



Kia ora koutou katoa

I send my greetings and warm wishes to our Korean hosts at this OGP Global Summit and my congratulations to all participants on the 10th anniversary of the OGP.

Aotearoa New Zealand has been a member of the Partnership since 2013 and we have just completed our third National Action Plan and commenced the development of our fourth.

Through successive Plans, governments have followed a process of continuous improvement in terms of both engagement with Civil Society and the ambition of our Commitments. Our third National Action Plan (2018-2021) had a balance of Commitments that covered three broad themes:

- Supporting people to improve their understanding of and be active in the workings of our democracy – with a focus on young people in particular
- Improving the responsiveness of government to the lived experience and aspirations of people when policy is being developed and services designed
- Increasing transparency of government and of people to hold government accountable.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted all our plans, but it has also provided the impetus to unleash new ways of working together as societies to respond to this global threat. Things have not always gone as we would have wished, but when they have gone really well, we have seen government and civil society organisations co-operating and innovating to make things happen for communities, building on their respective strengths. We need this type of cooperation to continue when we're doing business as usual.

I recently met with officials, our Expert Advisory Panel and representatives of Civil Society Organisations to discuss progress with the development of our fourth National Action Plan.

A round of engagement with people online and at workshops throughout the motu (country) asked people for their ideas for improvements to the way they experience government.

The things that we'll be focusing on are about:

- Enabling and supporting participation in our democratic processes by individuals and groups
- Access to and usability of public information
- Government use of data and personal information
- Information to support financial accountability.

I am encouraging the team working on the development of the Plan to identify one or two ambitious Commitments that will make a real difference to the things that matter to the people who have engaged in the process, and that will build on the lessons we have learnt through our ongoing response to the pandemic.

I hope that the sharing of experiences at this Global Summit will provide insights that support us all to make real changes for our people.

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

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive