



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Support for Pacific and Global Vaccine Access and Roll-out

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 7 December 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that New Zealand is committed to equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines and immunisation efforts, in particular its support to the Pacific;
- 2        **noted** that New Zealand is pursuing multiple pathways to support global efforts to equitable access to vaccines and specifically to support Pacific access and roll-out at an early opportunity of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine;
- 3        **noted** that the combination of options eventually pursued will depend on a range of factors including vaccine suitability, timing and costs, indemnities and other the contributions of other donors to vaccine efforts, and as these factors become clearer, adaptability will ensure New Zealand's support is most effective;
- 4        **agreed** that New Zealand-sourced vaccines for the Pacific will be assessed by the Ministry of Health to ensure they are suitable for use in the Pacific;
- 5        **noted** that funding will be re-prioritised from Official Development Assistance;
- 6        **agreed** that up to NZ\$75 million be allocated from Vote Official Development Assistance to support Pacific and global vaccine access and roll-out;
- 7        **agreed** that from the NZ\$75 million, New Zealand makes an additional NZ\$10 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment to support multilateral efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines for developing countries;
- 8        **agreed** that New Zealand should actively seek to purchase up to 360,000 additional doses of at least one suitable vaccine candidate specifically for Polynesia as part of domestic purchasing efforts, from within the NZ\$75 million;
- 9        **agreed** that for approval of other specific initiatives supported from within this funding envelope existing delegations will apply;
- 10       **agreed** that for initiatives over NZ\$25 million that would normally require Cabinet approval, approval will be sought from Joint Ministers, being the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance;

- 11 **agreed** that an announcement of New Zealand's funding package be made by the Prime Minister, at an appropriate point before mid-December.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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