

18 August 2025

Personal information removed for proactive release

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Memorandum of Agreement on Climate Change Cooperation recently entered between New Zealand and Viet Nam."

Please find enclosed the memorandum you've requested.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:
www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENT

between

**THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF NEW ZEALAND**

and

**THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

on

CLIMATE CHANGE COOPERATION

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

Acknowledging the long-term stability and rapid growth of the bilateral cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Viet Nam and New Zealand in 1975;

Aiming to contribute to the development of friendly and comprehensive relations and the Strategic Partnership between Viet Nam and New Zealand;

Reaffirming their commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, subject to the laws and regulations of the Participants’ countries and international treaties to which each country is a Party, and in accordance with the competence and authority of the Participants;

Appreciating the ongoing cooperation between Viet Nam and New Zealand, both bilaterally and within regional and multilateral frameworks;

Realising that climate change cooperation would lead to common benefits and development of the Participants;

Have decided as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1

OBJECTIVES

The Participants have a common aim of reducing the impacts of climate change and preparing for its future impacts, through the transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economies. In this context, the Participants recognise coherent and integrated cooperation between governments can facilitate the exchange of best practices. Such cooperation encourages the development of innovative and effective solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Cooperation on climate change between Viet Nam and New Zealand has grown steadily, both bilaterally and within regional and multilateral frameworks. The Participants, in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA), within the competence of each Participant, will seek to strengthen dialogue, engagement and technical cooperation on climate change adaptation, and mitigation, including carbon markets.

PARAGRAPH 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants will, subject to resource availability and capability of the Participants, seek to:

1. Facilitate technical exchanges, information and knowledge sharing on:
 - a. Adaptation action, including national adaptation plans, strategies, policies, and programs, with a view to:
 - (i) encouraging the implementation of effective adaptation action, reducing disaster risks, and addressing loss and damage caused by climate change and non-economic impacts of climate change;

- (ii) developing adaptation policies that supports the regular assessment of impacts, vulnerability, and risks, and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities;
 - (iii) capacity building, mobilising support from various sources, including accessing concessional finance, and technology transfer for adaptation and action to avert, minimise and address loss and damage;
 - (iv) sharing and exchanging experience on adaptation, and good practices on nature-based solutions, improving infrastructure and community preparedness.
- b. Mitigation action, including development and implementation of each Participant's respective transition to net zero emissions, nationally determined contributions, other climate change goals and targets, and long-term low emissions development strategies, with a view to ensuring outcomes that are cost-effective, grounded in evidence-based policies, and enable private investment and partnerships, access to the best available science, international cooperation, knowledge sharing and competitive markets.
- c. Development and implementation of carbon markets, including:
- (i) the design, management and operation of emissions trading schemes;
 - (ii) aligning incentives and investments to support and bolster climate action and manage potential carbon leakage;
 - (iii) identifying potential areas, opportunities or activities for future cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; and
 - (iv) identifying the appropriate institutional and decision-making arrangements to support such cooperation.

PARAGRAPH 3

IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Participants anticipate that cooperation activities would typically involve officials from Viet Nam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Ministry for the Environment. Other representatives of the two countries may be included in cooperation activities as mutually decided by the Participants.
2. Cooperation activities may include, but are not limited to: consultations, workshops, webinars, visits, study tours and seminars, and technical advice and development of appropriate arrangements for potential further cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
3. Within 3 months of the signing of this MoA, each Participant will communicate to the other Participant the name and contact details of a national Focal Point. The national Focal Points will maintain regular informal contacts as necessary to achieve the objectives of this MoA.

PARAGRAPH 4

FORWARD PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

1. Consultations between the Participants on a forward programme of cooperation activities will be conducted at least annually, typically through a bilateral climate change policy dialogue (Dialogue).
2. The forward programme of cooperation activities should be driven by Participants' respective policy priorities in the areas identified above.
3. In a mutually decided timeframe before the Dialogue occurs, the Participants will jointly prepare an agenda of the meeting and the list of participating representatives.

4. The Participants will mutually decide on the nature and length of the Dialogue and any other consultations.
5. Consultations, including the Dialogue, can be held virtually, or in person. Consultations convened in person can alternatively be held in Viet Nam and New Zealand, or in another location that is jointly decided (for example, in the margins of international meetings), with each Participant bearing its own costs.
6. Financial responsibility for activities conducted as a result of the MoA will be as mutually decided by the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 5 AMENDMENT

1. The Participants will periodically review the scope of this MoA and adjust as needed, by mutual consent.
2. Either Participant may request, in writing, an amendment to all or part of this MoA.
3. Any amendment decided by the Participants will form an integral part of this MoA.
4. Amendments will be made in writing and come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Participants.
5. Any amendment will not prejudice the benefits and commitments arising from or based on this MoA prior to or up to the date of amendment.

PARAGRAPH 6 PROBLEM RESOLUTION

Any questions or differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of the MoA will be resolved through amicable consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 7

EFFECTIVE DATE, DURATION, REVIEW, AND TERMINATION

1. This MoA will come into effect on the date of signature of the later of the two Participants to sign and will be valid for a period of three (3) years. The duration of validity may be extended as mutually decided by both Participants after the assessment of the implementation of this MoA.
2. Either Participant may terminate this MoA by notifying the other Participant of its intention to terminate this MoA by a notice in writing, at least six (6) months prior to its intended termination date.
3. The termination of this MoA will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities or programmes that have been decided upon by the Participants prior to the date of the termination of this MoA, unless the Participants decide otherwise.

This MoA is not intended to constitute an international treaty under international law or to create any legally binding rights and/or obligations between Viet Nam and New Zealand.

SIGNED in duplicate in the English language.

At _____ (location) At AUCKLAND (location)

on _____ (date) on 24 FEBRUARY 2025 (date)

FOR
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE
OF NEW ZEALAND

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Simon Watts
MINISTER

FOR
THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF VIET NAM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Do Duc Duy', written over a horizontal line.

HE Mr Do Duc Duy
MINISTER