



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

Partnership Dialogue
Minimizing and Addressing Ocean Acidification

New Zealand statement

Delivered by Hon. Maggie Barry
New Zealand Minister of Conservation

6 June 2017



Thank you co-Chairs

We are all here because we recognise the importance of healthy oceans for sustainable development.

This means acknowledging the threats that are facing the oceans and taking action to address them.

Ocean acidification is one of the most significant of these threats. We have heard today about the causes and impacts of ocean acidification and about some of the actions that can be taken to address and minimise it.

New Zealand has committed to taking action on ocean acidification, both in our own waters and in the Pacific region.

Domestically, New Zealand collects scientific data from 14 coastal stations around the country, working with regional councils and the aquaculture industry.

Included in the 1.6 billion dollars that the New Zealand government funds for science, is a commitment to fund a national project entitled "Coastal Acidification: Rate, Impacts & Management" which assesses the effects of coastal water acidification on species of particular environmental and economic importance.

We recognise that community outreach is vital in addressing ocean acidification. An important part of this project is information exchange and engagement with Māori, schools and other community groups.

In 2014 New Zealand partnered with the United States and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to host an international workshop to examine ocean acidification in the context of sustainable development of small island developing states.

Following this, New Zealand initiated and provided funding for the "New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification," which is being led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Through this partnership, we are working to strengthen resilience and build awareness of this emerging threat to the ocean and to the coastal communities who depend on the ocean's resources for their survival and livelihoods.

The New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification will identify and implement practical adaptation actions; undertake research and monitoring initiatives; find ways to address capacity-building needs and raise awareness; and build resilience by reducing other stressors on the marine environment.

New Zealand acknowledges the work of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and we are grateful to the Principality of Monaco for their contribution to this important work.

Finally, I would like to express our hope that others will join New Zealand to provide further funding and scale to this partnership.

Thank you.