

Statement delivered to the New Zealand Government Voluntary National Review – 17 July 2019, High-Level Political Forum , on behalf of the Major Group and Other Stakeholders, and with input from New Zealand civil society

Tēnā koutou, he mihi nui ki o kōrerō

We thank the New Zealand Government for its presentation and for additional contributions by civil society.

We are encouraged to hear of the government's commitment to the SDGs, which acknowledges that new thinking is needed to achieve the SDGs, and that this is only possible through cooperation and the participation of all sectors of society. A cooperation we believe members of civil society would welcome.

We also recognise the government's commitment to well-being. It is aspirational and addresses many of the issues included in the SDGs.

Yet, the first New Zealand People's Report on the SDGs identifies areas such as persistent inequality, the major loss of New Zealand biodiversity and marine life, and the pollution of freshwater sources. The poorer outcomes for Māori, the indigenous people, in particular, demonstrate the effects of many years of neglect and post colonial racism.

NGOs and others in civil society are making concrete contributions in areas encompassed by the goals, but the Report shows that there is inconsistent engagement between government and civil society, lack of collaborative planning, sustainable funding and resourcing.

This risks the achievement of the government's vision and the SDGs, which are grounded in legally binding international human rights commitments, and have multi stakeholder partnerships at the core.

We would therefore like to know:

- 1. How will the New Zealand government encourage and strengthen meaningful participation and collaboration with Māori and wider civil society in achieving its vision and the SDGs?**
- 2. Will the government set up, in consultation, a framework and national plan that are formally linked to the SDGs?**