

### Te Mana i Waitangi: Human Rights and the Treaty of Waitangi

### United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Tuesday 4 December 2007** 

#### **About the Declaration**



- Adopted by the UN 13 September 2007
- Minimum international standards to protect
   & promote human rights
- Important international milestone; recognition of indigenous rights
- Indigenous peoples as distinct peoples
- Agreement between States
- Support of many leaders representing the 370 million indigenous peoples





Indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples and have all the human rights that everyone has, including:

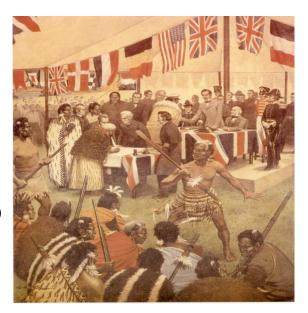
the right to self-determination; the right to be free from discrimination the right to be respected as distinct peoples

Collective, as well as individual rights

# Indigenous Peoples and human rights



Historical injustices, including through colonisation & the loss of their lands & resources, have prevented indigenous peoples from fully exercising all of their rights. Therefore there is an urgent need to respect & promote the rights of indigenous peoples



# Declaration: Full realisation of human rights



- Offers assistance to ensure indigenous peoples fully enjoy their rights, & to strengthen the relationship between States & indigenous peoples.
- A minimum standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership & mutual respect

#### **Universal Human Rights**



- Entitled to all human rights
- Individual & collective rights
- Culture, identity & language
- Development



### **Indigenous Rights**



- Self determination, institutions
- Culture & traditions
- Vision & aspirations
- Protection of resources



## Participation & Non-discrimination



- Full participation
- Recognition as distinct peoples
- Freedom from discrimination
- Pursue own economic & social development







- Maori & Green Parties Support
- Government (Labour, NZ First, Progressive) does not
- National, Act & United Future positions are uncertain



#### **Indigenous Leaders**



**Broad support for the Declaration** Involved in the original drafting Worked with supportive States to move the Declaration through the UN system





#### **Tangata Whenua**

- Active awareness amongst leadership
- Little awareness initially
- Adoption by some iwi & Maori organisations
- ULIN Treaty







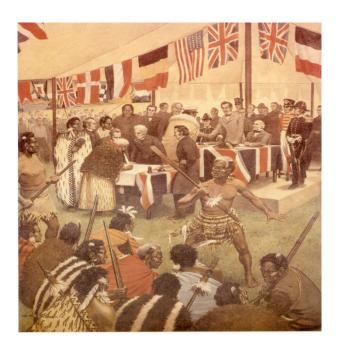
- Welcome the adoption by UN
- International measurement for policies
- Promote further public discussion
- Facilitated Roundtable to look at Declaration & Law
- Translation & publication



# The Declaration & the Treaty of Waitangi



Recognition of State authority (rights & responsibilities)
Recognition of Indigenous self determination (rights & responsibilities)
Affirmation of citizenship





#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Webpage: www.hrc.co.nz/treaty

**Email: treaty@hrc.co.nz** 

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