

# Joint Cooperation Statement between the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, June 2025

Marking 60 years of diplomatic representation between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and New Zealand, Prime Minister Dick Schoof of the Netherlands and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon of New Zealand met on 24 June 2025 in The Hague to celebrate this milestone and to reaffirm the enduring friendship between the two nations.

## *Introduction*

Over the past six decades, the Netherlands and New Zealand have built a strong and dynamic relationship, grounded in shared democratic values, respect for human rights, open and rules-based international cooperation, and a deep commitment to global stability, prosperity, and sustainable development. As likeminded, outward-looking societies, the two nations are natural partners on the global stage.

The Prime Ministers acknowledged the strength of the bilateral relationship, anchored by strong cultural, economic and people-to-people ties, including the vibrant Dutch and New Zealand communities in each other's countries.

The Prime Ministers also acknowledged the unique cultural connection fostered by the *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* waka project, and its contribution to the rich contemporary relationship.

Looking ahead, the Prime Ministers underlined the importance of promoting prosperity while enhancing security, and committed to further strengthening the bilateral relationship in the following areas.

## *Peace and security*

The Prime Ministers acknowledged the importance of strengthened cooperation between New Zealand and the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**. New Zealand's cooperation, along with NATO's other Indo-Pacific partners, reflects recognition that the peace, prosperity and stability of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions are interconnected.

The Prime Ministers underlined that the Netherlands and New Zealand will continue their unwavering support for **Ukraine**, called upon Russia to end immediately its illegal war of aggression, and welcomed ongoing efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in Europe, consistent with the United Nations Charter and international law. The Prime Ministers shared deep concerns about the role of third countries in enabling Russia's illegal war against Ukraine. They urged those supporting Russia's military through the supply of dual use components, weapons, and military personnel, to cease fuelling Russia's illegal war against Ukraine.

The Prime Ministers underlined the importance to global peace and prosperity of a stable, free and open **Indo-Pacific**, including its sea lanes such as the South China Sea. The Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and to upholding the right of freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Prime Ministers acknowledged the Netherlands' and New Zealand's shared interest in working together in support of a peaceful and prosperous **Pacific region**, and strengthening the resilience of **Small Island Developing States** by facilitating access to development finance, and tailoring approaches to their unique conditions and vulnerabilities.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to protecting universal human rights, democratic principles, and the **rules-based international system**. They also reaffirmed their support for **multilateral institutions**, including those located in The Hague, such as the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The Prime Ministers pledged to continue the Netherlands' and New Zealand's close cooperation in the multilateral arena, including efforts to make the United Nations system more efficient and effective.

The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation between our **police** forces, focused on the sharing of information on mutual areas of law enforcement cooperation through EUROPOL.

They also welcomed the cooperation between our **customs** administrations under the bilateral Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement, and welcomed continued collaboration in areas of mutual interest to advance **maritime supply chain security**.

The two Leaders expressed concern at the increase in malicious **cyber** activities by state and non-state actors, and expressed interest in collaborating to counter cyber threats via likeminded groupings and multilateral fora.

#### *Trade and investment*

Recognising that **free trade** is a cornerstone of our nations' economic prosperity and sustainable development, the Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of open markets, defending, strengthening, and modernising the **rules-based trading system**, and ongoing efforts to reduce non-tariff trade barriers.

The two Leaders welcomed the increase in trade and investment between our countries under the **EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**, and acknowledged the Netherlands' role as a key entry point for New Zealand exports to Europe. The Prime Ministers also underlined the importance of ongoing cooperation in the field of trade and sustainable development.

They also acknowledged the importance of increasing **foreign direct investment** in both directions as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation and innovation, and the contribution that the Netherlands makes as the main source of direct investment in New Zealand from the European Union.

The Prime Ministers agreed to further enhance our mutual prosperity by **reducing barriers** to investment, fostering business links, supporting the development of joint ventures, and starting discussions to upgrade Double Taxation Agreement.

### *Innovation and green growth*

The Prime Ministers welcomed the partnerships between our **research** communities under Horizon Europe, and the long-standing collaboration between Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and Massey University, and between WUR and Plant and Food Research, recognising that **innovation** plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, and solving global challenges such as making food production and fisheries more sustainable.

The Prime Ministers welcomed our collaboration to tackle **emissions from agriculture**, to advance research for sustainable, resilient and low-emissions food production, and to build capability in developing countries, including through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

Accelerating **renewable energy** was recognised as critical to the green transition, and to meeting our countries' 2050 net zero climate targets. The Prime Ministers agreed to continue sharing experiences and promoting partnerships in this field.

Acknowledging that **sustainable water management** and **innovative infrastructure development** are priorities for both countries, the Prime Ministers agreed to promote further exchanges and the sharing of knowledge and opportunities in these fields.

The Prime Ministers also underlined the Netherlands' and New Zealand's commitment to the reduction, and ultimately the elimination, of harmful **fossil fuel subsidies**.

### *Dialogue*

As countries who share the same fundamental values and world view, the Prime Ministers agreed that the Netherlands and New Zealand should continue to exchange experiences and perspectives at leader level on our shared challenges in addition to regular dialogue at ministerial and senior official levels.

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