United Nations General Assembly plenary meeting to observe the anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter – New Zealand statement

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Today we mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. 75 years ago, a group of states came together out of the devastation of World War II to work together in an unprecedented way to stop the scourge of war from happening again.

The Charter was born from a shared belief that global cooperation could make the world a better place, one which guarantees human rights, maintains international peace and security and sustainable development for all.

The progress we have made since then is proof of the success of the Charter, and the value of cooperation and commitment.

As one of the founding members of the United Nations, New Zealand is proud to have had a hand in shaping the Charter and this organisation from the very beginning. We have witnessed it succeed, fail, and adapt, as the world it serves has undergone a period of significant change over the course of its existence. The United Nations system has shown its resilience to meet any challenge and ever changing contexts.

75 years later, we are facing a new set of contemporary and complex challenges and living in a world that those who signed the Charter could not have envisaged.

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the connectedness of our world today, thereby reinforcing the importance of collective action and multilateralism. We are already witnessing another global crisis with climate change already being felt across the world threatening lives and livelihoods.

Conflict continues to rage, causing and exacerbating humanitarian crises on an unthinkable scale.

Meanwhile poverty, inequality, and threats to basic human rights remain persistent challenges that highlighting the critical role that the United Nations has and will continue to play.

We have the tools we need to address these crises; we just need the political will to use them.
It is in every nation’s interest to reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism. To this end, New Zealand joins others in reaffirming our commitment made 75 years ago - to work collectively using the tools of multilateralism in pursuit of our common goals.

Using the Charter as our foundation, we need to embark on a period of sustained action, collaboration, and continued adaptation to realise the promise of the Charter.