

**JOINT ACTION PLAN**  
**FOR**  
**THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**  
**AND THE GREEN GROWTH ALLIANCE**



**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK**  
**AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**2021-2024**

April 2021

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## **PREAMBLE**

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The Kingdom of Denmark (Denmark) and the Republic of Korea (Korea) established diplomatic relations in 1959 and signed a formal Strategic Partnership agreement in 2011. For the past sixty years, the Danish-Korea partnership has developed significantly spanning trade, green growth, health & life science, security, education, innovation, science, food production, investment and government-to-government cooperation. As a reflection of the increasing importance of the partnership, the governments of Denmark and Korea decided to further strengthen the strategic partnership during President Moon's official visit to Denmark in October 2018. With this in mind, Denmark and Korea will continue to work together to elevate the strategic partnership to a new level.

This Joint Action Plan sets out the overall direction for the Strategic Partnership between Denmark and Korea in the period 2021-2024. At the dawn of the new decade, characterized by increasing challenges to the liberal international order, changes to the global balance of power within both trade and foreign policy, and an increased need for partnerships to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, strong political alliances between likeminded countries are becoming ever more important.

Based on 60 years of cooperation and a number of joint political agendas, Denmark and Korea are well-positioned to strengthen the bilateral cooperation even further within four strategic lines of effort: 1) sustainability & green transition, 2) science, technology & innovation, 3) health & life science, and 4) political & economic cooperation. These four areas do not make up a complete list of the entire bilateral partnership, but will be the overarching strategic priorities for deepening the cooperation in the coming four years. Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals will be a cross-cutting priority in all areas within the Joint Action Plan Programme. Likewise, economic diplomacy, cooperation in the field of connectivity and frequent high-level political visits will remain cross-cutting priorities to promote the continued cooperation between Danish and Korean public and private sector stakeholders. Both sides will actively and comprehensively implement the Joint Action Plan Programme and evaluate and modify the Programme in due course.

The Joint Action Plan for 2021-2024 was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, Jeppe Kofod and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Chung Eui-yong.

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## 1. SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN TRANSITION

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Combating climate change and promoting sustainable green growth are amongst the greatest and most imminent global challenges. Since the establishment of the Green Growth Alliance (GGA) in 2011, Denmark and Korea have been close political partners on these agendas, and both governments have launched national targets for renewable energy, environmental protection and circular economy. In 2020 Korea announced the Green New Deal as a recovery package to pursue green economy and carbon neutrality, comprising projects on greening space and cities, low carbon and decentralized energy system, and innovative green industry. This will further facilitate Korea's 3020 Plan to achieve a target of increasing a share of renewable power generation to 20% by 2030. Meanwhile, the Danish Climate Act sets out an ambition of 70% GHG emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

The bilateral cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency not only contributes to unlocking new markets and jobs, but also contributes to reducing the national and global carbon footprint. Green diplomacy is further a key element in promoting sustainable connectivity in global transport- and energy networks. Denmark and Korea will promote and strengthen sustainability in the shipping sector and value chain through the Joint Green Ships Expert Committee, Mission Innovation and Getting to Zero Coalition on CO2 neutral vessels by 2030. Since the launch of the Green Growth Alliance, both countries have bolstered their green diplomacy and are pushing for global climate action through the UN in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Besides the GGA, Denmark and Korea are pursuing green multilateralism through the joint initiative, 'Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals' (P4G), as a stepping stone to COP26 and as a part of the green energy transition and more ambitious NDCs. Both countries will continue to support the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and deliver on their pledge to increase the contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The overall ambition is to further strengthen the bilateral and multilateral partnership between Denmark and Korea for greener, cleaner and more sustainable global growth and development. The initiatives will support the promotion of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 17 (Partnerships).

### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

- Collaboration on renewable energy and environment across relevant government stakeholders on topics of mutual interest including, but not restricted to, the following: renewable energy, circular economy, smart water management, waste-to-energy, plastic waste and other waste treatment, smart grids, energy storage technology, energy efficiency, and air pollution mitigation.
- Annual ministerial meetings in the Green Growth Alliance focusing on topics of mutual interest within sustainability and green transition.
- Annual consultations on climate policy at political level and through climate envoys, e.g. on the occasion of the Green Growth Alliance meetings.
- Cooperation on the national implementation of SDG7 with a focus on renewable energy transition. Knowledge-sharing, e.g. through workshops and study trips, on the design of national policies.

- Knowledge-sharing and cooperation on clean energy transition and ways to divest from coal-fired generation.
- Cooperation on sustainable, digital and efficient shipping and shipbuilding including annual meetings in the Joint Green Ships Expert Committee and Zero Emission Coalition Initiative.
- Cooperation on circular economy, including more sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- Cooperation on smart, safe and sustainable food production and food safety. Enhancing cooperation on food and animal welfare.

## **SCIENCE COOPERATION**

- Facilitate and develop partnerships among scientists, companies, and national authorities that 1) work to provide new technological solutions or innovations in areas like renewable energy, water, and environment and 2) can successfully apply for international funding within the framework of Horizon Europe and others
- Identify bilateral scientific collaboration opportunities within the areas of climate change, environmental sustainability, and energy transition at Biennial Joint Committee Meetings (JCM) between the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science (MHES).

## **GREEN MULTILATERALISM**

- Joint promotion of the P4G-initiative, including possible high-level participation in P4G Summits.
- Explore joint P4G partnerships on selected prioritized SDGs as well as “Startup and Youth for Change” agenda.
- Possible joint P4G events in relevant fora, e.g. UNFCCC negotiations/UNGA/P4G Summits.
- Continued dialogue and cooperation through the Global Green Growth Institute, including exploring the possibility for joint projects contributing to realizing prioritized SDG7.
- Continued support for- and cooperation with the Green Climate Fund.
- Possible joint initiatives on Green Shipping in relevant multilateral fora.
- Promoting joint business cooperation between Danish and Korean companies to develop and promote cost-effective and accessible energy and environmental solutions in developing countries.

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## 2. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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Science and Technology (S&T) are driving rapid and radical transformations of our societies, companies and industries. As strong S&T nations, Denmark and Korea are well positioned to cooperate on addressing both the challenges and opportunities created by S&T. Emerging technologies and new solutions through R&D and entrepreneurship can unlock the potential for more sustainable cities, production patterns and consumption patterns. Investing in S&T is an important way to accelerate sustainable growth and development. The overall ambition is to further strengthen the bilateral and multilateral S&T partnership in sectors such as energy & green technologies, health & life science and digital technologies to reap the benefits of innovation and prepare our societies and citizens for the future. Innovation Centre Denmark in Seoul as well as the Korean S&T collaboration centre for Northern Europe in Stockholm will be important actors driving the S&T activities under the work programme. The initiatives within S&T aim to support all thematic priorities of the work programme, including the promotion of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 17 (Partnerships).



### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

- Cooperation and dialogue on Tech and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4iR) between relevant governmental bodies.
- Cooperation and dialogue on technological diplomacy. Frequent high-level consultations between the Office of the Danish Tech Ambassador and relevant counterparts on technology and digitalization in the areas of foreign and security policy, human rights and relations with the tech industry.
- Biennial Joint Committee Meetings (JCM) between the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science (MHES).
- Strengthened cooperation on student entrepreneurship, startups and venture capital ecosystems between Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) and Ministry for Higher Education and Science (MHES) and Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs (MIBF).
- Dialogue and cooperation on primary and secondary education, including alternative schooling models (e.g. Efterskole and Friskole).

### REGIONAL & LOCAL COOPERATION

- Activities, e.g. workshops, seminars, and study visits, aimed at relevant local government stakeholders to share experiences on relevant tech developments and 4iR.

### TRADE & ECONOMY

- Promotion of trade & investment opportunities in both countries within sectors such as 4iR, ICT and IoT.

- Collaboration on smart cities, connectivity, clean tech urban solutions, robotics and educational technology i.e. through the Korean Convergence Alliance (Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA), Danish CLEAN cluster or Green Technology Centre.

## **SCIENCE COOPERATION**

- Strengthened cooperation between research institutions focused on global challenges and new key enabling technologies, e.g. under Horizon2020/Horizon Europe.
- Promotion of increased student and researcher mobility between Danish and Korean universities and other higher education institutions.
- Cooperation in the areas of industrial technology and promotion of bilateral and multilateral industrial R&D activities, e.g. under EUREKA.
- Expand programs for start-ups and investors in both countries and within topics such as ICT, Life Science and Clean Tech.
- Explore new potential Danish-Korean business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-research (B2R) innovation cooperation projects within IoT, robotics, etc.
- Scientific cooperation on climate-research, including Arctic and polar research. Focus on exploring ways in which Danish-Korean Arctic researchers can cooperate under the framework of the bilateral agreements and the International Arctic Research Hub in Greenland on e.g. access to- and sharing of research and mission-critical infrastructure.
- Further strengthen research cooperation between Denmark and Korea through existing instruments for international research cooperation. On the Danish side this includes International Network Programme, Innobooster and Grand Solutions. On the Korean side this includes Inter-State Cooperation Infrastructure Project, EU-Korea Joint Research Program and Strategic Collaborative Research Program.

## **MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

- Strengthened science collaboration in relation to multilateral STI-collaboration programmes, such as EU Horizon Europe and EUREKA.
- Possible joint political initiatives and cooperation on relevant topics, e.g. cyber, tech, connectivity, HR, in multilateral fora including UNHRC and the UN High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.
- Dialogue and cooperation on relevant topics, e.g. digital government, within the framework of Digital Nations.

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### 3. HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCE

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Denmark and Korea face similar challenges with ageing populations, growth in lifestyle diseases and non-communicable diseases, and an increasing demand for new health- and welfare solutions. Both Denmark and Korea seek to ensure equal access to universal and high quality healthcare for all citizens through economically sustainable healthcare. Furthermore, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence and innovative healthcare pave the way for better treatment and monitoring of diseases and has the ability to contribute to healthy and dignified ageing. Therefore, it is valuable for Denmark and Korea to exchange information, knowledge, and experiences on tackling shared healthcare challenges and opportunities. Additionally, responding to health risks which affect societies and economies globally is key priority for Denmark and Korea. For example, ageing and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) are such challenges. The ambition is to reinforce the bilateral cooperation within health and life science to promote a healthy life for all citizens in Denmark and Korea and, where possible, contribute to solving global health challenges that affect both countries. The initiatives will support the promotion of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 13 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 17 (Partnerships).



#### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

- Knowledge-sharing and cooperation on topics of joint interest, e.g. ageing, non-communicable diseases including prevention, long-term care, community care, primary care and AMR in a one health perspective between the relevant Danish and Korean government institutions.
- Cooperation with the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) in operating practical programs on for instance long-term care, community care and health promotion in the form of information, knowledge or experience exchange etc.
- Knowledge-sharing between the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) and Danish Medicines Agency (DKMA), including on clinical trials, the use of big data, RWD, and evidence in relation to approvals and surveillance of drugs, quality test, inspection etc. for enhancing public health and the safety of the people in both countries.
- Cooperation on quality assessment and pricing of medicines and continued knowledge-sharing, e.g. through workshops and study visits between the Health Insurance Review Assessment Service (HIRA) and Danish Medicines Agency.
- Cooperation and information-exchange on communicable diseases and pandemics

#### REGIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

- Promoting collaborations between municipalities and regions in the field of elderly and community care.



## **TRADE & ECONOMY**

- Strengthening the cooperation between Danish and Korean health companies and promoting business and investment opportunities in the life science sector. Collaboration with the new Danish National Life Science and Welfare Technology Cluster.

## **SCIENCE COOPERATION**

- Exchange of policies and initiatives to promote clinical trials. Promotion of opportunities for clinical trials in both countries.
- Investigate and facilitate bilateral R&D collaboration opportunities on AMR and other areas of health and life science research.

## **MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

- Possible collaboration on the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) initiative.
- Possible collaboration with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI).
- Collaboration when relevant in selected WHO, OECD, and UNGA negotiations on global health challenges.

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## 4. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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At a time where the liberal international order, free and fair trade, and global institutions are changing and challenged, strengthening the bi- and multilateral political alliances with likeminded countries is of increasing importance. The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented disruption to the global economy and world trade. It is important to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. As liberal democracies committed to sustainable, progressive, and rules-based global development there is potential for an even closer political cooperation between Denmark and Korea based on common values and joint political agendas. This includes the active promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, good governance, culture, and gender equality in cooperation with relevant partners. On the Korean Peninsula, Denmark remains an active supporter of peace, security, prosperity and denuclearization. The overall ambition is to strengthen the cooperation – across foreign policy, security policy, and trade policy – to promote and safeguard the values and institutions that form the basis for continued international stability, prosperity, sustainable growth, development, and connectivity. Denmark and Korea will further work together to support environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable connectivity between Europe and Asia. The initiatives will support the promotion of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships).

### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

- Regular political consultations to discuss issues of mutual interest in Seoul or Copenhagen at appropriate level.
- Support for the Korea's efforts to engage with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to achieve peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.
- Dialogue and cooperation on international aspects of cyber security, including promotion of norms of responsible state behaviour and application of international law in cyberspace.
- Dialogue and cooperation on issues related to human rights and good governance, i.e. through joint events and visits to relevant national institutions.
- Dialogue and cooperation on issues related to development aid and development policy, including within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.
- Knowledge-sharing and dialogue, including joint activities to promote diversity and gender equality.
- Cooperation and knowledge-sharing on a broad range of cultural topics to further common interests between artists and institutions, and establish strong and lasting professional networks, exchanges, and partnerships building on the 2019 Year of Culture.
- Dialogue on Arctic affairs between Denmark and Korea, including bi-annual senior official consultations - e.g. between Arctic ambassadors.

## **TRADE & ECONOMY**

- Dialogue and cooperation to promote free and fair bilateral trade through the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement and strengthen bilateral dialogue on trade and investment.
- Cooperation regarding tourism and people-to-people exchange, including promoting a direct flight connection between Denmark and Korea.
- Joint initiatives to facilitate trade and investment between Korea and Greenland and the Faroe Islands respectively.
- Exchange experiences on marine spatial planning design, legislation, and implementation.
- Strengthen cooperation between K-SURE - Korea's Export Credit Agency - and EKF - Denmark's Export Credit Agency - with regard to reinsurance of joint export transactions between Danish and Korean exporters.

## **MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

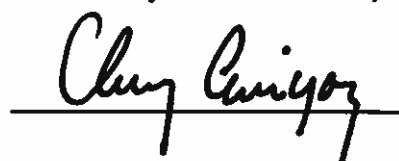
- Denmark will continue to participate in the United Nations Command as a state which Contributed Medical Aid during the Korean War. Furthermore, Denmark will continue to support the stability of the Korean Peninsula through defence cooperation with Korea.
- Knowledge-sharing and dialogue on the development of North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues, i.e. through dialogue with central human rights actors (e.g. UNHCR, Amnesty, WFP, and ICRC).
- Dialogue and cooperation to strengthen the universality of human rights, including the human rights issues in North Korea - e.g. through the UN.
- Dialogue on Arctic matters within the framework of Arctic Council to maintain the Arctic as a low-tension region.
- Dialogue and cooperation on relevant free trade issues in the WTO.
- Dialogue and cooperation to support IMO as the central international organization for shipping industry regulations to support freedom of navigation.
- Dialogue and cooperation to promote quality shipping on fair and equal terms, effective regulation, and streamlining of IMO.
- Dialogue and cooperation to promote diversity and gender equality, i.e. in connection with Pride parade, UNGA, and other multilateral fora.
- Continued cooperation on digitalization of maritime sector.

**For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Denmark, April 2021**



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**For the Government  
of the Republic of Korea, April 2021**



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## 5. APPENDIX

	<b>Basis of agreement</b>
<b>Sustainability &amp; Green Transition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU on Renewable Energy and New Energy Industry between the Ministries of Energy, 2018.</li> <li>• Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, 2011.</li> <li>• Agreement on the Korean-Danish Green Growth Alliance between the Government of Republic of Korea and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, 2012.</li> <li>• MoU on Circular Economy between the Ministries of Environment, 2018.</li> <li>• The Copenhagen Commitment, 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Science &amp; Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU on Technology and Digitalization between the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021 TBC.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science (MHES), 2015.</li> <li>• Action Plan for 2020-2021 between MSIT and MHES, 2020.</li> <li>• MoU between the Ministries of Education, 2019.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of Education and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science, 2016.</li> <li>• MoU between KIAT and Innovation Fund Denmark, 2018.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science, 2021 TBC.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science, 2021 TBC.</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Life Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Danish Ministry of Health, 2021.</li> <li>• MoC on Information Exchange between the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) and the Danish Medicines Agency (DMA), 2020.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Health Insurance Review Assessment Service (HIRA) and Danish Medicine Agency (DKMA) 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Political &amp; Economic Cooperation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership, 2011.</li> <li>• MoU on Cultural Cooperation for the period, 2018-2022.</li> <li>• MoU between Danish Business Authority (DBA) and the Korean Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), 2011.</li> <li>• MoU between the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) and the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, 2018.</li> </ul>