

NEW ZEALAND AND UNITED KINGDOM: STATEMENT ON ANTARCTIC CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES TO 2020

New Zealand and the United Kingdom:

Recalling that they were amongst the 12 original signatories to the Antarctic Treaty and have the strongest possible shared commitment to the peaceful and scientific use of Antarctica;

Noting the shared history of Antarctic exploration and achievement between the two countries and their countries' enduring Antarctic connections;

Noting the shared commitment to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and to the implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection;

Recognising the significant environmental challenges – including in the form of rapid climate change – affecting parts of Antarctica; and

Noting the value in exploring opportunities to strengthen future scientific research in Antarctica,

have identified the following priority areas to further underpin their close co-operation on Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues, for the period 2016 to 2020:

1. Annual Antarctic dialogue

Representatives of the Polar Regions Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom and representatives of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with the British Antarctic Survey and Antarctica New Zealand as appropriate, will meet annually to review progress against the priority areas set out in this statement, and to plan future work. These meetings will normally take place on the margins of the annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) or meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

2. Scientific cooperation

The British Antarctic Survey and Antarctica New Zealand, and other relevant organisations in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, will explore the potential for scientific collaboration, including the possibility of joint projects and the practicability of secondments/exchanges of researchers and support staff between the two National Antarctic Programmes.

3. Operational experience and environmental protection and management

Whilst recognising that their National Antarctic Programmes usually operate in different Antarctic conditions, both countries believe there to be value in sharing operational knowledge and best practice in a collaborative manner. In particular, the British Antarctic Survey and Antarctica New Zealand, and other relevant organisations in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, will explore opportunities for collaboration on environmental protection and management, including the possibility of joint projects and the practicability of secondments/exchanges.

4. Antarctic Treaty System

i) Shared history and policy objectives

Both the United Kingdom and New Zealand have sovereign rights in Antarctica, which are preserved under Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty. Both countries have a keen interest in the good governance and effective administration of their respective Antarctic territories, and of the Treaty System itself. As original signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, both countries have specific and shared interests in the future of Antarctica, and will work together to develop policy proposals, both to the ATCM and CCAMLR, that uphold the objectives of the Antarctic Treaty System, and ensure that their long-term interests are appropriately represented.

ii) Inspections

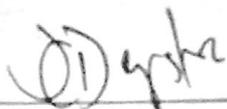
The United Kingdom and New Zealand have a strong record of support for the key principles of the Antarctic Treaty System, including by carrying out Antarctic Treaty inspections. Both countries will explore future opportunities to carry out joint inspections and share expertise.

iii) Marine protection

The United Kingdom and New Zealand are committed to the objectives and principles of the CCAMLR Convention and will continue to work together to develop, promote and seek the adoption of enhanced conservation measures. Both countries are committed to the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing from the Southern Ocean. As a priority, we will work with CCAMLR Members to establish Marine Protected Areas in the Ross Sea and East Antarctica. Both countries will also work to adopt enhanced conservation measures in relation to other marine protected areas, climate change and improved fishing practices. The United Kingdom and New Zealand will use the experience gained undertaking joint CCAMLR inspections during the visit by HMS *Protector* to the Ross Sea region in the 2015/16 season, to further enhance CCAMLR inspection and compliance measures.

5. Cultural and heritage exchange

The United Kingdom and New Zealand have a strong history of exploration and scientific endeavour in Antarctica, dating back to the heroic age of Antarctic exploration. The United Kingdom and New Zealand have shared management responsibility for the Historic Sites and Monuments in the Ross Dependency from the early Scott and Shackleton expeditions of the early 20th century, and their respective Heritage Trusts continue to work closely on heritage management issues. Representatives of the United Kingdom and New Zealand will pursue further opportunities for closer collaboration to develop, promote and share the best practice that both countries have developed for preserving their Antarctic heritage.



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