**New Zealand Film Commission**

**FACT SHEET**

**Official Co-Production Certification**

**Multipartite Co-Productions**

January 2025

You are encouraged to read this fact sheet carefully alongside the Official Co-Production Certification guidelines and the relevant treaty(s). If you have any questions, or need this information in a different format, please email [co-productions@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:co-productions@nzfilm.co.nz).

### Multipartite Co-Productions

Co-productions involving more than two territories are referred to as multipartite co-productions. All of the countries involved in a multipartite co-production do not have to be connected directly to each other through a bilateral treaty, but each must have a treaty with at least one of the other territories.

Three examples of feature film multipartite co-production structures with the required minimum financial and creative contributions by each co-producer in accordance with the respective co-production treaties are included below.

Note in all cases when contemplating a multipartite co-production, it is important to check the relevant treaties to ensure the specific terms in which a third co-producer can be involved are all met. Additionally, be aware that the use of any third-party nationals outside the exceptions set out in the treaties will mean the project will likely be ineligible as a multipartite co-production. Prior approval must be given by all competent authorities on the use of third-party nationals or third-party elements.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Example 1: All parties directly linked and common minimum contributions.**  In this scenario, bilateral treaties are in place directly between all co-producing countries and all treaties have the same minimum contribution requirement. |
| **No Arrangement** | **Example 2: Two countries linked by a third country.**  In this scenario, two of the countries are not linked by a bilateral treaty directly to each other, but both are linked to a third country (known as the ‘pivot country’). For example, New Zealand does not have a co-production treaty with Japan, but both Japan and New Zealand have treaties with China. In this case, China could act as the pivot country in a co-production involving China, Japan and New Zealand. In this case, typically the minimum contribution requirements of the ‘pivot country’ would apply and the pivot country’s competent authority would have to be satisfied that the terms of its treaties are met. |
|  | **Example 3: All parties directly linked but different minimum contributions.**  In this case there are bilateral treaties between all co-producing countries, but the minimum contribution requirement for each are not the same. As there are direct links between all three parties, the originating producer can choose which treaties would apply. In this example using only the New Zealand-Canada and Canada-UK treaties would effectively make Canada the ‘pivot country’ in a similar structure to example 2. This would need to be reflected in the Co-Producers’ Agreement. |

### Council of European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production

Producers may also wish to consider the revised Council of European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (ETS No.220)(<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cinematographic-coproduction>) when undertaking multipartite productions with EU partners. The revised Convention governs multi-party productions with member and non-member parties. The NZFC recommends you liaise with your EU co-producers about the use of the revised Convention as they will be best placed to advise about its suitability for your project.

### Need more help?

The NZFC recognises that every co-production project and co-producer relationship is different, and as such you are encouraged to engage with NZFC staff early in your planning process to discuss the specifics of your project. Please contact the NZFC Co-Production and Incentives team to schedule a meeting in person, by Teams/Zoom or by phone. We also encourage you to check out our [FAQs](https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/sites/default/files/2024-10/Co-production%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf) on our website.

### Contact Details

Co-Production and Incentives Team, New Zealand Film Commission  
T: +64 4 382 7680 | E: [co-productions@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:co-productions@nzfilm.co.nz)   
P: PO Box 11 546, Wellington 6142, New Zealand