



UPR statement on behalf of the IMM/Pou Tikanga 7 March 2024

Tēnā tātou, thank you to our esteemed participants in today's hui.

Ngati Kahungunu, Nga Rauru and Ngati Raukawa are my iwi or tribes – I offer this statement as a technician of Pou Tikanga, National Iwi Chairs Forum (a peak body of Māori tribal entities) and the Independent Monitoring Mechanism. My name is Kym Hamilton.

The ultimate goal of the UPR is the improvement of the human rights situation in every country - our country is not without its challenges – we would like to thank those states who have through the UPR over the last three reviews for recommendations to ratify ILO 169 and to improve indigenous rights, equity, equality and outcomes for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Per our October 2023 report, in recent years we have enjoyed some improvements to:

- our local government representation,
- civic representation in elections to enhance our people's participation,
- climate policy and partnership,
- health partnerships
- partnership to eliminate racism

However, more recently, these and other efforts to realise Māori and Indigenous rights, have faced significant political backlash, with some political parties campaigning and drawing the support of white supremacists to renege on or reverse many of these initiatives, causing increased racism and attacks on our peoples leading to even greater inequity.

We ask states in this UPR to assist us to ensure that the Government:

1. Progress actions, in partnership with Māori, to determine and implement constitutional arrangements to recognise, protect and give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi and human rights.

2. Restart work to complete and implement the National Plan of Action to realise the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

3. Commit to supporting Māori to exercise their rights to self-determination, by enabling Māori participation in decision-making, along with resourcing for self-determination or rangatiratanga planning for our whānau/families and communities.

4. Strengthens efforts to combat racism, including by: continuing work on a National Action Plan Against Racism, in partnership with Iwi/Māori.

It is imperative that our Government:

- a. respect, protect and fulfil the rights of Māori as Indigenous peoples;
- b. continue efforts to achieve equity for Māori;
- c. recognise, enable and support the exercise of self-determination and tino rangatiratanga; and
- d. ensure that positive progress on Te Tiriti and the rights of Māori as Indigenous peoples, is not regressed.

During the review on 29 April 2024, we call on states to recommend the New Zealand government to cease and desist all unilateral activity to defund our organisations and institutions, and to redefine and diminish the articles and associated agreements under Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

Te Tiriti was signed between our peoples in 1840 with the intent to institute constitutional arrangements that embed and reflect this, to realise the promise of two peoples to take the best possible care of one another and for whānau, hapū and iwi to be self-determining.

Tena tatou katoa