

## Meeting with United States President Joe Biden

**Time and date:** This is most likely to occur in the margins of the IP4 meeting.



Joe Biden is the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. He was previously Vice President 2008-16, serving under President Obama and playing a leading role in that administration's foreign policy. He was a Senator for Delaware for 36 years. As a Senator, he served for three decades on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including as Chair. President Biden is running for re-election in 2024.

Prime Minister Ardern met President Biden in Washington D.C. in May 2022. As Vice President, Biden paid a short visit to New Zealand (Auckland) in 2016.

### Key objectives

- s6(a)
- Register how we are playing our part in addressing the deteriorating international security environment s6(a)
- Welcome President Biden's attention to the Pacific Islands, s6(a)

### Discussion points

- s6(a) seek the President's views on what more we can be doing together.
- Emphasise New Zealand is pulling its weight in addressing simultaneous global challenges:
  - Supporting Ukraine, with military assistance and training and humanitarian aid
  - Fronting up with new deployments to the Middle East, including support in countering Houthi attacks
  - Increasing our deployment to North Korea sanctions monitoring out of Japan, and to the UN Mission in Korea
  - s6(a)
- We are intensely focused on our Pacific neighbourhood, where the needs are great s6(a)
- We welcome US engagement and urge continued and consistent US presence in the Pacific Islands. s6(a)
- [If time: Trade]: For geostrategic reasons, we urge more US engagement in Indo-Pacific trade architecture s6(a)

We welcome US leadership on Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), an important geostrategic initiative, what are the prospects for getting the Trade Pillar agreed.

- *[If time: Middle East]*: Acknowledge the US efforts to encourage a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and gauge Biden's views on the trajectory of the conflict. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)</sup><sub>(g)(i)</sub>
  
- *[If raised: Defence spending]*: <sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - We want to ensure the NZDF has the capability to operate effectively with partners, and to stand up to the growing challenges we face.
  - That means replacing and upgrading current capability, and we are already taking important steps in that regard (e.g. the forthcoming delivery of five new C-130J aircraft).
  - It also means investing in new capability that reflects the demands of a deteriorating strategic outlook. This will take time, but we are focused on this.
  - Our Defence Capability Plan - which will outline New Zealand's defence capability <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> will be presented to Cabinet in the coming months.
  
- *[If raised: AUKUS]*: <sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - Welcome ongoing engagement with the US as we explore how New Zealand could potentially participate. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - We are examining where New Zealand has specific interests across the different capability areas, and expertise that may be relevant <sup>s6(a)</sup>

Americas Division  
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