



Tēnā koe Mr/Madam Chair

When New Zealand moved to support the Declaration in 2010, the then Minister of Māori Affairs delivered our statement of support as an acknowledgement of the distinct and special status that Māori have as the indigenous people of New Zealand. New Zealand also acknowledged the considerable involvement that Māori had in the elaboration of the Declaration and the extent of their investment in its development. I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate New Zealand's continued acknowledgement of these efforts – they are still as relevant today.

New Zealand remains committed to upholding the rights affirmed by the Declaration. The New Zealand Government notes the importance of continued understanding and commitment to the common objectives of the Declaration alongside the Treaty of Waitangi and New Zealand's existing legal and constitutional frameworks. One such common objective, is operating in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect.

New Zealand has undertaken a number of activities that align with the objectives of the Declaration. As raised in some of our earlier statements this week, some of these activities are precedent setting and innovative within New Zealand.

We recognise, however, that there are also areas where there is more to be done, areas where states, indigenous peoples, human rights institutions and other groups can be working more closely to make progress on the objectives set out in the Declaration. We recognise that as Government, there are things that we can do, things that we can support Māori to do, and things that Government and Māori must do together.

In 2014 New Zealand supported the Outcome Document of the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including a commitment to cooperate

with indigenous peoples through their own representative institutions to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

This is something we are still working to achieve. In 2018, New Zealand's Ministry for Māori Development, Te Puni Kōkiri, has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Te Rūnanga-ā-Iwi o Ngāti Kahu on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism, supporting their development and presentation of their report to EMRIP. We look forward to continuing our discussions with the Independent Monitoring Mechanism and Māori more broadly on opportunities for reflecting New Zealand's implementation of the Declaration in line with our domestic circumstances.

In these early stages, we acknowledge that there are many things that these discussions may cover. That is why we intend for these discussions to be meaningful, drawing on the complementary roles and mutual priorities that the Government and Māori can provide.

As we continue, we acknowledge that there is much to learn from the experiences of other states, indigenous peoples and other groups. We appreciate this opportunity to learn from other states, indigenous peoples, national human rights institutions and more, to learn and contribute to international experiences on good practices and lessons learned.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

*Te Puni Kōkiri*

*July 2018*