



10 February 2023

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by

24 February 2023

## MFA International Travel Opportunities 2023: Additional Options

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BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE This paper provides additional international travel options for 2023 for your consideration. It supplements advice provided in October 2022, and existing travel agreed for the year.

## Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

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Prime Minister

For information by

24 February 2023

## Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

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NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Natasha Yarrall	Senior Policy Officer	DCE-P	s9(2)(a)

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

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 Approved Noted Referred Needs amendment Declined Withdrawn Overtaken by events See Minister's notes**Comments**

## Pito matua – Key points

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- In October 2022 you agreed to a set of priority travel for 2023. This was focused on reinforcing Aotearoa New Zealand’s key international relationships, supporting New Zealand’s reconnection with the world, and priority set piece meetings.
- Based on this, planning is now under way for you to travel to: **Australia**, <sup>s6(a)</sup> **China**, **Japan, Korea, Samoa, Singapore** <sup>s6(a)</sup> over the course of 2023. <sup>s6(a)</sup> You have also agreed to attend the <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> <sup>s6(a)</sup> You have also just returned from **India**.
- We provide additional options for travel in 2023 to supplement existing plans. These proposals:
  - Support efforts to reconnect Aotearoa New Zealand with the world including New Zealand’s economic recovery;
  - Place priority on travel to the Pacific region;
  - Ensure Aotearoa New Zealand continues to engage credibly on issues which impact international peace and security;
  - Take into consideration your new portfolio as Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control (MDAC);
  - Take into account the Prime Minister’s anticipated travel in 2023 (separate advice is being prepared on this).
- As a priority, we propose you consider adding standalone visits to **Fiji** and **Vanuatu** to your travel schedule. We also recommend you attend the <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
- Beyond these immediate priorities, we would suggest you consider: <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
  - if your schedule permits. We have also considered other Pacific jurisdictions you have not yet visited (or plan to visit). You may wish to consider <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
- While we do not recommend any destinations solely in your capacity as MDAC, there will be opportunities to discuss disarmament with counterparts during these visits.
- Annex 1 outlines existing travel agreed and proposed timing for this, alongside additional proposals. The timing of visits which are not “set piece” may be flexible. Annex 2 provides the rationale for existing/ agreed travel.

Ben King  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Note** planning is under way for your travel programme in 2023, based on advice you approved in October 2022, as outlined in Annex 1; **Yes / No**
- 2 **Agree** that officials explore additional international travel opportunities for you, also set out in Annex 1, working with your office to identify potential dates for travel. **Yes / No**

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Date:    /    /

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## Pūrongo – Report

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### Background

1. In October 2022 you agreed to a set of priority travel for 2023, with a focus on key relationships and New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy. Based on this, planning is now under way for you to travel to: **Australia**,<sup>s6(a)</sup> **China, Japan, Korea, Samoa, Singapore**<sup>s</sup> over the course of 2023.<sup>s6(a)</sup>  
 You have also agreed to attend the <sup>s6(a), s9(2)</sup>  
<sup>(f)(iv)</sup>. You have also just returned from **India**.
2. You have indicated an interest in additional travel options for 2023. We provide options for your consideration.

### Priority International Travel Opportunities

3. We propose the following additional international travel engagements for you in 2023:
  - i. **Fiji:** A standalone visit<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> is a high priority for you as Minister of Foreign Affairs. This would be an opportunity to meet with the new Government following the election in December 2022. The New Zealand High Commission in Suva is currently exploring dates in March.<sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - ii. **Vanuatu:** This is an opportunity to reinforce Aotearoa New Zealand's important relationship with Vanuatu, including by engaging with the new Prime Minister. You have not yet visited Vanuatu in your capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
4. A visit to Vanuatu and Fiji would be possible in the week commencing 21 March and we are exploring availability of NZDF assets for this window. If an asset is not available, commercial travel would also be possible.
5. If the Prime Minister elects not to attend, we recommend you also add to your schedule:

<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>

6. Beyond these immediate priorities, you may wish to also consider:

v. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>

s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

vii. **Europe:** Travel to Stockholm and Brussels, with options to add other EU partners would provide valuable support to progressing the EU/NZ Free Trade Agreement, our multilateral objectives and our Ukraine response.

- Sweden holds the EU Presidency in first half of 2023 and has been supporter for FTA.

An engagement with indigenous Sámi might also be possible.

- A range of additional Europe destinations can be added depending on time available.

s6(a)

s6(a)

7. We have also considered <sup>s6(a)</sup>

*Pacific bilateral travel*

s6(a)

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*Other multilateral fora*

s6(a)

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Annex 1: Proposed travel schedule 2023

		Minister of Foreign Affairs	
		Existing travel planned	Additional travel proposed
Q1	January		
	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed: India</li> <li>Japan Singapore, 26 February – 3 March</li> </ul>	
	March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC: China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vanuatu</li> <li>Fiji <sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>
Q2	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> <li>TBC: Samoa (April or May)</li> </ul>	
	May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC: Samoa (April or May)</li> <li>TBC: Korea, 29 - 31 May</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe: Stockholm <sup>s6(a)</sup></li> <li>Brussels, <sup>s6(a)</sup></li> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>
	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>
Q3	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> <li><sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)</sup></li> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>	<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
	August		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a)</sup></li> </ul>
	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup></li> </ul>	<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>
Q4	October	NZ GENERAL ELECTION	NZ GENERAL ELECTION
	November	<sup>s6(a)</sup>	
	December		<sup>s6(a)</sup>



## Annex 2: Existing travel - Planning Underway

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- i. **Japan and Singapore:** You are visiting 26 February – 3 March.
- ii. **Samoa:** We are currently working on a visit to Samoa<sup>s6(a)</sup>  
Dates are still to be confirmed, but tentative for April or May.
- iii. **China:** Officials continue to explore options for 2023, and ensure any visit is sequenced with any possible visit by the Prime Minister to China.
- iv. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- v. **Korea:** Korea is an important, influential, like-minded strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region,<sup>s6(a)</sup> Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are also ramping up in light of recent DPRK ballistic missile tests. We have critical trade, defence and security interests with Korea. The Pacific Leaders' meeting in Seoul in late May 2023 may provide an opportunity for you to undertake a bilateral visit.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

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