Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Original Māori Text (with literal translation)

He kupu whakatauki: Ko Wikitoria, te Kuini o Ingarani, i tana mahara atawhai ki nga Rangatira ma Nga Hupe o Nui Tirani, tana hiahihi hoki kia tuhanga ki a ratou o ratu rangatiratanga, me to ratou wenua, a kia mau tonu hoki te Rongo ki a ratou me te ata noho hoki, kia waea ki te hea nia kia te kaua mai totahi Rangatira hei kai whakarara ki nga tangata maori o Nui Tirani. Kia wakaaetia o nga Rangatira maori te Kawanatanga o te Kuini, ki nga wahi katoa o te wenua me nga motu. Na te mua hoki te tokomahi ki nga tangata o te iwi kia noho ki te kowhaiwai, a e haere mai nei.

Ko te Tiriti o Waitangi

The Treaty Of Waitangi

English text

Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom and Great Britain and Ireland, regarded with Her Royal Favour the Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand, and anxious to protect their just Rights and Property, and to secure to them the enjoyment of Peace and Good Order, has deemed it necessary, in consequence of the great number of Her Majesty’s Subjects who have already settled in New Zealand, and the rapid extension of Emigration both from Europe and Australia which is still in progress, to constitute and appoint a functionary properly authorized to treat with the Aborigines of New Zealand for the recognition of Her Majesty’s Sovereign authority over the whole or any part of those islands. Her Majesty, therefore, being desirous to establish a settled form of Civil Government with a view to avert the evil consequences which must result from the absence of the necessary Laws and Institutions alike to the Native population and to Her subjects, has been graciously pleased to empower and to authorize me, William Hobson, a Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, Consul, and Lieutenant-Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may be, or hereafter shall be, ceded to Her Majesty, to invite the confederated and independent Chiefs of New Zealand to concur in the following Articles and Conditions.

Article the First

The Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand, and the separate and Independent Chiefs who have not become members of the Confederation, cede to Her Majesty the Queen of England, absolutely and without reservation, all the rights and powers of Sovereignty which the said Confederation or Individual Chiefs respectively exercise or possess, or may be supposed to exercise or to possess, over their respective Territories as the sole Sovereigns thereof.

Article the Second

The Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand, and to the respective families and individuals thereof, the full, exclusive, and undisturbed possession of their lands and Estates, Forests, Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess, so long as it is their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession, but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs yield to Her Majesty the exclusive right of Pre-emption over such lands as the proprietors and persons appointed by Her Majesty to treat with them in that behalf.

Article the third

In consideration therefore, Her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand her Royal protection and imports to them all the Rights and Privileges of British Subjects.

W. Hobson
Consul and Lieutenant-Governor

Translation: The Governor says that the several faiths (beliefs) of English, French, and Catholic Bishopompallier, Hobson agreed to the following statement. It was read to the meeting before any of the chiefs had signed the Treaty.

E mea ana te Kawanpa kia nga whakapono katoa o Ingarani, o nga Weteriana, o Roma, me te rangi Māori hoki e tikanga ngaaitihia e ia.

W. Hobson
Lieutenant-Governor

Now, therefore, Wai, the Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand, being assembled in Congress at Victoria, in Waitangi, and Wai, the Separate and Independent Chiefs of New Zealand, claiming authority over the Tribes and Territories which are specified after our respective names, having been made to fully understand the provisions of the foregoing Treaty, accept and enter into the same in the full spirit and meaning thereof in witness of which, we have affixed our signatures or marks at the places and the dates respectively specified. Done at Waitangi, this Sixth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

The Fourth Article: Two churchmen, the Catholic Bishop Pompallier and the Anglican Missionary William Colenso, recorded a discussion on what today would be called religious freedom and customary law.

In answer to a direct question from Pompallier, Hobson agreed to the following statement. It was read to the meeting before any of the chiefs had signed the Treaty.

Ko te Tuumua

The Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand, being assembled in Congress at Victoria, in Waitangi, and We, the Separate and Independent Chiefs of New Zealand (with literal translation)

The Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand her Royal protection and imports to them all the Rights and Privileges of British Subjects.

The fourth articles of the Treaty reflect fundamental human rights principles. Article 1 reflects the right to self-determination for incoming settlers, democratic rights such as citizenship rights and legal rights protected by the rule of law. Article 2 reflects the right to self-determination for tangata whenua, indigenous rights and property rights. Article 3 reflects the right to equality and non-discrimination in the realisation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Article 4 reflects the right to freedom of religion and beliefs.

(Commission’s submission to the UPR process 2013)