

**Joint Statement between the Leaders of
New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau**

1. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Christopher Luxon, the Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Mark Brown, and the Ulu of Tokelau, the Honourable Alapati Tavite met in Auckland, New Zealand, on 28 August 2026.
2. Leaders affirmed that the strong and enduring constitutional relationships New Zealand has with the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau are supported by the closeness of their peoples, societies and economies. All partners value and benefit from the connections between their diaspora communities and the rich exchange of culture and ideas that come from the depth of the ties between their peoples.
3. Leaders reaffirmed that Realm partners are connected by shared history, constitutional links and common values. As such, Realm partners are ideally placed to support one another, amplify their collective voices, and work together to address common opportunities and challenges facing the Pacific region. Leaders recognised that the strength of the Realm lies in respecting the distinct identities and aspirations of each partner while fostering cooperation for the benefit of present and future generations.
4. Leaders recalled the recent Political Declaration between Niue and New Zealand signed in November 2025, and the Cook Islands and New Zealand Declaration on Defence and Security signed in April 2026, which build upon other important expressions of those relationships.
5. Leaders acknowledged the significance of the centenary of the relationship between New Zealand and Tokelau and reflected on the history and strength of the partnership.
6. The shared prosperity, peace and security of the Realm and the broader Pacific region remain a priority for Leaders. In an increasingly contested and complex strategic environment, Leaders acknowledged the interconnected security interests of members of the Realm and respective responsibilities to each other in this area.
7. Realm Leaders welcomed the opportunity that New Zealand's hosting of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in 2027 presents for progressing the region's priorities.
8. Seeking to broaden and deepen Realm cooperation, Leaders committed to strengthening Realm partnerships to support economic opportunity, cultural connections, resilience, security, and the wellbeing of future generations, and to work together in the spirit of trust, mutual respect, and friendship.