

Speech: London Somalia Conference 2017: President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's opening speech

The Somalian President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as President Farmajo gave an opening speech at the conference on Somalia's future.

Your Excellency, the Right Honourable Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,

His Excellency, António Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations,

His Excellency, Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairman of the African Union Commission, Heads of States and Governments in attendance,

Representatives of nations and organizations,

Future for Somalia – Opening Statements

It is indeed a great honour to be addressing you all today at this special conference on Somalia's future in this beautiful city of London. I'm delighted to be sharing this historic day with our key partners all of whom have stood by our people and nation in our greatest period of need.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank our great host, Prime Minister Theresa May and her government for committing to and bringing this conference to fruition. As many of you know, this is NOT the first conference for Somalia hosted by the UK. For that, we thank you Prime Minister!

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as you are all aware, Somalia successfully concluded a long and complicated election process on the 8 February 2017. On that day, representatives of the Somali people voted for change and a new direction for our country. I was humbled by the enormous public support I received following the election.

I am, however, very aware of the high expectations the Somali people have for me – starting with improved security and provision of basic services such as health and education. Although we are working tirelessly to meet everyone's expectations, in the meantime we hope to gradually improve our citizens' lives.

The successful and peaceful transfer of power following my election was a reminder of Somalia's potential as a beacon of democracy and hope in one of the most unstable regions in the world.

In fact, Somalia has a long and proud tradition of democracy going back to

independence in 1960. We were the first country in Africa wherein a sitting president transferred power peacefully after losing national elections.

Despite the enormous challenges my country faces, we strive to those ideals. We believe that the only path to fully recovering Somalia is strengthening our democratic institutions. To that end, I will spare no effort to realizing the promise of my campaign, which was to fight Somalia's 3 major enemies: terrorism, corruption and poverty.

My vision revolves around these 3 issues. And the way to address them starts with building vital state institutions, with a focus on security apparatuses, and championing an overall reform agenda. Most importantly, I will take measurable steps to unleash the great potential of my people to develop their own country, and to do what they know best: trade and commerce. I strongly believe that trade is the surest way to reduce poverty and generate mass employment.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, my reform agenda started with selecting a capable and proven leader as a Prime Minister. Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre brings decades of experience as a senior executive in humanitarian and development sectors, and later as a successful businessman.

Capitalizing on his experience and networks, and following extensive consultations with all actors, the Prime Minister formed a technocratic cabinet that includes 5 female ministers – the largest in our history – and many young ministers representing 85% of our population who are under the age of 40.

One of the new young ministers was a former refugee in Dadaab – the world's largest refugee camp in Kenya. His compelling story gives insight into the transformation my country is going through. Unfortunately, his life was cut short last week. But his legacy remains with us.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, I recognize that a good cabinet is only as good as the services it delivers its people. And in Somalia, delivering anything hinges largely on 'getting the politics right'. Good politics must be inclusive, participatory, vibrant and on a levelled playing field.

In this regard, we are committed to solidifying our federal system of governance, which has been in place only since 2004. Our overall vision is to achieve a strong and co-operative union which works for all Somalis and enhances equity and good governance.

We are thankfully a step closer to this objective as is illustrated by the recent historic formation of the new National Security Council, which includes federal member states. The National Security Council is not only a platform for dialogue on security issues, but on broader matters of national importance. The fact that all heads of federal member states are with me here today speaks volumes of our collective effort towards a strong and co-operative union.

Together with other stakeholders, we will be engaging in an in-depth discussion around matters of national importance. We are already engaged in a deep dialogue on sharing of natural and national resources. This and other areas will be discussed in the context of the constitutional review process. As the leaders of Somalia, we recognize that the Constitution is the document that binds us together.

However, our political efforts will not stop there. In the coming months, we will complete legislation around political parties so that all MPs and others interested groups can form their parties legally. We are determined to encourage a vibrant political environment which upholds the best practices of democracy, freedom of assembly and freedom of speech—all of which are enshrined in our Constitution.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, security remains paramount for my administration. The new National Security Architecture and the Security Pact give us the tools we need to strengthen the Somali National Army and introduce an improved policing model.

Together with the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), I am confident that we can defeat Al-Shabaab in the next few years. Once we recover the remaining territories and secure supply routes, we will stabilize the country by building local administrations in collaboration with the federal member states. We believe that communities are best placed to collaborate with the local, state and federal governments to stabilize the country.

But the government needs the necessary tools to be able to defeat Al-Shabaab. For far too long, our security forces and terrorist groups have been fighting using the same type of light weapons – mostly AK47s. Despite the bravery of our men and women in uniform, we were locked in symmetrical battles with the terrorists. Without AMISOM forces, who are supplied with heavy weaponry, we would not have been able to defeat Al-Shabaab. The longstanding arms embargo on Somalia severely restricts our ability to procure heavy weapons, despite the partial lifting of the embargo in 2013.

Time has come for Somalia to be able to get access to qualitatively better weapons than terrorists. In this regard, we are working with our partners and the Security Council to develop a clearly defined roadmap to the full lifting of the arms embargo. This would include the improvements we must make to our weapons management, command and control systems.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to the security sector support we receive from our friends, we are grateful to all partners for their unwavering and sustained support over the years. Many provide financial support, while others provide technical and logistical support. One partner I would like to dedicate special gratitude is AMISOM. Their peacekeepers have been working with us for 10 years – much longer than anyone expected. During that time, they have sacrificed many soldiers in the quest to help Somalia defeat Al-Shabaab and rebuild our security forces.

A vital element of rebuilding our security apparatuses is to radically improve on coordination among international partners on the security front. I

welcome the genuine attempt to address this fundamental problem through the creation of the Comprehensive Assistance to Security or CAS Group. This group, in close collaboration with the National Security Office, must end duplicity and fragmentation in the security support sector. On our side, the National Security Council is designed to do the same.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, the insecurity situation cannot be changed without addressing its root causes, which are abject poverty and mass unemployment. Too many of our young generation are sitting idle, creating fertile ground for terrorists to recruit from. We must tackle this issue with a robust economic recovery plan.

To this end, we have identified the 'priorities of the priorities' within the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP, which clearly articulates our development agenda, is based on sound evidence and extensive consultations across the country. Our partners should align their support with priorities of the NDP, which are focused on strategic investments in key sectors, such as the productive sectors of agriculture, livestock and fishing. Moreover, major investment would have to be made in vital infrastructure, starting with renewable energy, clean water and road networks. That's the only way to create mass employment.

But all that investment needs substantial resources, and our meagre revenue can barely cover our budget. Access to international financial institutions is restricted due to the existing arrears. In this regard, I'm delighted that we have now developed a well-defined, milestones-based roadmap to arrears clearance and normalisation of relations with the international financial institutions. I commend the work of the World Bank and IMF, together with our Finance Ministry, on this crucial work. This is an area that I will personally follow, to ensure that we are meeting our obligations.

Many countries and organizations have demonstrated willingness to cancel their loans. Here I recognize the League of Arab States who announced that member states are prepared to forgive their loans during their summit in Amman in March. We are grateful to our Arab brothers and sisters for this.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to economic development, the greatest asset we have is the entrepreneurial spirit of my people. My administration will take measurable steps to unlock their potential, by removing barriers to doing business in Somalia, and promoting small and media enterprises.

One major barrier is the inability of our financial institutions to access their international counterparts. The money transfer businesses, who send a combined amount of about \$2 billion dollars a year to Somalia, are struggling to access banks here in the UK and in the United States, due to the severe restrictions placed on them. This, despite the fact that we made tangible progress over the past few years.

Time has come to facilitate access for our financial institutions to work with your banks. A continuation of the current policy will undoubtedly deprive crucial access for our banks, and, as a consequence, will limit

employment opportunities in the financial sector.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, for too long, the conventional wisdom has been that Somalia was a problem to fix, and the people a perfect humanitarian example due to the failure of the state to do its job. Today, my administration is committed to seizing this golden opportunity to nurture and deliver on a better, stronger and more prosperous Somalia led by the hopes and aspirations of its people. This is the best way to continue the process of changing the prevailing narrative.

Despite the extraordinary challenges that my people faced, we must remember that they withstood both natural and man-made calamities, and, with their classic resilience, started some of the most successful telecoms and remittance companies in Africa.

Together with our partners, my administration aims to capitalize on this God-given talent for a better Somalia – one that can secure itself, manage its politics and revive its economy. The New Partnership for Somalia provides an excellent framework for co-operation and coordination. The NPS puts government leadership at the heart of implementation of programs and projects. It allows us to hold each other accountable, which I wholeheartedly welcome. If my administration fails, we hope you hold us to account. We promise to do the same. Only in that spirit can we lift Somalia to new heights.

Excellencies, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, there have been many conferences in the past on Somalia and for Somalia. Today's events are different because I can assure and reassure you all that Somalia will never turn back to its difficult past: it will only go forward towards progress and prosperity as is the will of its people and the priority of its government. In engaging with us on the vast array of issues for discussion ahead during this conference, please be confident of the sincerity of this promise.

I thank you all.

News story: CNC Officers and Staff Commended by Chief Constable and Divisional Commanders

The officers and staff were honoured with a number of different awards, including two Certificates of Service; seven Long Service and Good Conduct Awards, and seven Divisional Commander commendations.

The Divisional Commander commendations were received by a range of officers and police staff for their work in a number of different areas. Ch Insp Mike

Caley, Insp Keith Atkinson and Insp Barry Parker all received commendations for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm in managing the delivery of a number of escort operations with the Strategic Escort Group (SEG) throughout 2015 to 2016. The three officers performed their roles to the highest standards, setting an example to their teams. The CNC received favourable comments from partners about its professionalism and there is no doubt that the standards set by these officers have helped ensure the successful delivery of these operations.

Ch Insp Peter Robinson was commended for making a significant professional contribution towards improving operational capability at the EDF sites where CNC are based through the Managed Response Solution project. Over an extended period, Peter demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism to the project. His personal contribution has helped to deliver the CNC Mission and enhance the reputation and strengthen confidence in the organisation through partnership working with EDF and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Police staff members Karen Seath and Alison Barber were both commended for their work on two integral CNC systems. Karen's role involves the coordination and management of firearms training records and duty planning systems. In addition to this she is a member of the Firearms Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as a key advisor to the Force Firearms Officer and other colleagues. Karen operates at a level far beyond what is expected of her, whilst being gracious and supportive to others; she is a true credit to the CNC, and a natural leader. Alison has continued to work very hard in her role as a project manager to deliver a vitally important and sensitive communications project to support the complexity of CNC operations. Alison's efforts have been specifically recognised by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which said: "Alison has been incredibly positive and supportive throughout this project and also provided some valuable lessons learned that we are applying going forward."

Sgt Marc Easterbrook was commended for his ongoing work to ensure the CNC is prepared for national contingency operations in case of a major incident or terrorist attack which might necessitate CNC officers being deployed. He worked hard and beyond what was expected to create plans, to brief officers and commanders, and to build relationships with those stakeholders whose cooperation and support are vital ingredients for our success. Marc is formally commended for his selfless commitment to duty and the manner in which he undertook the role.

Inspector Allan Macrae and PC Ian Johnstone received Certificates of Service on their retirement. Allan joined CNC in December 2006 after a successful 30 year career with Strathclyde Police, immediately taking up the position of Unit Commander at Hunterston Operational Policing Unit (OPU), where he remained until his retirement on 7 May 2017, clocking up an impressive career of over 40 years' in public service. Ian joined the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary (UKAEAC) in 1982 and during his 35 years' service has been an Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO), a supervisor, and an active and longstanding counter-terrorist search officer. Although he has retired from being a police officer, he will continue to work for the CNC in our duty planning team.

Seven police officers received Long Service and Good Conduct Medals from the Chief Constable. The medal was instituted under Royal Warrant by King George VI in 1951 and is awarded as a mark of the Sovereign's appreciation of long and meritorious service rendered by members of the police forces of the United Kingdom. For an officer to become eligible for this award the Chief Constable must make a recommendation to the Home Secretary, confirming the officers has served for a minimum of 20 years and that their character has been very good during their service. The seven officers receiving their medal were:

- Supt Graham Shaw, OUC at Sellafield
- Sgt Adam Anderson-Cole, Firearms Instructor
- Sgt Laura Forster, Force Dogs Officer
- PC Tina Ferris, Firearms Instructor
- PC Neil Henderson, Dog Instructor
- PC Michael Livesey, SEG Firearms Instructor
- PC Ben Strain, Firearms Instructor

Chief Constable Mike Griffiths said: "It was an absolute pleasure to meet such a committed group from a wide range of disciplines and specialities across the CNC. I was hugely impressed with what they had achieved during their CNC careers, from those who will remain with us for many years to come and those who have completed their careers and are looking forward to a well-earned retirement. All have contributed to making the CNC what it is today.

"I would also like to congratulate all those who received commendations, which reflect their outstanding commitment in their current appointments. They set an excellent example to all of the very best of the organisation and they have made a real difference through their professionalism and hard work."

[Speech: PM speech at the London Somalia Conference](#)

Presidents, Prime Ministers, Secretary-General Guterres, I am delighted to welcome you all to London as we come together today to support President Farmajo in building a more secure, stable and prosperous future for all the people of Somalia.

As an international community, our commitment to Somalia matters.

Not just because it is right to help Somalia to overcome the threat of terrorism and the devastating effects of years of famine and bloodshed; but also because these challenges that face Somalia affect us all.

If Somalia is a foothold for terrorist groups like Al Shabaab and Daesh, if

global trade is hijacked by pirates in the Indian Ocean, or if millions are continually displaced in a desperate bid to escape poverty and drought, the impact of instability in Somalia is felt across the whole region and the wider world.

But what we have seen over the last five years is that when we work together on these issues we can make progress.

That progress has required exceptionally hard work and great sacrifice, not least from the Troop Contributing Countries to the AMISOM mission – from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi and Djibouti – from Somalis themselves, and from a broad coalition of other partners including Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the EU, America and the United Nations. But because of these efforts, Al Shabaab has been pushed back, piracy largely contained, and new momentum brought to the political process.

And I am proud of the role that Britain has played in this work.

As a Global Britain, we will continue to drive co-ordinated international efforts that increase global security and protect our values around the world.

And as we are demonstrating with our third London Conference, Britain's commitment to Somalia's future remains steadfast.

As we meet today, Somalia has a critical window of opportunity. The election of President Farmajo and his mandate for reform provides a unique chance for Somalia to take control of its security and to build an inclusive political settlement with new economic development that can help to create more jobs and livelihoods for its people.

So our task today is not to tell Somalia what to do – nor to impose our own solutions on this country from afar; but rather to get behind the new President's efforts and to support the Somali people as they work to build this new future for their country.

President Farmajo, you have already shown great leadership in forging an historic agreement between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States over the future of Somalia's army and police. You have a mandate to shape a new future for your country. And we are here today, first and foremost, to support your efforts.

So I am delighted to invite you to make your opening address.

Introduction to UN Secretary General

Thank you very much President Farmajo, for setting out such a compelling vision for the future of your country. Your leadership and your commitment to the reforms that you have described will be crucial in building the security, stability and prosperity that you seek – and that we all want to see.

In return, I hope that today you will see a renewed international commitment to support you in this mission. And there is no greater sign of this

international support than the ongoing commitment of the United Nations.

This is my first opportunity to share a platform with Secretary General Guterres – and I am delighted that it is here at this conference on Somalia.

Secretary General, the fact you have chosen to attend in person today shows the significance of the United Nation's commitment to continue prioritising Somalia.

I am very pleased to be able to welcome you here to London – and to invite you to address the conference.

Main Intervention

Thank you, Secretary General, for those powerful remarks and your insight, and for the continued support of the United Nations at this important moment for Somalia's future.

As we look to that future, it is worth taking a moment to remember how far we have come. Just five years ago, Al Shabaab controlled large parts of Somalia; piracy was costing global trade \$7 billion a year and the country was recovering from a famine the previous year which had killed a quarter of a million people, half of whom were under five years old.

But today Al Shabaab have been driven back across Somalia, such that they no longer pose an existential threat to the country. International efforts to tackle piracy have helped to ensure that until March this year there had been no attacks at sea for five years. While the London Conferences in 2012 and 2013 brought new momentum to the political process, supporting the work of the nascent Federal Government.

None of this could have been achieved without the vital contributions of a broad international coalition, especially the African Union and its members.

I know that Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi and Djibouti have taken heavy casualties in the fight against Al Shabaab, as indeed have Somali security forces. But your commitment to the AMISOM mission has been fundamental to the progress that has been made.

So too, has the enormous contributions of countries like Turkey and the UAE, America, and the European Union.

Yet despite this progress, deep challenges remain.

Al Shabaab has tripled its attacks on Mogadishu, and Somali forces do not yet have the capability to take over control of their own security.

The political process still has a way to go, with Somalia once again ranked the most fragile state in the world. While the drought has left more than 6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and almost 1 million children acutely malnourished, with 2 million refugees living in camps in neighbouring countries and more than a million displaced people within Somalia.

Of course, we must continue to respond urgently to the need for humanitarian assistance. I am proud that the United Kingdom is at the forefront of these efforts, providing £110 million over two years for emergency food assistance, life-saving nutrition, safe drinking water and emergency healthcare.

Other donors have stepped up, and I welcome generous contributions from Sweden, Norway, Japan and Germany, as well as the important work of the UN in co-ordinating international efforts.

But more is needed so that everything possible can be done to help those in the hardest to reach areas.

So we will look closely at needs of the revised UN appeal and we urge others to continue to step up in the months ahead.

But if we are to support President Farmajo in building a better long-term future for his country, we must do more than tackle the consequences of this crisis, as vital as that is. We must also address its causes by building Somalia's resilience and helping to develop the security and stability that can provide the best hope of preventing similar crises in the future.

This means, first and foremost, agreeing a detailed security plan that will help Somalia to develop rapidly the structures, forces, resources and leadership needed to take control of its own security and to push on with the fight against Al Shabaab and other extremists.

And secondly, it means backing President Farmajo in his efforts to build a more inclusive, federal and democratic state, together with the economic development that can create more jobs and livelihoods for Somalia's people.

Let me briefly take each of these points in turn.

Security Pact

First, Somali-led security is the essential foundation for political and economic progress.

We know that AMISOM are over-stretched and that Troop Contributing Countries simply cannot be expected to carry the burden of Somalia's security forever. So Somalia's forces need to be built up rapidly through a federated model that also brings in regional forces.

The Security Pact that we are proposing at this Conference will build on the historic agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States over the size, location, financing, command and control of the future Somali army and police.

It will improve the co-ordination of international efforts, including the UK's commitment to train Somali forces in Baidoa, the UAE's development of a state of the art training facility, America's training and equipping of Danab Special Forces and Turkey's work to train Somali officers and NCOs.

And it will make sure that when there are future offensives, there are also

the resources and plans to get services and supplies through to areas that have been retaken from Al Shabaab control.

As part of this Pact we want to see more detailed plans for Somali security reform so that Somalia can take responsibility for its own security and enable the drawdown of AMISOM troops as conditions on the ground allow.

We want to see the integration of Somali regional forces and an increase in Somali capacity, as this will be crucial in allowing the resumption of offensives against the remaining Al Shabaab strongholds in southern Somalia, as well as continued pressure on the small Daesh affiliate in Puntland and improved security in Mogadishu. And we want to see Al Shabaab degraded as Somali security forces gradually replace AMISOM across Somalia.

To support this, the UK will provide an additional £21 million over the next two years to bolster our existing efforts to provide training and mentoring to the Somali national army and support wider capacity building for Somali institutions.

And I strongly encourage others here today to make their own commitments to support this process – and to do so, at the latest, by the time of the next security conference in October.

New Partnership for Somalia

Second, we are proposing today a new Partnership for Somalia through which President Farmajo will commit to the development of an inclusive and federal democratic state – and the international community will back him with better targeted support for the jobs and livelihoods that can drive economic recovery.

So through this new Partnership, Somalia will commit to a four year road map of reforms that include closer co-operation between Mogadishu and the regions of Somalia on security and stabilisation – and a political agreement on resource and power-sharing that can lead to a revised federal constitution.

Somalia will also work towards a fairer and more accessible justice system, it will prioritise the tackling of corruption, and set a clear path to One Person, One Vote elections in 2021.

In return, the international community will back these reforms with better targeted support for economic recovery. This will include the targeting of donor support on key investment priorities such as the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors – and support for mobilising development finance and working towards securing debt relief.

We know just how challenging President Farmajo's reforms will be to deliver. But we know too, just how vital they are. They will enable Somalis to know who is responsible for their security and their access to justice. They will give Somali people the chance to ensure that their resources are managed equitably and transparently. And they will give the federal government a greater ability to raise the vital domestic revenues that can underpin

economic recovery, funding public services in areas liberated from Al Shabaab, and paying for the professional armed forces and police that are so important for Somalia's security.

And by creating more business and employment opportunities, these reforms will also mean that more of Somalia's brightest and best people will be able to stay in Somalia – or return to Somalia – to play their part in building a new future for their country.

Conclusion

The challenges we are talking about today are great – but so too is the opportunity before us.

There is much work to do – and today is only a stepping stone on the road to the better future for Somalia that we all want to see. But as we have shown in recent years, Somalia is a place where the world can unite. And if we continue to do so; if we seize this moment to come together behind the efforts of President Farmajo; if we work together to deliver this new Security Pact and support the whole of Somalia, there can be a new future for this country.

In what was once called “the world's most dangerous place”, we can defeat the terrorists, keep them out and bring Somalia the stability and prosperity it deserves.

So thank you once again for your support today. I am delighted that the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, will be acting as the UK host for today's conference. And I look forward to hearing the details of your discussions and to working with you all in the months and years ahead, as together we support President Farmajo in building a better future for all the people of Somalia.

[News story: Crime news: remember return address on paper AGFS form AF1](#)

Prompt payments for AGFS claims more likely if you include the return address on paper AF1 forms.

It is important to include the 'return address' box when completing paper AF1 forms to claim for work under the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS).

The 'return address' box is on the front of the form. Filling this in will avoid delays to:

- payments for your work

- notification of our initial decision

Why is this important?

The 'return address' is needed to process your submission. But there has recently been an increase in the number of forms where this information is missing.

This means we are having to make time to find out the return address. We would prefer instead to concentrate on processing your payment as quickly as possible.

Benefits of online claims

The simplest solution to avoid any delay is to use our online claiming system instead of paper forms.

More than 60% of AGFS claims are made online and the system allows you to keep track of your submission.

Further Information

[Claim for criminal legal work under graduated fee schemes](#)

[Crime processing dates](#)

News story: BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR 2017 – TRAVEL ADVICE

The British & Irish Lions are touring New Zealand from 3 June to 8 July. The Tour is expected to attract up to 30,000 travelling fans. If you're one of them, please read the following advice and check out our [travel advice for New Zealand](#).

Passports

Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of one month from the date of exit from New Zealand.

If you lose your passport, or it's stolen, you will need to get an Emergency Travel Document from the [nearest British Consulate](#).

Visas

British passport holders can enter New Zealand as a visitor for up to 6 months on arrival without a visa, provided you can satisfy an Immigration

Officer that you meet the requirements of the immigration rules. Visitors must have an onward ticket.

If you're transiting another country en route to or from New Zealand, make sure you [check the entry requirements](#) for that country. New Zealand's immigration rules are strict, particularly regarding employment. Anyone wishing to work will need a visa allowing employment.

For more information about visas, visit the [New Zealand Immigration](#) website or contact the nearest [New Zealand High Commission](#).

Travel Insurance

Take out comprehensive travel and medical [insurance](#) before you travel.

At the matches

Match venues will be enforcing their standard conditions of entry. Generally speaking, prohibited items include: alcohol; drugs; glass bottles or breakable containers; metal containers, cans; offensive weapons, including potential missiles; flags over 1m x 1m in size; and professional camera/video/ audio equipment.

All match venues reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone who is intoxicated and/or disorderly. Licensing laws are strictly enforced: even being mildly intoxicated can lead to being refused entry.

Crime

The level of crime is no higher than in the UK. Be careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and other popular tourist destinations. Avoid carrying everything in one bag; only carry what you need; and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposit boxes. Don't leave bags unattended in vehicles, internet cafes, pubs or clubs.

Driving

See the extensive advice available on the following websites, [NZ Police](#), [NZ AA](#), and [Freedom Camping](#).

- do recognise that NZ roads are different; outside of the main cities, there are very few motorways; if you're travelling a long distance your average speed will be 80 kmh, not 100 kmh, (even on State Highway 1 due to hills, weather and all the little towns where there are no by-passes);
- don't travel in convoys of camper vans; if you're travelling slower than the local traffic it is convention in New Zealand to pull over to the left often to allow faster traffic to pass you;
- don't rely exclusively on GPS to select routes, it may direct you to roads that aren't suitable for your vehicle; talk to locals (at service stations perhaps) and take their advice

Emergency services numbers

The number for the emergency services in New Zealand is: 111.

Further information

[British & Irish Lions website](#)

[NZ Police Website](#)

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