

30.11.2022

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

On the occasion of her visit to Aotearoa New Zealand, Prime Minister Sanna Marin of the Republic of Finland met with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of Aotearoa New Zealand in Auckland, on 30 November 2022.

The Prime Ministers welcomed the opportunity to strengthen the longstanding relationship between Aotearoa New Zealand and Finland, and to deepen their shared understanding of regional and global challenges. The Prime Ministers agreed that countries with shared values need to intensify their efforts for a more secure and prosperous world. They discussed progress on a range of issues of common interest based on shared values, including with respect to human rights, Indigenous People, gender equality, ambitious climate action, free and open trade, and sustainable growth.

The Prime Ministers condemned Russia's unlawful war of aggression in Ukraine, a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter. They reiterated their unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, firmly rejected Russia's attempts to annex occupied regions of Ukraine, and reaffirmed their enduring solidarity with the people of Ukraine. The Prime Ministers called again on Russia to immediately and unconditionally end the illegal occupation and withdraw its military forces from Ukraine. They re-affirmed that those responsible for violations of international law must be held accountable and emphasized need for continued and coordinated international support to Ukraine for as long as it takes.

The Prime Ministers also discussed the gravely concerning situation facing women and girls in Iran. The leaders welcomed the UN Human Rights Council resolution on 24 November that established a fact-finding mission to Iran to thoroughly and independently investigate the alleged human rights violations there.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared determination to uphold the rules-based international order, noting the importance of strengthening multilateral institutions to support joint efforts and global cooperation. The Prime Ministers committed their support to the reform of the UN and other multilateral bodies to ensure that they remain relevant, effective and responsive. They expressed appreciation for the important work of the United Nations Human Rights Council in promoting and protecting human rights, emphasising in particular the importance of protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Prime Ministers emphasised the importance of continuing to deepen cooperation between Aotearoa New Zealand and the European Union, including in the Indo-Pacific region. In this regard the Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement, which will benefit both New Zealand and Finland by reflecting the two countries' shared values and supporting the rules-based international system. The Prime Ministers noted that trade should build prosperity for all,

support efforts to address the challenge of climate change, encourage sustainable development, and help companies of all sizes to grow. They committed to work together to ensure that the Agreement is signed and ratified as quickly as possible.

The Prime Ministers noted their shared focus on economy of wellbeing, emphasising the mutually reinforcing nature of economic and social policies. They stressed the positive impact of investing in science, health, social security, gender equality, education and innovations to empower individuals, communities, businesses and societies as well as to reduce inequalities, promote sustainable development and help prevent and resolve tensions globally.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their joint commitment to tackling climate change, acknowledging the need for rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and underscoring the importance of international ambition in continuing to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. They acknowledged especially the threat that climate change poses to small island developing states, particularly in the Pacific, where global warming is a long-term security and development issue. They expressed satisfaction about the commitment made at the recently concluded Climate Change Conference in Egypt to support those suffering most of the consequences of climate change through addressing loss and damage, noting the need to expand the funding base for climate finance.

The Prime Ministers noted that the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) comes at a crucial time, as biodiversity is being lost faster now than at any other point in human history. They underscored the importance of reaching an ambitious and transformational post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of biodiversity to Indigenous Peoples, and on the important role Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge play in the sustainable management and protection of biodiversity.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to the Antarctic Treaty System, noting the importance of protecting the Antarctic environment and maintaining Antarctica as a place for peace, science and international cooperation. The Prime Ministers looked forward to Finland's hosting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Helsinki in May-June 2023.

The Prime Ministers noted the positive role of science and technology in the Finland-New Zealand relationship. They welcomed the recent launch of negotiations for New Zealand to join Horizon Europe, the EU's largest research and innovation programme, which will create opportunities to enhance collaboration. The Prime Ministers expressed willingness to further strengthen bilateral business links in science and technology, especially in digitalization, wireless mobile technologies, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, the data economy and the green transition.

The Prime Ministers noted that advanced digital technologies will continue to transform our world in unprecedented ways, and that ensuring broad and equitable access to such technologies will be key drivers of future growth, competitiveness, and wellbeing. A free, open, secure and interconnected global internet should be a force for good, a place where human rights are promoted and upheld and where

technology contributes to social mobility and empowerment for all. The Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of like-minded partners continuing to work together to realise this vision for the internet.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to the Christchurch Call to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online. The Christchurch Call, with its global, multi-stakeholder model, allows Governments, industry, and civil society to work collaboratively to counter extremist content in online spaces. Together the Call Community has achieved an increase in transparency of online service providers, a stronger understanding of algorithm challenges, and a strengthened and interoperable crisis response system. The Prime Ministers acknowledged there is more to do and welcomed opportunities for continued collaboration under the Christchurch Call.

The Prime Ministers also acknowledged the increasing challenges posed by mis- and disinformation, and by the actors responsible for them. They underscored the need for governments to work closely with civil society and industry to address these challenges to our free, open democracies and the values and rights they are built on.
