

**Address by the High Commissioner of New Zealand, Mrs Jacqueline Anne Frizelle,  
presenting her credentials to the PoR of the Republic of Cyprus, on June 9, 2023**

Mr President,

Kej te rangatira, ténä koe

It is my great pleasure to present to you the Letter of Credence by which Her Excellency the Governor-General of Aotearoa New Zealand has decided to accredit me as High Commissioner Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Aotearoa New Zealand to the Republic of Cyprus. I also present the Letter of Recall of my predecessor.

Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, have a whakatauki or proverb

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

This translates as "With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive". It means that by working together we can help our people to live in peace and prosperity. This is equally true for families, communities, or governments.

We can see this in the many strands of cooperation that exist between our two countries. Aotearoa New Zealand and Cyprus share values around democracy and the rule of law. As small states with shared Commonwealth heritage, our two countries have a long history of working together in multilateral fora. The world is changing and we are living in complex times. The shifting, less stable and more challenging International environment mean the international architecture has never been more important. As small countries we understand the importance of defending the rule of law norms and standards that we rely on for peaceful co-existence and prosperity.

At a practical level, we have also worked together. New Zealand police have served with the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and a New Zealander, Dame Ann Hercus, served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cyprus. New Zealand has also been involved in de-mining activities in Cyprus. And New Zealand has consistently supported the UN process for the Cyprus Question, including during our recent term on the Security Council.

New Zealand and the EU have recently concluded negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement, which will deliver tangible benefits for all involved, including Cyprus. I want to extend my government's thanks for Cyprus' ongoing support in this area.

There have also been recent opportunities for our countries to support each other's candidatures for various international positions and organisations. My government thanks Cyprus for the support it has and conveys its pleasure at being able to support Cyprus' candidatures.

Strengthening these connections will be my priority during my tenure as High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus. Once the FTA is ratified, there will be opportunities to grow the economic connections between our two countries. I hope we can also work together to strengthen the rules-based order and ensure the voices of small states are heard particularly in meeting the key challenges of our time; climate change and threats to international security.

I take this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of the Governor-General's continuing interest in and best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the Republic of Cyprus. I convey warm greetings from the Government and people of New Zealand. And I look forward with excitement to working in order to advance the friendly bilateral relations between our two countries.

Nö reira, tänä koutou, tenä koutou, ténä koutou katoa.