



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary 2022 Conference: Negotiation Positions

**Portfolio**                      **Digital Economy and Communications**

On 14 September 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for information and communications technologies;
- 2        **noted** that:
  - 2.1      the 2022 conference of the ITU's supreme body, the Plenipotentiary, is where member states, including New Zealand, meet to discuss relevant issues/proposals put forward by member states;
  - 2.2      the conference may consider changes to the Constitution and Convention of the ITU;
- 3        **noted** that:
  - 3.1      the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the National Cyber Policy Office (NCPO), and InternetNZ will be representing New Zealand at the 2022 conference;
  - 3.2      MBIE will be attending the conference in person, while NCPO and InternetNZ will attend virtually;
- 4        **noted** that the paper under DEV-22-SUB-0214 seeks agreement to the negotiating positions to be taken by New Zealand at the conference, which will be held in Bucharest, Romania from 24 September to 14 October 2022;
- 5        **agreed** to the following negotiating positions for the New Zealand delegation:

5.1      Negotiations

5.2

5.3 Negotiations

5.4

5.5 New Zealand will support gender neutral language at the ITU;

5.6 New Zealand will support a sustainable ITU forward budget;

6 **authorised** the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications to make any decisions on new issues that arise at the conference as required;

7 **authorised** the New Zealand delegation to sign the Final Acts of the conference, subject to them being consistent with the negotiating positions as outlined in paragraph 5 above, or the approval of the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications for matters that fall outside these positions;

8 **noted** that the New Zealand delegation will provide a briefing to the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications on 10 October 2022 advising if the Final Acts of the conference are consistent with the positions agreed by Cabinet;

9 **noted** that if existing resolutions or texts do change in a way that is inconsistent with New Zealand's position, MBIE will confer with MFAT and partner countries and provide further advice directly to the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications;

10 **authorised** the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications to make a decision about whether the Final Acts of the conference should be signed or whether a reservation should be lodged if the existing resolutions or text change in a way that is inconsistent with New Zealand's position, subject to further advice from the delegation to the ITU as noted in paragraph 9 above.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Dr Megan Woods (Chair)  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Rino Tirikatene MP  
Dr Deborah Russell MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr David Clark	<b>Portfolio</b>	Digital Economy and Communications
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary 2022 Conference: Negotiation Positions	<b>Date to be published</b>	2 November 2022

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
September 2022	International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary 2022 Conference: Negotiation Positions	Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications
14 September 2022	International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary 2022 Conference: Negotiation Positions DEV-22-MIN-0214 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of National safety and security, and Negotiations.