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| Description: Description: Description: C:\Users\amessent\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\MN1HAVZZ\Brand NZ-no agency High Res.jpg | **EMRIP 17th Session****Item 7: Statement on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)****Delivered by First Secretary Emma Hodder** **11 July 2024** |

Tēnā koutou katoa – greetings to everyone.

Indigenous languages are critical to the identities of Indigenous Peoples, preserving traditions, practices and history. Indigenous Peoples’ have a right to express self-determination, to advance, reinforce and develop this crucial cultural knowledge.

As we reflect on the Global Action Plan for the UN-mandated International Decade of Indigenous Languages, we take the opportunity to share developments in New Zealand on the revitalisation of te reo Māori – our own Indigenous language.

Six years ago, New Zealand passed the Māori Language Act establishing a partnership between the Government and a new entity called Te Mātāwai - which acts on behalf of Māori and tribes.

Our shared vision is for the Māori language to be ‘a living language’ by 2040 and we have two key strategies to enable this. The first strategy, led by Te Mātāwai, focuses on revitalisation in Māori families, homes and communities, with a vision for the Māori language to be restored as a nurturing first language. The second strategy, led by the Government, aims to promote increased use of the Māori language in public life. Both Te Mātāwai and the Government oversee the work undertaken within our partnership framework.

In 2024, we are celebrating 30 years of funding for Māori language broadcasting content through a statutory funding agency named Te Māngai Pāho, and 20 years since the establishment of a national Indigenous media organisation named Whakaata Māori (Māori Television). Both entities play a key role in revitalisation through their ability to bring Māori language and stories into homes and communities – aiding intergenerational transmission and helping to shape public perception.

This year, the Government and Te Mātāwai are working with Māori language entities in New Zealand to explore how we can work more strategically together to achieve the very best outcomes and ensure that we reach our Māori language revitalisation goals for today and the future.

The remaining years of the Decade offer an opportunity to advocate for language revitalisation and to learn from other indigenous movements who are drawing strength from their traditional language and systems of knowledge. We call on all States to take concrete actions over this decade to revitalise indigenous languages and to support Indigenous Peoples as they lead the way.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou – Many thanks to you all.