

Postcard from Aotearoa New Zealand

The relationship between Germany and Aotearoa New Zealand is a very warm one. While we may be distant geographically, we are closely connected through the values we share.

These form the basis of a strong partnership that can grow to adapt to new challenges.

Germany's voice matters. The influence Germany has, and the respect it commands, is based not just on economic strength but also on the way it conducts itself at home and abroad.

At home, Germany embodies our shared values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

In the international context, it is a strong advocate for multilateralism and a rules-based

international order. Standing up for 'rules, not muscle' is a critically important principle for

Aotearoa New Zealand. Similarly, we share the commitment to inclusion and consensus building

to achieve pragmatic solutions. Today's world presents sharp challenges that require fresh

thinking and courage. We need to contribute the best of what we have to our shared endeavours.

From Aotearoa New Zealand we bring a commitment to international cooperation based on our

bicultural values – such as kotahitanga, which focuses on unity and work towards a common

purpose, and kaitiakitanga, or the care of our world for future generations. By working together,

we can defend against the erosion of the global rules and institutions that have afforded us

stability, prosperity and freedom over many decades. We can buttress these systems by developing

new structures, such as the free trade agreement between the European Union and Aotearoa

New Zealand. Germany's strong and consistent support for this development is deeply appreciated.

We also value Germany's direct support for regional stability closer to our home through

trade, development assistance, and diplomatic and defence engagement. These make an important

contribution to our region's resilience and stability, and they have been reinforced by

Germany's Indo-Pacific guidelines, which focus on the rule of law and respectful and collaborative

relationships. This growth in our direct cooperation offers a positive path forward. We

look forward to strengthening our cooperation in areas such as green energy and would welcome

Germany's engagement with the small island states of the Pacific, where environmental and

climate issues loom large. We may be anchored on different sides of the globe, but we are joined

in our commitment to making change that is good for our world, acting with mutual respect and

cooperation. Māori cultural values are steeped in metaphors that draw from generations of

knowledge and the ever-changing environment. These values are reflected in many proverbs. One

that resonates for me is Ahakoa ka mamao, waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa. Quite simply,

it means even from a distance, let us remain close, and not far apart.



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