



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Michael Wood	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood (11-16 September 2022 to Washington DC, USA)	Date to be published	24 July 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
January 2023	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood	Office of the Minister of Immigration
31 January 2023	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood CAB-22-MIN-0005 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO [select one]

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Some information has been withheld for reasons of international relations and national security or defence.

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Office of the Minister of Immigration
Chair, Cabinet

Report on overseas travel: Hon Michael Wood

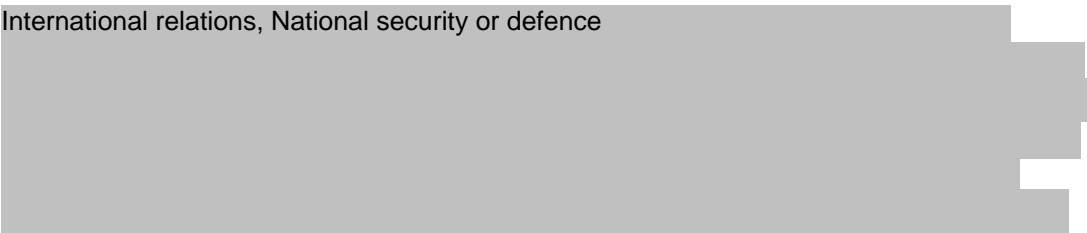
I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the United States of America from 11 to 16 September 2022 for the Five Country Ministerial in Washington DC, United States.

Report

Five Country Ministerial Washington D.C

- 1 I attended Washington D.C to represent New Zealand at the annual Five Country Ministerial.
- 2 The Five Country Ministerial (commonly known as the FCM) is an annual meeting of home affairs, public safety, interior, security, border and immigration Ministers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Ministers meet to discuss national security challenges of mutual interest and concern and to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Unfortunately due to the recent death of Her Majesty the Queen, the United Kingdom did not send a Ministerial representative.
- 3 The topics discussed at this year's ministerial included Ideologically motivated violent extremism, Migration, responses to international domestic crises, Address malign activity by foreign actors, emerging threats in cybersecurity another online harms.
- 4 It was an ambitious agenda for the time available, with only small amounts of time for each Minister to present their views on issues. Thanks to the nature of the chair, the Secretary of Homeland Security (USA), for the most part the conversations were free flowing and proved very informative.

Ideologically motivated violent extremism

- 5 International relations, National security or defence

This was followed by a 20-minute discussion where Ministers shared their respective approaches to counter radicalization to violence. Ministers also considered how the collective countries could approach tackling content that falls below legal

thresholds but nonetheless when consumed could lead to violence or terrorism. Ministers agreed to acknowledge that the rising and persistent threat of violent extremism is a key priority for the Five Countries

National security or defence

6

International relations, National security or defence

Migration

7

Ministers discussed current efforts and future opportunities to promote and strengthen pathways for regular migration as a means to deter irregular migration. This agenda item was divided into two parts. Firstly a discussion of the current efforts and future opportunities present around regular migration, and then recent innovations in migration policies and programmes to support responses to emerging crises.

International relations

This was followed by a discussion around different approaches taken to support Afghanistan and Ukrainian displaced peoples.

8

Ministers agreed to:

- exchange information, policy ideas, best practices and lessons learned for the promotion/creation/expansion of regular migration pathways for (low-skilled) labour within our countries.
- explore how Five Country partners can partner with industry, chambers of commerce, and civil society to create broad coalitions in support of migration across social sectors.

International relations

Responses to international domestic crises

- 9 Ministers discussed lessons learned from recent crises and examine how to increase Five Country coordination in our resilience and response to emerging crises, including national security implications that may be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.
- 10 Ministers also considered what future collaboration on national resilience and emergency management could look like between the Five Countries. During this session I introduced New Zealand's Emergency Management Five (REM5) working group proposal. The proposal sought a commitment to establish a time-limited working group to enhance information and knowledge exchange on domestic and regional risks and response to significant hazards and threats not specifically addressed by other FCM for a, including those driven by climate change. The working group would foster collaboration to enhance national resilience to significant hazards and help in sharing lessons learnt from natural emergencies. The proposal was supported.
- 11 Ministers concluded their discussion by sharing their perspectives on recent international crises requiring Five Country coordination, including, but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, Afghanistan, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 12 Ministers agreed to:
- the establishment of a time-limited Resilience and Emergency Management Five (REM5) to enhance information and knowledge exchange on domestic and regional risks and responses to significant hazards and threats not specifically addressed by other FCM fora.

Address malign activity by foreign actors

- 13 This session provided an opportunity for Ministers to discuss the broad threat posed by foreign actors and their efforts to compromise our homelands and challenges to international law, agreements, principles, and institutions.
- 14 Ministers discussed the need to develop a common approach to data security noting the increasingly important role of data as a fuel for our economies, governments and private citizens. Ministers agreed to build on the 2021 FCM commitment to continue to expand collaboration to reduce the threat of foreign interference and unwanted and/or illicit knowledge transfer from academia and R&D sectors.
- 15 Ministers agreed to:
- International relations, National security or defence
- Ministers agreed to build on the 2021 FCM commitment to continue to expand collaboration to reduce the threat of foreign interference and

unwanted and/or illicit knowledge transfer from academia and R&D sectors.

- Ministers agreed to continue work with Five Country partners on 'Connected Communities'.

International relations, National security or defence

Emerging threats in cybersecurity another online harms

- 16 The final session provided time for Ministers to reaffirm commitments to combat ransomware and International relations, National security or defence
- Ministers highlighted the need for continued collective engagement efforts with the technology industry, to address emerging technical challenges, and consider how they may be able to learn from each other's experience as well as collectively support and lead future work.
- 17 Ministers agreed to:
- combat ransomware through working with industries, businesses and individuals to develop collective responses
 - work to achieve joint outcomes as Five Country partners develop respective cyber-related processes and policies.
- 18 Additional key takeaways from the FCM included:
- For the majority of the five countries their primary concerns continue to be focused on deterring irregular migration. In part due to our geographic isolation, this remains a less pressing concern for New Zealand.
 - At the conclusion of the Ministerial an agreed communiqué was published by each attending minister.

Proactive release

- 19 I propose to release parts of this paper within the normal Cabinet-mandated timeframes.

Recommendation

- 20 The Minister of Immigration recommends that Cabinet:
1. **Note** this report from the Five Country Ministerial in Washington DC.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Michael Wood

Minister of Immigration