

New Zealand – Republic of Korea

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

1. The President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Lee Jae Myung, welcomed the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Christopher Luxon, to the Republic of Korea on 30 October 2025.
2. As we mark 75 years since our troops fought alongside one another in the Korean War, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea celebrate the depth and breadth of our partnership today and hereby elevate our relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
3. Our nations have built strong bonds since we established diplomatic relations in 1962, with the agreement of the Partnership for the 21st Century in 2006 and launch of the Korea-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement in 2015, and ever-growing people-to-people connections. Close cooperation across economic and trade links, defence, security, and regional and multilateral fora has delivered tangible benefits to our people and economies.
4. Our cooperation is deeply rooted in our common interests, including upholding democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, a commitment to the rules-based international order with strong multilateral and regional organisations and frameworks, and support for a stable, prosperous, and sustainable Indo-Pacific region. On this basis, we commit to moving forward as trusted friends and partners.
5. In the increasingly contested and complex geostrategic and geoeconomic environment, this new Partnership reflects our shared resolve for diplomacy, and commitment to regionalism and multilateralism. It acknowledges the growing strategic and economic convergence between our nations and underscores our unwavering commitment to promoting peace, security, and prosperity for the benefits of our peoples, our region, and the international community.
6. Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership builds on existing frameworks while

driving new areas of cooperation across three pillars: strategic and security; prosperity and innovation; and people and planet.

Pillar One: Strategic and Security

7. The security and stability of our countries is inexorably linked to that of our region. We share a commitment to a free, peaceful, stable, open, and prosperous region, and a rules-based international order that protects the rights and sovereignty of states and upholds the principles of the United Nations Charter. We agree to continue strengthening cooperation to uphold these principles.

New initiatives

8. We welcome commitment to further expand support in the Pacific and are pleased to have agreed on practical initiatives to reinforce resilience and stability in the region, through consideration of support for the Pacific Community (SPC) Research Vessel and the Pacific Resilience Facility, in line with the Pacific Islands Forum's *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.
9. We agree to update our Customs Co-operative Arrangement, to strengthen law enforcement cooperation as our countries face growing transnational threats such as illicit tobacco and drugs smuggling.
10. The Republic of Korea welcomes New Zealand's commitment to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and acknowledges the contributions of the New Zealand Defence Force to the United Nations Command as a way to further enhance peace and security.
11. In support of full implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on the DPRK, we jointly founded the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team in collaboration with partners in October 2024, and issued two reports in 2025.
12. In light of our deepening cooperation on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues, we commit to annual meetings between our Foreign Ministers.
13. We also agree to establish a new Strategic Dialogue for forward-looking exchanges across defence and security, trade and economic, political, and people-to-people issues.

Maintain and build

14. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2014 Memorandum of Arrangement on Defence Cooperation and welcome our recent bilateral defence activity including the HMNZS AOTEAROA's port visit to the Republic of Korea, our bilateral Passing Exercise in September 2024, and conducting of our ROKKIWI activities in 2024. New Zealand

also welcomed the Korean Navy vessel HANSANDO to Auckland in October 2025.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to contribute to multilateral exercises involving both the Republic of Korea and New Zealand, and we will actively pursue new avenues for deeper defence cooperation in support of coordinated responses to evolving regional and global security challenges.
16. We welcome relationships between our defence industries and will explore opportunities for collaboration on joint procurement and production of military equipment.
17. We will strengthen our cooperation in multilateral and regional institutions, including the United Nations and ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, in support of freedom, peace, stability, openness, and the rule of law.
18. We will work together to progress the Indo-Pacific 4 (IP4) grouping including through our cooperation with NATO such as our joint Flagship Projects, and through high-level IP4 engagements as a forum to exchange views on pressing regional issues.
19. Noting with concern the rapidly evolving and increasingly damaging nature of cyber threats, we will continue to cooperate via likeminded groupings and in multilateral fora to counter these threats.
20. We remain committed to the complete denuclearisation and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. New Zealand supports the Republic of Korea's efforts towards the denuclearisation, peace, and stability of the Korean Peninsula, and, to this end, welcomes all efforts to reduce tensions and resume dialogue and cooperation.

Pillar Two: Prosperity and Innovation

21. Trade and economic cooperation have been foundational to the shared prosperity of our two nations. Over the years, we have worked closely together across regional, plurilateral, and global fora fostering mutual growth and resilience. Our bilateral trade has more than doubled over the past decade and new areas of cooperation have opened up, reflecting the depth and dynamism of our complementary economic relationship. We reaffirm our commitment to deepening these ties further, ensuring benefits for our economies and the well-being of our peoples.

New initiatives

22. On the 10th anniversary of the Korea-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (KNZFTA), recognising the change in the global trading environment since the KNZFTA entered into force, we agree to continue constructive discussions to explore the possibility of upgrading the Agreement, with a view to ensuring mutual benefits, including at the next KNZFTA Joint Commission meeting.

23. We welcome the launch of a Korea-New Zealand Joint Research Partnership programme round following the 6th ROK-New Zealand Science and Technology Joint Committee Meeting in Seoul in August 2025. This comes under the Korea-New Zealand Science Agreement and the round will enable joint research projects focused on quantum technologies to support innovation in both countries.
24. We are pleased to announce completion in principle of negotiations to update the Double Taxation Agreement, to ensure the Agreement continues to deliver tax benefits to Koreans and New Zealanders who live and work in each other's countries.
25. We have agreed to implement paperless health certification for livestock products such as dairy and meat by the end of 2025, making it easier for exporters and importers in both countries to do business.
26. In recognition of the shared climate challenges and opportunities facing our countries, we will continue to explore avenues for potential carbon market cooperation, following up on a meeting of technical experts in October 2025, including technical exchanges in relation to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
27. We commit to regularising our Economic Security Dialogue following its inaugural session in February 2025, in recognition of the critical nexus between security and prosperity and the importance of our work together.
28. The Republic of Korea welcomes New Zealand's intention to join the Minerals Security Partnership in support of supply chain resilience for critical minerals. This network strengthens cooperation and promotes information exchange to advance diverse, secure, and sustainable supply chains for critical minerals.

Maintain and build

29. Recognising the critical importance of multilateral rules and institutions in promoting free and open international trade, we commit to strengthening our cooperation to defend, strengthen, and modernise the international rules-based trading system.
30. Our countries acknowledge the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the bedrock for establishing and enforcing global trading rules and norms and will carry on working together in this forum to ensure it continues to enable a stable and predictable environment for trading nations to exchange goods and services.
31. We will continue our work together in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with the common goals of increasing economic growth, trade, and investment flows, and ensuring a stable and predictable business environment.

32. On this occasion of the Republic of Korea's hosting of APEC, we reaffirm our commitment to realising the Putrajaya Vision 2040 of an open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful region. We also reaffirm our support for the Republic of Korea's priorities for APEC 2025 including strengthened cooperation on AI and demographic changes.
33. We are committed to the effective implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and to close cooperation on RCEP accessions processes.
34. We will continue to cooperate on digital trade, including through the innovative Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) to foster a secure and trustworthy digital economy.
35. We acknowledge the importance of cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, and commit to continuing joint activities under our Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Cooperation Arrangement, including in biosecurity training and agriculture and fisheries education, and to explore further cooperation in sustainable livestock and fruit production.
36. We will continue to deepen cooperation in food safety, including considering an "Arrangement on the Food Safety of Fishery Products", electronic certification, and through participation in the Asia Pacific Food Regulatory Authorities Summit.
37. We welcome the increasing interest from the Republic of Korea in investment in New Zealand.
38. New technologies such as artificial intelligence will have a profound impact on our countries. In light of our similar objectives and concerns in this area, we will continue to cooperate through plurilateral groupings as well as in multilateral fora.
39. Recognising the security and economic implications of space, and acknowledging both of our growing domestic space capabilities, we will continue to strengthen our domestic space industries and government institutions. We will also work closely together in multilateral fora to ensure a safe, secure, and sustainable outer space for the benefit of everyone.

Pillar Three: People and Planet

40. At a time when the world faces ever-growing environmental challenges and rising social fragmentation, we recognise the need for effective collaboration to address pressing challenges such as environmental stewardship, and to nurture our vibrant people-to-people connections that foster deeper understanding and lasting friendships.

New initiatives

41. We are pleased to announce the launch of bilateral Antarctic Consultations building on our extensive existing cooperation in Antarctica, our shared interest in continuing to protect Antarctica as a place for peace and science, and our commitment to upholding the Antarctic Treaty System.
42. We agree to explore opportunities for science cooperation in the Ross Sea, reflecting our mutual commitment to Antarctic science and the sustainable management of fisheries and the Ross Sea.
43. As we face increasingly complex natural hazard-related disasters, and in recognition of the expertise each of our countries has in disaster response, we signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on emergency management in July 2025. We look forward to the practical implementation of this including establishing regular exchanges to share information on emergency management.

Maintain and build

44. We reiterate that we are committed to the enduring principles of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and strengthening the Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environmental Protection (CEP) and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) all of which are crucial for conserving the unique Antarctic environment and its fragile ecosystems. We will work together in these bodies, including as future hosts of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) (in 2027 for the Republic of Korea and 2029 for New Zealand).
45. We acknowledge the importance of education to our bilateral relationship, underpinned by our Education Cooperation Arrangement and our cooperation in the APEC Education Network. We reiterate our commitment to continue two-way student mobility between our countries, including exchanges under the education cooperation arrangement between Education New Zealand and the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.
46. We will continue to recognise the veterans who fought side-by-side in the Korean War and acknowledge the significant efforts of the Government of the Republic of Korea to honour New Zealand veterans. We welcome the Revisit Korea Program which allows veterans and their families to visit the Republic of Korea and see its remarkable development into the modern day.
47. We also welcome the New Zealand Korea Veterans' Memorial Trust scholarships which are given to young people in Korea to honour the enduring bonds between the New Zealand veterans and the local Korean people.
48. We welcome our Working Holiday Scheme which has facilitated the exchange of young people between the Republic of Korea and New Zealand. We will continue to discuss options for expansion of the age limit to facilitate further exchanges between

our countries.

49. We also highlight our three sister city relationships and the opportunities for collaboration and exchange these enable. These are between Wellington and Seoul, Auckland and Busan, and Christchurch and Songpa-Gu.
50. Celebrating the contributions of the Korean and New Zealand communities residing in one another's country, we will continue to support their well-being and active participation in our societies for the betterment of both our countries.
51. We reaffirm the importance of increasing people-to-people exchanges, by pursuing new ways to promote tourism and discussing the exchange of specialists and experts in various fields such as arts and cultural heritages.

Agreed in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea on 30 October 2025