

Aotearoa New Zealand Country Statement to the 79th UN ESCAP Session

Thank you Chair, Executive Secretary.

We particularly pleased to participate in this 79th session of ESCAP which focuses on a topic of vital importance to Aotearoa New Zealand and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

The urgency of accererating climate action couldn't be more front of mind for Aotearoa New Zealand as we respond to the ongoing impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, an unprecedented weather event for Aotearoa New Zealand, which is expected to become the costliest non-earthquake natural disaster in our history.

The devastating impacts that extreme weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle can have on infrastructure, industry, and, most importantly, people, will be all too familiar for many representatives in this room, including from the Pacific region, where the consequences of a changing climate pose a continued and growing existential threat.

With these realities at the front of our mind, Aotearoa New Zealand wishes to reiterate our commitment to taking urgent, bold, and enduring action in the fight against climate change and to limiting temperature increases to below 1.5°C.

In order to meet this challenge, Aotearoa New Zealand has set ambitious targets, including targeting a 50% reduction of net emissions below our 2005 levels by 2030.

We recognise that achieving these goals will require significant effort and a transformation of our economy. To this end, on this very day last year Aotearoa New Zealand published our first Emissions Reduction Plan, which sets out a transition pathway towards these goals and towards a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.

Domestic action to reduce emissions alone will not be enough however. Without coordinated action and shared commitments by all countries,

individual efforts alone will not be sufficient to address the scale of the challenge we collectively face.

Nor will it address the uneven impacts that climate change has and will continue to have on our most vulnerable communities, particularly those in Pacific Island countries and other small island developing states.

Ensuring developing countries have adequate access to climate finance to reduce emissions and adapt to impacts is vital to ensuring we are successful in addressing this challenge and to ensuring the most vulnerable are protected and supported in the process.

In late 2021, Aotearoa New Zealand quadrupled our previous climate finance commitment, pledging \$1.3 billion in climate finance over four years to support developing countries and communities in the Asia-Pacific region to reduce risks, capture opportunities and build intergenerational climate resilience.

While this is a substantial commitment for Aotearoa New Zealand, we recognise that this will only go a small way to addressing the financing needs required for meaningful action across our region.

We are committed to working with partners and agencies from across the region to identify and champion mutually supportive trade and climate agendas, coordinate our efforts, and amplify our collective impact.

We look forward to working collaboratively with our partners from across Asia and the Pacific to build a sustainable future for all.

Thank you, Chair.