

**Securing
New Zealand's
Independent Voice
in the World**

**Labour's Policy for
Foreign Affairs, Trade and
Official Development Assistance
2008**

Introduction

Under Labour New Zealand has strengthened its reputation internationally as a country which thinks independently, has strong values and, notwithstanding our small size, makes a significant contribution to the world community as a good international citizen.

Our vision is of a world which is peaceful, stable and secure, prosperous, democratic and socially just.

We believe the path to achieve this must first and foremost be a multilateral one, working through and seeking to improve organisations such as the United Nations and World Trade Organisation.

Our aim is to create an international system which is rules-based rather than one where countries impose their will on others by virtue of their size and power.

We are committed to acting collectively to deal with problems which increasingly transcend national boundaries.

Our first priority is our immediate neighbourhood, the South Pacific. It is our priority area for development assistance. We are committed to working with the New Zealand Pacific community to develop our policies in the region, and to involve civil society through the work of organisations such as the Pacific Cooperation Foundation and the Pacific/NZ Business Council.

We will continue to work closely with traditional friends with whom we share common institutions, values and objectives including Australia, the European Union and the United States.

And we will give priority to reaching out to, and working together with, countries in the wider region of the Asia-Pacific which is increasingly important to us economically and politically.

Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- successfully concluded peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Bougainville
- deployed effective peacekeeping operations in 13 countries involving over 400 men and women currently
- played a key role in peacekeeping operations in Timor Leste, the Solomons and Bamyan, Afghanistan where we have helped ensure security, stability and

progress in development. We also played a significant role in restoring order after the civil unrest in Tonga.

- made a tangible contribution as a good international citizen winning a reputation for effective and competent peacekeeping

Labour will ensure New Zealand plays a leading role in peacemaking and conflict resolution, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

We want to build on New Zealand's reputation as a fair and independent voice in world affairs to be a country that can help prevent conflict and build a sustainable base for enduring peace.

Labour will continue to contribute peacekeepers to United Nations-endorsed peacekeeping missions, with a particular focus on our responsibilities in the Pacific.

We will back Defence Force participation that is necessary for security and stabilisation, work actively with host countries to assist with development and address the causes of conflict.

We will also develop New Zealand's capacity both within government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand Defence Force, Police and NZAID, and in New Zealand civil society to play a proactive role in conflict resolution and international mediation.

Labour will work in cooperation with universities and non-government organisations to support the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies to provide analysis, support and training for increasing New Zealand's role in conflict resolution and international mediation.

We will work actively with Pacific nations to support conflict resolution training for leaders and emerging leaders in the Pacific. We will also support and further develop the role already being played effectively by New Zealand in inter-faith dialogue and the alliance of civilizations.

Disarmament

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- put our principles into practice and maintained New Zealand's status as a proudly nuclear free country

- played an important role as part of the New Agenda Coalition at the forefront of pushing for nuclear disarmament, strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, bringing into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and introducing a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty
- led an initiative with the UN First Committee to de-alert / lower the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems
- worked as a leading member of the Oslo group to conclude a legally binding instrument to ban cluster munitions which will be signed by over 100 countries this December

Labour will increase its engagement with like-minded countries to press for ending the failure of current multilateral discussions in Geneva to progress nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

This includes:

- ensuring the success of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference in 2010 in taking the steps agreed in 2000 towards nuclear disarmament
- taking nuclear weapons off high alert status
- pushing for deep reductions in the stockpile of current nuclear weapons
- prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons
- working with the G8 Global partnership to secure all Weapons of Mass Destruction-related material and equipment from theft and acquisition by terrorists
- taking effective steps to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons by countries such as North Korea and Iran
- preventing the expansion of the arms race into space
- working towards the ultimate outlawing of all nuclear weapons, while using the most effective tactical means to secure that objective by focusing on step by step progress towards it
- completing the implementation of nuclear weapons free zones
- achieving universal compliance with Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions

Multilateralism

Labour will work with other countries to reform international financial institutions and systems to tackle the causes of the world's current financial crisis, preventing the extravagance, recklessness and greed which have contributed to the crisis and creating a system which demonstrates greater transparency, integrity and responsibility.

We will continue to support the United Nations as the pre-eminent global forum for resolving international disputes and finding solutions to global problems

Climate Change and Sustainability

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- committed New Zealand as a leader in promoting a sustainable economy and environment and to working for an effective international and national response to climate change
- this year, at the request of the UN, New Zealand hosted World Environment Day
- played an active role in last year's Bali climate change conference
- became one of the first countries to introduce an Emissions Trading Scheme which covers all sectors of the economy
- led research on livestock methane emissions and abatement

Labour will actively engage in efforts to achieve a comprehensive post-2012 agreement on climate change with New Zealand playing a leadership role at home and internationally.

We will work multilaterally to promote sustainable resource use and conservation of global natural resources.

Trade

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has played a leadership role in the WTO, chairing the Agriculture Negotiating Committee and participating in the core Ministerial Green Room negotiating group. We have also:

- allowed duty free / quota free entry to New Zealand from least developed countries
- continued to develop the Closer Economic Relationship with Australia towards a single economic market
- become the first OECD country to negotiate a high quality and comprehensive free trade agreement with the world's fastest growing economy, China
- concluded a free trade agreement with Asean and Australia which covers all items of trade interest with Asean, collectively our third largest export market

We initiated negotiations with the United States to join our high quality P4 free trade agreement which will become the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement. This agreement will be expanded to cover other countries and has the potential to become the world's most important pluri-lateral free trade agreement.

Labour will press for a rules-based, multilateral global trading system which is free, fair and transparent.

We will maintain as our priority a conclusion to the Doha Round of the World Trade Organisation, seeking a liberalised and fair trading environment for agricultural goods in particular and outcomes to enhance development prospects in the developing world

Labour will complete free trade negotiations between the P4 (New Zealand, Chile, Singapore, Brunei) nations and the United States, and build upon the resulting Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement giving other countries the ability to join an agreement which is high quality, comprehensive and inclusive.

We will also develop further the Closer Economic Relationship between Australia and New Zealand into a Single Economic Market

Labour will bring into effect as soon as possible the Free Trade Agreement between Australia, New Zealand and the Asean Countries.

We will continue to seek high quality, World Trade Organisation-consistent, bilateral trade agreements with priority given to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia and India or to achieve similar high quality outcomes through the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement

Labour will develop the Pacific Area Closer Economic Relationship with Pacific Forum countries mindful of the need for PACER to be consistent with development assistance objectives of both the Forum countries and New Zealand.

Labour created New Zealand Trade and Enterprise as a trade promotion and capacity-building organisation which this year won the award for the World's best trade promotion organisation at the World Trade Promotion Organisation

Labour will work through New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to strengthen programmes for export promotion and capacity building which are WTO consistent.

Official Development Assistance

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- doubled the level of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from under \$250 million to \$520 million, increasing it as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) from 0.2% to 0.3%. Aid will reach over \$622 million by 2010 or .35% of GNI.
- established NZAID as semi-autonomous development assistance organization with a clear goal of poverty elimination
- directed that NZAID should have a core focus on the Pacific and the agency has been steadily increasing the proportion of ODA to the region to over 50% of total ODA and 80% of all bilateral aid
- taken measures to ensure the increasing effectiveness of aid such as harmonisation with other donors and improving accountability and alignment with local needs and priorities.

Labour will work towards the achievement of 0.7% of Gross National Income in development assistance, reaching the mid-point of 0.35% by 2010.

We will continue to focus on the Pacific as a priority area for New Zealand's development assistance with priority given to achieving economic growth and improved livelihoods, strengthening governance, improving education and health and improving capabilities to manage conflict, respect human rights and sustainably manage natural resources

Labour will take further measures to increase the effectiveness of our ODA, through ensuring ownership by developing countries of their development process, aligning our assistance with their needs and priorities, harmonising New Zealand development assistance with that of other donors, ensuring that the assistance has tangible and positive impacts and working with recipient countries to ensure shared accountability and responsibilities for the effectiveness of the aid.

Labour will work with the international community towards the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Human Rights

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- consistently promoted human rights both in bilateral relationships and in multilateral forums
- spoken out against human rights abuses in countries like Myanmar and Zimbabwe
- chaired and helped pass the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

Labour will work bilaterally and in multilateral forums to condemn human rights abuses, promote respect for human rights and strive to implement universally the ideals of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We will promote the rights of women internationally, including access to education and health services, including sexual and reproductive health. We will also maintain our intake of refugees and ensure that they are given the support necessary to make a successful transition to life in New Zealand.

Furthering New Zealand's Relationships

Under a Labour-led government, New Zealand has:

- worked closely with the countries of the Pacific Forum to promote progress, stability and sustainability in the Pacific
- worked bilaterally across Asia-Pacific and through organisations such as APEC, the Asean Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit to promote a more integrated, stable and secure region
- worked with traditional friends and allies to deal with trans-boundary issues such as people and drug smuggling, terrorism and security concerns

Labour will give priority to strengthening cooperative relationships with our **Pacific Island neighbours**, including through the Pacific Island Forum and the Pacific Plan with the objective of promoting social and economic development, sustainability, stability and good governance.

We will increase our links and involvement in the Asia Pacific area to promote a more integrated, stable and secure region.

We will strengthen our political, economic and environmental cooperation with traditional and like-minded friends such as Australia, the UK and US, Canada, Norway and the European Union.

Labour will explore and develop **new relationships** with regions such as Latin America, Central Europe and Russia, and Africa including, where appropriate, through arrangements such as trade cooperation, working holiday schemes, film cooperation agreements, and people to people relationships.