



9 April 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by

16 April 2021

Ukraine and the Crimean Peninsula

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE This submission seeks your agreement to step up Aotearoa New Zealand's engagement on Crimea through supporting Ukraine's new Crimea Platform initiative, and for you to communicate this to Ukraine in the attached letter.

Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister

For information by

14 April 2021

Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Alana Hudson	Special Adviser	Europe Division	s9(2)(a)
Jonathon Jones	Senior Policy Officer	Europe Division	

Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Seen
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

Pito matua – Key points

- Aotearoa New Zealand condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, including via a motion in Parliament (no objections) and in press statements. We also imposed travel bans on selected individuals deemed to be responsible for the crisis in Ukraine, which remain in place.
- We have continually supported international efforts in solidarity with Ukraine and urged respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, most recently in a joint Canada, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (CANZ) statement delivered at the 54th Plenary Meeting on the situation in Ukraine at the United Nations General Assembly on 23 February 2021.
- In recent weeks, there has been a build-up of Russian forces near the Ukrainian border, which has raised tensions between Ukraine and Russia. In response a number of European, US and Canadian leaders and foreign ministers have publically reassured Ukraine of their support for Ukraine's territorial integrity. A separate paper on this situation will be provided by officials.
- Some months ago, Ukraine invited Aotearoa New Zealand to join a new multilateral initiative called the 'Crimean Platform' ('the Platform'). It is seeking an expression of support for the initiative.
- The Platform aspires to be a meeting place for all thematic events and initiatives related to challenging Crimea's occupation and is expected to include governments, international organisations, NGOs and experts. Its high level objectives closely align with Aotearoa New Zealand's interests and values, including our long-standing support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in international fora.
- s6(a)

Given recent events, support for the initiative would provide a clear indication of Aotearoa New Zealand's views on the issue.
- Likeminded partners are positively disposed to joining the Platform and have indicated they would welcome Aotearoa New Zealand's support. ^{s6(a)}
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote to you in February 2021 reiterating the value Ukraine places on Aotearoa New Zealand's support. ^{s6(a)}

- We recommend that you respond to Foreign Minister Kuleba with a letter (see attached) signalling Aotearoa New Zealand's support for the Platform's objectives and continued solidarity with Ukraine. We will continue to engage with Ukraine and likemindeds at officials level on how the Platform will operate.
- The Platform will be launched at a summit in Kyiv in August 2021. Prime Minister Ardern has been invited to attend the summit but given the challenges posed by COVID-19, we have recommended the Prime Minister declines the invitation, and that officials instead scope out other options for engaging at the summit.

Rob Taylor
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Note that Ukraine has invited Aotearoa New Zealand to be involved in its new Crimean Platform initiative, which is in line with Aotearoa New Zealand's position on Crimea, and long-standing support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Agree that Aotearoa New Zealand signal to Ukraine our support for the Platform's objectives, ^{s6(a)} | Yes / No |
| 3 | Agree to sign the attached letter. | Yes / No |
| 4 | Note the invitation to Prime Minister Ardern to attend the Crimea Platform Summit in August 2021 and our recommendation that the Prime Minister declines the invitation. | Yes / No |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Attached:

- Incoming letter from Ukraine Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, dated 8 February 2021
- Response letter from Minister Mahuta.

Both documents withheld under section 6(a)

Proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade