

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



Next Steps



Targeted engagement



Draft Declaration plan



Wider consultation on draft Declaration plan

How to get involved

We would like to hear your views on how to get involved and actions for a Declaration plan via:



Online national hui



workshops

What is the Declaration?

The Declaration sets out the rights of Indigenous peoples and was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007. It includes a broad range of rights and freedoms, including the right of self-determination, culture and identity, and rights to education, economic development, religious customs, health and language.

The right of self-determination is central to the Declaration. The exercise of self-determination is indispensable for Indigenous peoples' enjoyment of all their other rights.

What are the key timeframes?

- Implementation of targeted engagement strategy **[October 2021 – early February 2022]**
- Report back to Cabinet on feedback from targeted engagement and approval for drafting process **[February 2022]**
- Draft Declaration plan **[March – May 2022]**
- Cabinet approval of draft Declaration plan and proposal for wider public consultation **[June 2022]**
- Public consultation **[June – October 2022]**
- Cabinet approval of final Declaration plan and proposal for wider public consultation **[December 2022]**
- Release Declaration plan **[February 2023]**

Why is this kaupapa important?

A Declaration plan will:

- contribute to strengthening tino rangatiratanga and improving Māori wellbeing by affirming their rights, including the right of self-determination, as the Indigenous peoples of New Zealand
- assist the Government with realising Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthening Māori-Crown relations as part of the Government's priority to lay foundations for the future, especially in the COVID-19 recovery
- enhance New Zealand's reputation internationally by recognising our commitment to advocate for the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples
- benefit all New Zealanders.

How will this process strengthen rangatiratanga/mana motuhake for whānau?

- Whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations will identify the priorities that go into the plan
- Iwi will lead the targeted engagement until early February
- The NICF, through the Pou Tikanga, is working in partnership with the government to develop a Declaration plan and will work with officials to facilitate targeted engagement with Māori.
- This mahi fits within the Pou Tikanga priority (November 2020), of "Working in partnership with government to implement and monitor a National Plan of Action for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".





United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



What does the Declaration look like?



The Declaration is made up of 26 introductory paragraphs and 46 articles. The Declaration can be used as a legal, moral and political tool to guide countries' laws, policies and practices with respect to Indigenous peoples and to interpret international human rights laws.

Indigenous peoples – including Māori – and governments were involved in drafting the Declaration. It reflects existing international human rights standards and also develops specific rights, including collective rights, relevant to Indigenous peoples.

How does the Declaration relate to Te Tiriti o Waitangi?



Te Tiriti guaranteed to Māori ongoing rangatiratanga and rights to all their taonga. It also promised equality for Māori and continuation of all their customs.

The Declaration provides a set of minimum standards to be achieved for Indigenous peoples to enjoy those rights.

Both documents express Māori authority to govern themselves and determine their own destinies, to participate in Crown governance, law and policy, and to have their rights protected.

What are the Declaration's key themes?



Self-determination: Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination, including for their economic, social, and cultural development. Indigenous peoples have the right to self-government, including to maintain and strengthen their own governing institutions.

Equality and non-discrimination: Indigenous peoples are free and equal to all others, and have the right to be free from discrimination.

Participation in government: Indigenous peoples retain their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural right of the state, through representatives chosen by themselves. This includes duties on the state to obtain Indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent before adopting measures that may affect them.

Social, cultural and economic wellbeing: Indigenous peoples have the right to improve their political, social and economic systems, maintain, control, develop, protect and transmit their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and languages.

Lands, territories and resources: Indigenous peoples have the right to own and control the lands they possess, as well as the right to compensation for the taking of their lands. States shall provide legal recognition of their lands through fair and open processes.



For further information and links, visit:

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

