

**JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK**

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON**

**A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL**

The strategic partnership builds upon the strong friendship forged during the anti-apartheid struggle and the subsequent democratic transition. The relationship between South Africa and Denmark is a multifaceted partnership based on shared values of democracy and human rights, mutual political interests and a strong desire to build a sustainable future for all.

With this agreement, the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Denmark confirm their mutual commitment to a strategic partnership aimed at advancing political cooperation, expanding economic relations and the creation of jobs. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Paris Agreement, among others, the partnership aims to address the socio-economic, environmental and climate challenges of the 21st century and the Parties aim to advance common interests based on a strong, transparent and rules-based multilateral system.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic presents opportunities to set our recovery on a path of transformative sustainable development. It calls for increased action to protect and restore the environment, contribute towards building back better and more sustainably, to increase resilience to future crises, and steer our countries on a more sustainable path.

Both countries will continue to further develop their cooperation on socio-economic development, climate change, human rights and gender equality, which will not only contribute to unlocking new markets and jobs, but also evoke responsibility for our planet and future generations, ensuring a more equal and just access to resources, and a just future for all.

South Africa and Denmark acknowledge the positive experience and results gained through excellent bilateral relationships in the fields of political cooperation, trade and investment, sustainable energy, environment, water and sanitation, agriculture, arts and culture, education, and science and innovation, as well as the interest of both sides to improve these relationships for increased mutual benefit.

With this strategic partnership South Africa and Denmark will strengthen cooperation by promoting bilateral consultation, regular meetings, dialogues and visits.

We will in partnership:

Intensify our dialogue and cooperation in multilateral fora on matters of mutual interest.

Promote inclusive democracy, human rights, gender equality, the role of youth, and transparency and accountability.

Reinforce collaboration on gender equality and jointly fight against the global backlash on women's and girl's rights to decide over their own bodies.

Sustain peace and security as a central issue in our political collaboration.

Strengthen economic ties by encouraging and promoting bilateral trade and investments in priority sectors to support continued economic growth and job creation in both countries.

Expand cooperation to promote green and inclusive growth and a sustainable transition to counter the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Support the ongoing sector cooperation and transformation in the areas of energy, water and sustainable cities, where South Africa and Denmark are making significant progress in their joint collaboration, and jointly work to attract more bilateral and international investments within these sectors.

Strengthen cooperation and trade in the areas of agriculture and food, small businesses and the health sector; and explore and expand cooperation and trade in other relevant sectors such as logistics, blue economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Recognising the importance of the joint collaboration that takes place within science, technology and innovation and in the field of training, education and capacity building, Denmark and South Africa will continue to support and expand this collaboration within the abovementioned sectors with the common goals of joint knowledge and technology development for the benefit of all parties, especially to support a green transition and sustainable development.

Engage and involve the private sector, civil society and the public in the cooperation between South Africa and Denmark.

Support people-to-people encounters to promote and exchange culture, arts and friendship.

Ambitious goals and actions will be identified within the areas reflected in this declaration and outlined in an Action Plan that will be worked out and endorsed by both parties.

### Consultations

The consultation mechanisms for the strategic partnership will be as follows:

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet on a regular basis as agreed by the two Parties to discuss issues of mutual priority.

High-level bilateral consultations co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and the Danish counterpart in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark will be held at least once every 24 (twenty-four) months, or at any time deemed necessary by the parties. The meetings will be hosted alternately by South Africa and Denmark.

The high-level bilateral consultations will review and further develop bilateral relations and facilitate bilateral political exchange of views and positions on cooperation between the two countries.

Sectoral working groups of the Strategic Partnership are hereby established as follows: Political, Human Rights, Economic, Environment and Water, and Energy. Other sectoral working groups can be established as and when deemed relevant. The working groups must develop a plan of action and can meet as often as required.

The consultations will monitor and review the implementation of the Plan of Action and existing agreements concluded by the two countries; identify potential and concrete areas for future cooperation; and develop recommendations to advance bilateral relations.

The biennial high-level consultations will produce joint minutes including a status report of the Plan of Action for the strategic partnership.

Together, South Africa and Denmark will join hands in working for a better world of tomorrow built on peace, sustainable development, a green and just transition, and friendship among nations.

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**For the Republic of South Africa**

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**For the Kingdom of Denmark**