can determine how best we can move forward into the ever-changing world, being whatever we want to be.

Whānau, hapū and iwi must be involved at every stage of developing, implementing and evaluating solutions. Successful models will only stem from whānau, hapū and iwi and Māori organisations working in conjunction with government agencies.

In conclusion, I refer to the words of a great Māori leader and New Zealand statesman, Sir Apirana Ngata. His words of aspiration and encouragement for a Māori child are just as relevant for development, for Māori and indigenous peoples worldwide.

E tipu e rea mo nga ra o tou ao;

Ko to ringa ki nga rakau a te Pakeha hei ora mo to tinana,

Ko to ngakau ki nga taonga a o tipuna hei tikitiki mo to mahunga,

A ko to wairua ki te Atua, nana nei nga mea katoa.

Grow and branch forth for the days of your world;

Your hand to the tools of the strangers for the welfare of your body,

Your heart to the treasures of your ancestors as adornments for your head,

Your spirit with your God, who made all things.