



Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka

Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Response to Parliamentary Written Question 163/2026

Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade – Recently, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs led a delegation to the annual Fiji–New Zealand High-Level Consultation held in Wellington, New Zealand. Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- (a) what was the purpose of the visit and what outcomes were achieved;
- (b) how many personnel from the Ministry were part of the delegation; and
- (c) what was the total cost of flights, hotel accommodation, per diem and other allowances.

Wednesday, 19th August, 2026

Purpose of the visit and what outcomes were achieved:

- The Duavata Partnership, initially signed in 2022, provides an overarching framework of engagement to guide Fiji and New Zealand’s relationship. It lays out our shared principles, areas of priority for collaboration and levels of joint ambition for the bilateral relationship.
- Part and parcel to the effective implementation of the Duavata Partnership is the convening of the High-Level Consultations; a senior-officials level mechanism that is purposed at reviewing and assessing progress of our collaboration and exploring potential new areas for cooperation.

- The High-Level Consultations are intended to be held annually, last year Fiji hosted and this year it was New Zealand's turn to host. The High-Level Consultations was held on 14 July 2026 in Wellington led by the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Dr. Rajjeli Taga.
- Discussions centered on progress in various projects under the five pillars of partnerships and democracy, economic resilience, peace and security, social well-being and climate and disaster resilience. These include Climate-related initiatives stemming from New Zealand's provision of flexible climate finance, collaboration between the Fiji Police Force and the New Zealand Police, ongoing support to the Health sector including Fiji's efforts to combat HIV, as well as support to the Fiji's Elections Office and the Parliament of Fiji; this is just a handful of a range of projects currently underway under the Duavata Partnership.
- A key area explored in the discussions was potential support towards Fiji's MSMEs, this was especially important given that Fiji's economic relationship with New Zealand is already significant and we are working together with New Zealand, to reach the target of NZ\$2 billion trade ambition by 2030.
- Furthermore, the meeting also discussed opportunities for collaboration at key regional and multilateral engagements including the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting, the Pacific Pre-COP 31 and at multilateral trade discussions.
- Following the conclusion of the High-Level Consultations, the delegation continued onto the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Future of Investment and Trade Partnership (FIT-P) in Auckland. Before the formal meetings began, I had the opportunity to meet with New Zealand Foreign Minister, Hon. Winston Peters and together we signed the refreshed Duavata Partnership.
- The refreshed Duavata Partnership is an expansion of the original Partnership Statement and we look forward to working closely with New Zealand to implement initiatives under this refreshed Partnership Statement in our joint efforts to meet Fiji's development goals under the National Development Plan.

How many personnel from the Ministry were part of the delegation:

There were two (2) officers from the Ministry who were part of the delegation to support the Permanent Secretary at the meeting in Wellington.

As the Duavata Partnership is an overarching framework and New Zealand's support to Fiji cuts across a number of sectors, the Fiji delegation also comprised personnel from several Ministries including the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Commerce and Business Development and the Ministry of Policing.

The Fiji High Commission in Wellington also provided support to the delegation while they were in Wellington.

What was the total cost of flights, hotel accommodation, per diem and other allowances:

New Zealand provided support towards the Fiji delegation's participation at the Fiji-New Zealand High Level Consultation. Total costs to the Ministry for the participation of the Permanent Secretary and the 2 support officers amounted to \$4942.82.

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