HONOURABLE NANAIA MAHUTA

Honourary Professor, University of Waikato,
Science Co-lead, Tauhokohoko – Indigenising Trade
New Zealand

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World Indigenous Business Forum

Honourable Nanaia Mahuta (Waikato-Tainui) is an Honorary Professor at the University of Waikato and Science Co-lead of Tauhokohoko – Indigenising Trade, a research programme advancing Indigenous approaches to trade and economic cooperation.

She served in the New Zealand Parliament from 1996 to 2023 and held several ministerial portfolios, including Local Government, and became the first woman to serve as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Her work spans Indigenous trade policy, she is a NZ representative for IPETCA (Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Arrangement), Treaty of Waitangi frameworks and Māori governance.

She holds governance and advisory roles across the social, commercial, research and housing sectors, and is committed to building indigenous governance capability in the next generation of leaders.