



18 March 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For comment by

26 March 2021

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

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BRIEFING Overview Submission

PURPOSE To brief you on the Government's current approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and MFAT's contribution to this work.

## Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

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Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

5 April 2021

## Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

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NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Melanie Roberts	Unit Manager, Development Policy and Effectiveness	Development Capability and Insights	s9(2)(a)
Kathryn Beckett	Unit Manager	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth	s9(2)(a)
William Chisholm	Lead Adviser, International Development Policy	Development Capability and Insights	s9(2)(a)

## Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

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 Approved Noted Seen Needs amendment Declined Withdrawn Overtaken by events See Minister's notes

### Comments

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### Pito matua – Key points

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- New Zealand and all UN member states have committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are non-binding but universal. The SDGs largely apply to domestic policy, as well as to areas of foreign policy and development cooperation.
- s9(2)(f)(iv)
- s9(2)(ba)(i)
- MFAT currently leads coordination for two SDGs: Goal 14 (Life Below Water); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). We also support Pacific countries to implement the SDGs, including through the New Zealand Aid Programme
- All UN member countries have committed to produce a minimum of two Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) by 2030. New Zealand presented its first VNR to the UN in 2019.  
s9(2)(f)(iv)

Jonathan Kings  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- |   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | s9(2)(ba)(i)   | Yes / No |
| 2 | 9(2)(f)(iv)  | Yes / No |
| 3 | s9(2)(f)(v)  | Yes / No |
| 4 | <b>Note</b> that New Zealand has committed to submit at least one more Voluntary National Review before 2030 | Yes / No |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Date:        /        /

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### Pūrongo – Report

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1. In September 2015, New Zealand and all UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This universal, global agenda represented a significant change from the Millennium Development Goals that preceded it, which only focused on developing countries. The Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are wide-ranging, addressing the social, environmental, economic, and governance components of sustainable development, underpinned by principles of partnership and 'leaving no one behind'.
2. The SDGs apply to both developing and developed countries, and almost all of the SDGs either relate to domestic policy, or contain both domestic and international policy responses for global issues where there is a shared nature. While the Agenda acknowledges that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, it seeks coordinated global action on challenges such as climate change and reducing inequalities. As oceans and fisheries are a critical global resource, New Zealand strongly advocated for the inclusion of SDG 14 – 'Life Below Water' – during the Agenda 2030 negotiations.
3. Although the SDGs are not legally binding, all countries are expected to support their achievement and consider how they will apply the SDGs to domestic policy and international cooperation.

#### **New Zealand's approach to implementing the SDGs**

4. A cross-government SDG Inter-agency Group was informally set up to share information on each agencies approach to apply the SDGs where relevant to their policy agenda. Through this group, lead agencies were tentatively assigned for reporting on each of the 17 goals, which are listed in Annex 1. MFAT is the lead reporting agency for SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
5. In New Zealand's 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR) we articulated how we implement the SDGs domestically: through the Government's wellbeing approach to policy-making. This approach takes a broad, integrated and holistic approach to sustainable development, focused on improving the well-being and living standards of all New Zealanders. This framework is based on Treasury's Living Standards Framework, and monitoring is provided by Statistics New Zealand's Indicators Aotearoa. This domestic policy-making framework is strongly aligned to the SDGs because it outlines a series of interconnected goals that define well-being in terms of natural, human, financial/physical and social capital, mirroring the SDGs' four pillars of sustainable development. The 2019 VNR also described our international action to support the SDGs globally.
6. s9(2)(f)(iv)
7. Statistics New Zealand has developed Indicators Aotearoa, which (amongst other objectives) is a monitoring framework for our performance against the SDGs. s9(2)(g)(i)

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

8. The SDGs are of keen interest to a set of domestic business, civil society, and academic stakeholders, s9(2)(f)(iv)

A civil society coalition published a New Zealand People's Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in 2019, in parallel to the Government's VNR. New Zealand's SDG performance is also assessed by international actors – for example, the Sustainable Development Report SDG Index ranks our overall performance on the SDGs as 17<sup>th</sup> of 166 nations.<sup>1</sup>

9. s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>

<sup>2</sup> s9(2)(ba)(i)

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### Existing MFAT work to implement the SDGs

MFAT uses the 2030 Agenda to advance a number of foreign and development policy priorities. We summarise our work in six areas below: coordinating New Zealand's 2019 Voluntary National Review, leading on SDGs 14 and 17, supporting Pacific countries to achieve the SDGs, negotiating future biodiversity targets, and global advocacy on sustainable development.

#### Voluntary National Review

12. In the absence of an overall coordinating agency for the SDGs, MFAT agreed to coordinate input from twelve agencies and other relevant stakeholders to develop New Zealand's 2019 VNR. s9(2)(g)(i)

The final Report was presented to the United Nations in 2019. The Prime Minister summarised the Report's key messages by video, and youth and business representatives spoke about New Zealand's approach in New York.

13. s9(2)(f)(iv)

#### Life Under Water (Goal 14)

14. Implementation of SDG 14 in New Zealand engages a number of agencies. MFAT therefore takes a coordination role with respect to the response to SDG14. There is strong domestic alignment between government policy and most of SDG14's targets, including sustainable fishing, fisheries subsidies, implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and access to marine resources and markets. New Zealand's marine and coastal ecosystems are managed and protected through a range of legislative instruments and policies. A wide range of practical activities that respond to SDG14 are under way including ocean acidification and pollution from land based sources, which are supported by significant investment in marine science and technology.
15. MFAT leads on New Zealand's international engagement on each of the SDG 14 targets. Partnering with Pacific Island countries and territories to sustainably manage natural resources and protect the marine environment remains an enduring priority for New Zealand. The Ministry is also focused on tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing particularly in the Pacific and Southern Oceans.
16. Working with international partners, MFAT and other agencies will continue to support global action to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources. The Ministry has a strong focus on upholding UNCLOS, sustainable fishing, tackling ocean acidification, and marine plastic pollution and the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies (MFAT leads on negotiating for the prohibition of certain fisheries subsidies (14.6) at the WTO). Implementation of SDG 14 has been the subject of one

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<sup>3</sup> s9(2)(f)(iv)

This sentence in our advice includes a mistake that makes it misleading. 'On' has been accidentally omitted after 'including'. For the avoidance of doubt – New Zealand's activities are intended to combat ocean acidification and pollution. Refer our response letter for more detail.

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

dedicated UN Conference already, but the second UN Oceans Conference has been deferred until 2021 due to COVID.

### Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17)

17. SDG 17 is about partnerships that strengthen the means to implement the SDGs globally, and in developing countries. It calls for commitments across a wide range of sector and thematic issues that do not fit neatly into other goals, including trade, technology transfer, development finance and statistics.
18. New Zealand's actions to implement Goal 17 include our support for partners through our aid programme: trade and labour mobility policies that support developing countries, including PACER Plus and Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme; our support to build capacity to collect statistics in Pacific countries; and our work to lower remittance costs. The Policy Statement for New Zealand's *International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development* (ICESD) also emphasises that we will work to advance sustainable development globally through other areas, such as trade, environment and security. This is aligned to Goal 17's emphasis on policy coherence for development.
19. Our approach aligns with the principles under the Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which is a platform to mobilise resources through partnerships, and use them more effectively to drive sustainable development. Its monitoring rounds assess whether development partners meet international development effectiveness commitments that they have made. All Pacific Island Forum developing countries are members of GPEDC.

### Framing for our Development Cooperation

20. The Sustainable Development Goals are an important frame of reference for New Zealand's development cooperation. The ICESD Policy articulates New Zealand's commitment to supporting achievement of the SDGs through our development cooperation across the four pillars of sustainable development: planet, prosperity, people, and peace.

### Supporting Pacific countries to implement the SDGs

21. Pacific island countries have displayed effective regional leadership and vision in adapting the SDGs to the region. The Pacific Island Forum's Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, developed in 2016, is a fit-for-purpose plan for the region to respond to the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Roadmap identified 132 SDG indicators that are important to the region, allowing smaller Pacific bureaucracies to deprioritise monitoring against the remaining 99 indicators. New Zealand is a member of the Forum's Sustainable Development Steering Committee, which oversees ongoing work against the Roadmap.
22. The Forum Secretariat has published two progress reports against the Roadmap – a Quadrennial Report in 2018, and a Biennial Report in 2020 – that clearly articulate the development successes and challenges of the region. These reports support the Pacific to communicate its sustainable development performance globally. At the UN's High-Level Political Forum in 2019, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa presented the Pacific Quadrennial Report, which was well-received. The Pacific Community (SPC)'s Data Hub, which the New Zealand Aid Programme funds, provides a SDG Dashboard for each Pacific country that supports these reports and continued monitoring.

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

23. In addition to these Pacific regional initiatives, every Pacific country reports on its progress against Agenda 2030 through the VNR process. The region's performance is mixed: prior to the impact of COVID-19, we assessed that approximately half of the Pacific island countries were making progress on the SDGs.<sup>4</sup> We engage with Pacific island countries on their implementation of the SDGs as part of our dialogue on development issues. For example, we played an active role in asking follow-up questions at the presentation of both Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands' VNRs in New York in 2020.

### Negotiating new Global Biodiversity Targets

24. The biodiversity-related Goals had an implementation date of 2020, given their links to the existing global biodiversity targets (the Aichi targets). It is expected that the new global biodiversity framework currently under negotiation will provide the basis for the replacement of those "expired" SDGs.

### Global Advocacy on Sustainable Development

25. There is significant international interest in New Zealand's approach to sustainable development, and we are a strong advocate on sustainable development issues in multilateral fora. There was a burst of high-level activity in late 2019: the Prime Minister gave speeches on New Zealand's sustainable development priorities at the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the East Asia Summit Leaders Meeting, and at Japan's invitation former Foreign Minister Peters discussed New Zealand's approach to the SDGs at the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting. International commitments to support the global response to COVID-19 (for example, at the OECD Development Assistance Committee's High-Level Meeting in November 2020) are often framed around ensuring that we remain able to achieve the SDGs by 2030 despite the pandemic.

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<sup>4</sup> MFAT reports against this high-level indicator in the Pacific Goal of our Strategic Intentions. We deem a country to be making progress when it is showing improvements in its performance on at least half of the Goals, using data from the Sustainable Development Report's SDG Index.

## Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)




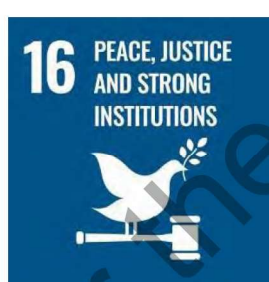
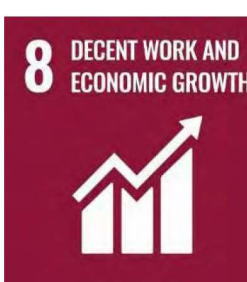


### Annex 1: Sustainable Development Goals and Reporting Agencies<sup>5</sup>

Goal	Reporting Agency	Goal Statement	Goal	Reporting Agency	Goal Statement
	MSD	End poverty in all its forms everywhere		MSD	Reduce inequality within and among countries
	MPI	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture		HUD	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
	MoH	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages		MPI	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
	MoE	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all		MFE	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
	MfW	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls		MFAT	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

<sup>5</sup> Reporting agencies led, or jointly led, on reporting against the Goal in New Zealand's 2019 VNR. s9(2)(f)(iv)



Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

 <p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>MFE / MoH</p>	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	 <p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>DOC</p>	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt the reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
 <p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>MBIE</p>	<p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	 <p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>MoJ</p>	<p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions</p>
 <p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>MBIE / Treasury</p>	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	 <p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>MFAT</p>	<p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>
 <p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p>			

**From:** LAWRANCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <[Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 September 2020 2:21 pm  
**To:** Madison Edilson [DPMC] <[Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <[Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <[Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz)>; PARK, Jeongmin (CEO Office) <[Jeongmin.Park@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Jeongmin.Park@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** PM Invitations and MFAT recommendations.  
**Importance:** High

[SEEMAIL]

[SENSITIVE]

Kia ora Madi and Geri

I hope your week is going well.

As discussed, here are the most recent invitations we have received for the Prime Minister along with our recommendations.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards  
Natasha

**1. UNGA75 High Level Week: Invitation to Prime Minister to participate in a Leaders' Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals Financing: Recommend decline.**

We are recommending that the PM decline this invitation. Please find our rationale below.

Event:	Leaders' Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals Financing
Host:	Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Canada), UN Secretary-General António, Prime Minister Andrew Holness (Jamaica)
Summary of event and invitation:	Leaders' meeting to discuss the "menu of options" to advance practical solutions to address financing for development in the Covid-19 era and beyond to meet the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030.  Invitation for the Prime Minister to deliver remarks to highlight the short, medium and long term measures that New Zealand considers will be effective in addressing the current crisis and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Date:	Tuesday 29 September 2020
Additional Information:	<p>The Leaders' event is a follow up meeting of the High level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of Covid-19 and Beyond on 28 May 2020. Following the May meeting, six Discussion Groups were established to design a comprehensive set of policy options focusing on emergency mobilization responses, delivering a swift and inclusive recovery, and enabling a sustainable and resilient future.</p> <p>To date, New Zealand has had limited engagement on SDG financing s9(2)(g)(i)</p>
Recommendation:	We recommend declining the invitation.

Out of scope

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Policy Officer  
Office of the Chief Executive  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a)

E [natasha.lawrance@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:natasha.lawrance@mfat.govt.nz)

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[SENSITIVE]

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**From:** ....MINETT, Constance (Inet) <constance.minett@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 January 2021 5:59 pm  
**To:** WILLIAMS, Meg (DCI) <Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; ROBERTS, Melanie (DCI) <Melanie.Roberts@mfat.govt.nz>; THOMPSON, Daniel (DS PDG Office) <Daniel.Thompson@mfat.govt.nz>; ROCHE, Katie (CEO Office) <Katie.Roche@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals

Thank you Meg.

I'll come back if MFA has further questions around reasons for/against participation.

Connie



**Constance Minett**

Private Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate  
Minister for Māori Development

s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** WILLIAMS, Meg (DCI) [<mailto:Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 January 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** Foreign Affairs Portfolio  
**Cc:** BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) ; ROBERTS, Melanie (DCI) ; THOMPSON, Daniel (DS PDG Office) ; ROCHE, Katie (CEO Office)  
**Subject:** RE: Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Constance,

Having discussed the roundtable mentioned below, we don't recommend that the Minister prioritize attendance.

Kind regards,  
Meg

Meg Williams ([she/her](#))

**Policy Officer – Development Policy and Effectiveness**

Development Capability and Insights Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz)

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**From:** Foreign Affairs Portfolio <[ForeignAffairs.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:ForeignAffairs.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 January 2021 2:02 pm

**To:** BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <[kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz)>; WILLIAMS, Meg (DCI) <[Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Meg.Williams@mfat.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals

Hi UNHC/PHM

Wondering whether you have a view as to whether MFA should accept the below invitation to attend a roundtable?



**Constance Minett**

Private Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP

Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate

Minister for Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** N Mahuta (MIN)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 January 2021 11:24 AM

**To:** Foreign Affairs Portfolio <[ForeignAffairs.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:ForeignAffairs.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals

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**From:** Jasmine Lindsay **On Behalf Of** C Sepuloni (MIN)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 January 2021 11:08 AM

**To:** N Mahuta (MIN) <[n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Tipene Apatu <[tipene.apatu@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:tipene.apatu@parliament.govt.nz)>; C Sepuloni (MIN) <[C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals

Kia ora,

Would your Minister accept a transfer of this invitation?

Ngā mihi

Jasmine

**Jasmine Lindsay | Private Secretary for Disability Issues**

Phone s9(2)(a) | Email [Jasmine.Lindsay@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jasmine.Lindsay@parliament.govt.nz)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development & Employment, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister for ACC and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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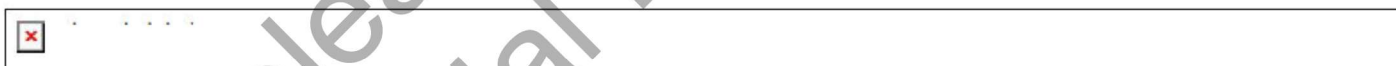
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**From:** Reykjavík Global Forum [<mailto:mail@womenleaders.global>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 January 2021 2:34 AM

**To:** C Sepuloni (MIN) <[C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals



**INVITATION**

**ACTION STAGE ROUNDTABLES**

Honourable Carmel Sepuloni,

The Reykjavik Global Forum - Women Leaders 2020 (virtual for the first time) brought together nearly 900 Conversationists from 123 countries, ready to 'Power, Together' in the midst of a pandemic and to share solutions and experiences.

On CBS alone, across the three days we saw eight times more live streams than in 2019 and across our social channels we generated outreach of 60 million. We were absolutely delighted with the response,

and the positive feedback received. We extend our thanks to you for all your support, and we hope to be able to count on your engagement in future months to write the Reykjavik Manual.

At the Forum, a new initiative the Reykjavik Manual was launched to harness the collective thoughts of Conversationists worldwide. Our vision is to collate the voices, perspectives and actionable recommendations of women leaders on how to define pathways and drive sustainable action aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. As well as advance and amplify women's leadership on the Sustainable Development Goals and put a spotlight on the critical role of women's leadership for a more equitable future. The Reykjavik Manual will be supported by our WPL Co-Chairs who will act as the Patrons of this hugely important initiative.

To continue with the compilation of the Reykjavik Manual, a series of virtual Action Stage roundtables have been organised throughout the months of February, March, and April 2021 for women leaders to talk about the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for building a more resilient and equal society. The roundtables are used to spark ideas, learn from each other, and consider how women leaders can take concrete steps towards greater progress.

**We provide [here](#) a list of the roundtables planned in the months to come. We would be grateful if you could select the one you would like to contribute to and attend.**

In this crucial year, your continued commitment to the Forum's mission is more important than ever, as the community of Conversationists embarks to contribute to building back better to a new normal, where women in leadership is no longer the exception. We look forward to relying on your contribution in future months to write the Reykjavik Manual.



**Silvana Koch-Mehrin**  
President of Women Political Leaders (WPL)



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Full details on the Forum and reports from last year's edition can be found on:  
[www.reykjavikforum.global](http://www.reykjavikforum.global)



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If you are not able to attend, please [decline here](#).



Reykjavík office: Sundaborg 5, 104 Reykjavík, Iceland  
Brussels office: Boulevard Charlemagne 96, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
[www.reykjavikforum.global](http://www.reykjavikforum.global) | [mail@womenleaders.global](mailto:mail@womenleaders.global)

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## JEBSON, Alex (UNHC)

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**From:** ....EDILSON, Madison (Inet)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 February 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** BATES, Renee (NAD)  
**Cc:** OLIVER, Paula (NAD); JEBSON, Alex (UNHC)  
**Subject:** RE: Invitation for the PM to participate in Japan Sustainable Development Goals Action Festival March 2021

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Morena Renee

PMO have confirmed this invitation should be declined. Thanks again for your work on this.

Madi

---

**From:** BATES, Renee (NAD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 February 2021 3:58 pm  
**To:** Madison Edilson [DPMC]  
**Cc:** OLIVER, Paula (NAD) ; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC)  
**Subject:** Invitation for the PM to participate in Japan Sustainable Development Goals Action Festival March 2021

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Maddie

The Prefectural Government of Kanagawa, Japan has invited PM Ardern to participate virtually in the Sustainable Development Goals Action Festival on 26-27 March 2021. We recommend that Post in Tokyo politely decline this invitation on the PM's behalf. Attached is some information about the Festival, unfortunately it is mostly in Japanese.

### *Background*

- The SDG Action festival will take place entirely virtually and we understand that UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J Mohammed has agreed to deliver a video message, along with PM Suga, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, the Governor of Kanagawa, and Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi.
- If the PM wishes to participate she could livestream a message or provide a pre-recorded video. The themes of the Japan SDGs Action Festival are climate change, the next generation, and gender, and the organisers have said that it is due to this thematic focus that they are inviting PM Ardern to address. There will also be SDGs Action Festivals in Germany, Chile, and Africa and these events will be connected as part of the UN SDG Action Campaign.

s6(a)

Ngā mihi

Renee

**Renee Bates**

**Senior Policy Officer – Japan Trade and Economic**  
North Asia Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a)

E [Renee.Bates@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Renee.Bates@mfat.govt.nz)

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## CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG)

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**From:** ....EDILSON, Madison (Inet)  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 June 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG); ....GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet)  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet); ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet); LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office); RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC); BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC); JEBSON, Alex (UNHC); BUCHANAN, Felicity (DS PDG)  
**Subject:** RE: PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

Thanks for this update, Will!

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**From:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG) <William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 June 2021 10:42 am  
**To:** Madison Edilson [DPMC] <Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>; Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz>; ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC) <Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz>; ^MFAT:Felicity Buchanan <Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Madi,

Thanks for chasing this up so promptly and your clear advice.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

Cheers,  
Will

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**From:** ....EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <[madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 June 2021 11:53 AM  
**To:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG) <[William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz)>; ....GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <[guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <[Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz)>; ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <[Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz)>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <[Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz)>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <[Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz)>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <[kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz)>; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC) <[Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz)>; BUCHANAN, Felicity (DS PDG) <[Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi again Will

I have talked to PMO and they only have one more filming session this month which is completely full. There is a chance they may be able to squeeze in a two minute video, but they have made no promises. I note in your advice

that this is a prestigious invitation. But PMO have asked for more information on how much a priority this is – are there other opportunities on the horizon that may allow the PM to speak on these issues and / or at the UN?

Thanks for all your work on this.

Madi

**Madison Edilson**

Foreign Policy Analyst  
Policy Advisory Group  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

T s9(2)(a)

M s9(2)(a)

E [madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)



DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

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**From:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG) <[William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 June 2021 10:01 am  
**To:** Madison Edilson [DPMC] <[Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <[Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <[Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz)>; ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <[Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz)>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <[Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz)>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <[Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz)>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <[kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz)>; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC) <[Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz)>; ^MFAT:Felicity Buchanan <[Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Madi,

Thanks very much for the call about this yesterday. NYK has discussed your questions with the organisers and:

- Confirmed that a pre-recorded speech is acceptable
- Been given a deadline of two weeks prior to the event that the recording would need to be submitted by i.e. CoP Tuesday 29 June.

Happy to discuss further.

Cheers,  
Will

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**From:** ....EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <[madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 June 2021 9:43 AM  
**To:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG) <[William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz)>; ....GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <[guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <[Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz)>; ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <[Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz)>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <[Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz)>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <[Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz)>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <[kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz)>; JEBSON,

Alex (UNHC) <[Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz)>; BUCHANAN, Felicity (DS PDG) <[Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora William

Thank you for sending this through. I will check with PMO to see whether there is filming time still available, and then we will put the advice to the PM. Hopefully we will be able to get back to you by next Wednesday!

Madi

**Madison Edilson**

Foreign Policy Analyst  
Policy Advisory Group  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

T s9(2)(a)

M s9(2)(a)

E [madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)



**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

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**From:** CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG) <[William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:William.Chisholm@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 June 2021 6:04 pm  
**To:** Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <[Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Madison Edilson [DPMC] <[Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <[Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz)>; ....SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <[Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz)>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <[Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz)>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <[Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz)>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <[kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz)>; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC) <[Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz)>; ^MFAT:Felicity Buchanan <[Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Felicity.Buchanan@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** PM invite to deliver sustainable development speech at the UN in July

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Guergana, Madison,

The PM has been invited to deliver a speech at the UN in July, and MFAT recommends that she accept. Our advice and the invitation letter are attached. MFA's office is comfortable with our advice.

Appreciate if you could transact this invite with the PM, and would be very grateful if you can give an estimate of when the PM is likely to be able to make a decision. The UN have asked for a response as soon as feasible; they haven't given a final deadline and gave an extension from their original (ambitious) RSVP deadline of Friday 28 May, but it'll be very helpful if we can give them an estimated response date.

Best,  
Will

**William Chisholm** (he/him)

**Lead Adviser – International Development Policy**

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

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195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand

[www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz) | [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)



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# MFAT recommendation on event invitation - keynote address at UN HLPF

Please find a recommendation from the Ministry below.

## Overview of the event

The Prime Minister is invited to deliver the keynote speech at the opening of the Ministerial segment of the UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. The HLPF is the UN's annual event to follow-up and review the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event will be broadcast by the UN, and should attract a broad global viewership.

## Date/time

The invite is for the PM to participate and deliver a speech virtually at a session which runs from 1 – 2:30am NZT Wednesday 14 July.

If the PM accepts the invite, we recommend that she pre-record her 10-minute speech. The organisers have indicated their preference for virtual participation, but have not excluded a pre-recorded speech. Our advice is driven by the inhospitable timing of the event.

## Recommendation

We recommend that the PM accept this invite.

If the PM is unavailable, we can explore with the UN whether the invite is transferable to the Minister of Foreign Affairs but anticipate that this is unlikely.

## Purpose/rationale

This is a prestigious invitation. It would be a high-profile opportunity to articulate New Zealand's priorities on sustainable development issues to a global audience, in particular to tailor our existing messages and priorities to the COVID-19 era. A pre-recorded speech would allow the PM to engage with only a modest time commitment.

The PM's most recent address to the UN on a similar topic was entitled '[Wellbeing a cure for inequality](#)', and delivered in New York at the UN's 2019 Leaders Week in September 2019.

The shift of the HLPF to a virtual format as a result of COVID-19 has better enabled a current head of state to deliver the keynote, whereas previously the travel commitments would make this more difficult. The 2020 HLPF keynote was delivered by H.E. Ms. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland. In the two years prior the keynotes were delivered by significant global figures but not heads of state – e.g. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, in 2019.

There is one risk to consider: s9(2)(ba)(i)



## **Programme**

The other speakers at the event will be: UN Secretary-General António Guterres; Munir Akram, President of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN; H.E. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly and Turkish diplomat; and youth representatives.

The HLPF runs from Tuesday 6 July to Thursday 15 July and is a busy event – UN member states organise hundreds of side events. The PM last spoke at the HLPF through a pre-recorded video when New Zealand presented its Voluntary National Review on progress towards the SDGs in 2019.

## **Briefing considerations**

We seek PMO guidance on if and when a draft speech from MFAT should be provided.

## **Proposed media engagement or reactive TPs**

None specifically proposed. We would seek to release the recording of the PM's speech through MFAT media channels.

## **POC at Ministry for any questions**

William Chisholm, s9(2)(a)

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## CHISHOLM, William (DS PDG)

---

**From:** ROBERTS, Melanie (DCI)  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** ....MINETT, Constance (Inet)  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet); CHISHOLM, William (DCI); BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC); THOMPSON, Daniel (DS PDG Office)  
**Subject:** RE: Invitation to attend the Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goals Summit

**Security Classification:** IN CONFIDENCE

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Connie,

We recommend that the Minister attend the Summit in early September provided <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

<sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup> . She may also wish to coordinate with the Prime Minister about the Government's attendance as the Prime Minister has been invited to open the Summit.

The Summit is a very good opportunity for the Minister to engage with New Zealand civil society about the Sustainable Development Goals. There have been two previous SDG Summits: at Victoria University in April 2018, and a combined University of Auckland/Auckland University of Technology event in September 2019. Minister of Statistics Hon. James Shaw spoke at the 2018 Summit, and the Prime Minister's video to launch New Zealand's SDG Voluntary National Review at the United Nations in July 2019 was also used to open the 2019 Summit. MFAT officials attended both summits, and we were one of the sponsors of the 2019 summit.

We recommend that the Minister **declines** the invite to the online hui in May. While the topic of the hui, 'New Zealand's role in the Pacific and the Sustainable Development Goals', is highly relevant, we recommend focusing the Minister's effort on the Summit, which is likely to have wider participation. If the Minister declines the hui invite we could test whether it is able to be transferred to a senior MFAT official.

As context when considering this invitation, note that:

- <sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>
- There have been calls for stronger leadership from the Government on the SDGs at both of the previous summits, including a [recommendation that the Government appoint a Minister for SDG implementation](#) at the 2018 Summit at Victoria University <sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>

Just as an FYI, today is my last day in the development policy role so I have copied Will who can be your focal point moving forward.

Ngā mihi,  
Melanie

---

**From:** ....MINETT, Constance (Inet) <constance.minett@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 1:47 PM  
**To:** ROBERTS, Melanie (DCI) <Melanie.Roberts@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** ....THORN, Jessica (Inet) <Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Invitation to attend the Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Hi Melanie and Kathryn,

With apologies if this has already come through to you already, but are you able to give a steer as to whether this is an invitation [with two options for attendance] that MFA should prioritise?

Connie

##

From: Vice-Chancellor's Office [mailto:[vice-chancellorsoffice@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:vice-chancellorsoffice@canterbury.ac.nz)]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 March 2021 9:49 AM

To: N Mahuta (MIN) <[n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)>

Cc: Vice-Chancellor's Office <[vice-chancellorsoffice@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:vice-chancellorsoffice@canterbury.ac.nz)>

Subject: Invitation to The 2020 - 2021 Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Kia ora,

Please see attached letter from Prof. Cheryl de la Rey inviting Nanaia to The 2020 - 2021 Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

The 2020-2021 Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goals Summit is organised collaboratively by the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University, with mana whenua, in partnership with the Christchurch City Council and Ara Institute of Canterbury, supported by Tourism New Zealand, Te Pokai Tara - Universities New Zealand, ChristchurchNZ and New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Read more here.

<<https://www.sdgsummits.nz/current-summit>>

Many thanks,

Maddie Page

Personal Assistant to Vice-Chancellor

University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha



**Constance Minett**

Private Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister  
for Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand