

The Downing Street Accord: A United Kingdom-Republic of Korea Global Strategic Partnership

Relations between the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) are at their closest since they were established. Reflecting the next phase of the partnership between our two nations, the UK and the ROK are today signing a new Downing Street Accord to strengthen and deepen our collaboration across security and defence, science and technology, prosperity and trade and energy security. This will ensure that the ties between our countries, our economies and our people are raised to the highest level of strategic ambition, to endure for this century and beyond.

As nations from Europe and Asia, respectively, we intend our partnership to be broad and deep, offering mutual benefit, trust and reciprocity. The ROK and the UK have a shared commitment to democratic principles, the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, the protection and promotion of human rights and gender equality, global economic security, open and fair trade and tackling the climate crisis. Our partnership exemplifies how two liberal, democratic sovereign nations can work together bilaterally, advancing both our national interests and the goals of security and prosperity globally. Moreover, as two agile and dynamic markets with particular strengths in science and technology, and the maritime, financial and services sectors, we will demonstrate the vital role we have to play in shaping a rules-based, resilient global economic order.

We approach this new era in our relationship with deep historical foundations. Our new global strategic partnership, the Downing Street Accord, marks 140 years of diplomatic relations between our nations, as well as the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. During our long bilateral relationship, we have established a robust set of shared values. We have fought alongside each other in defence of the UN Charter and we have worked together to overcome shared global challenges, in support of freedom and democracy.

The Downing Street Accord looks to the future, reflecting the changing nature of national security in the twenty-first century. Our two nations share similar strategic assessments about the challenges we face. The international order that we have sought to defend over the last seventy years is under threat. The ability to innovate and achieve strategic advantage is increasingly central to both our future prosperity and our economic security. We must continue to invest in conventional deterrence and defence, and to adapt our capabilities to meet new challenges.

Yet we are confident that nations like ours are particularly well-placed to adapt to these changes and to protect and promote the interests of our citizens as well as our shared vision of an open and stable international order. As we reach this new high point in our bilateral relations, both nations have already begun to adapt by rethinking our approach to security and prosperity and renewing and reimagining our bilateral and multilateral relations with others. Together, we will use our voices to protect, promote and shape the rules-based international system. To this end, we will cooperate as close partners in multilateral fora including the G20 and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), given the ROK's membership from 2024 to 2025, and strengthen our partnership through the G7, building on the ROK's constructive engagement.

We condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s unlawful nuclear and missile development that poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The DPRK must abandon all its nuclear weapons, any other weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missile programmes and existing nuclear programmes, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The UK supports the objectives of the ROK for a denuclearised, peaceful and prosperous Korean peninsula. We strongly urge the DPRK to immediately cease unlawful and destabilising activities, return to meaningful dialogue and work towards peace. We oppose all forms of arms transfer and related military cooperation between

the DPRK and Russia, and urge the two sides to abide by relevant resolutions. We commit to strengthening cooperation aimed at raising awareness of violations and abuses of human rights, and convincing the DPRK to respect and observe human rights. We support a unified Korean Peninsula that is free and at peace.

We remain united in condemning Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine and share a common interest in upholding the UN Charter, and the territorial integrity of member states. The continuing war undermines food and energy security, which is essential for global prosperity; we call on Russia to immediately cease its targeted attacks on Ukrainian grain supplies. We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine and are committed to supporting Ukraine's efforts to recover and rebuild. We recognise that private investment will be essential for Ukraine's recovery and unlocking its economic potential, and that our respective private sectors are well placed to support the reconstruction process. We will work together to support an open and stable international order, based on the UN Charter and international law. We will strive for openness and transparency in the Indo-Pacific. We emphasise that our basic positions on Taiwan remain unchanged. Peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is an indispensable element in the security and prosperity of the international community. Given the serious nature of the situation in the East and South China Seas, we strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the region. We reiterate our firm commitment to international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

We strongly condemn the abhorrent terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October, which cannot be justified under any circumstances. All parties to conflicts must adhere to their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We express deep concern at the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and its grave impact on the civilian population. The UK and the ROK remain committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We share a clear longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process: we support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. We wish to underline the need to work together and avoid any further spread of conflict, as well as prioritising the protection of civilians, and provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need in Gaza.

This new Downing Street Accord is a political document, which builds on the UK-ROK Bilateral Framework for Closer Cooperation and represents our shared understanding to implement its ambition with a strategic, future-facing focus:

Firstly, we will work to strengthen an open and resilient international order. We commit to deepening our cooperation on security issues to address the geopolitical environment and uphold a resilient international order that fosters regional and global stability. We will strengthen bilateral defence cooperation by working together to sign a joint Defence Memorandum of Understanding following the State Visit.

Secondly, we will work together to promote a rules-based economic order and address risks and vulnerabilities to our long-term prosperity and security. Through collaboration, we will shape the future frontiers of the world's economy across global principles, standards and regulations. We will build capacity and capability in emerging technologies and data across academia, industry and government. We will extend, deepen and enhance our bilateral trade and investment ties, unlocking existing market access barriers and also emphasising future priority and high-technology sectors, including AI and semiconductors.

Finally, recognising our shared responsibilities, we will work together to deliver a sustainable future, built on clean and secure energy, as well as resilient critical minerals supply chains that power our innovative economies. Through collaboration between governments and industry, we can overcome emerging challenges to be stronger and more resilient to the shocks and challenges we face geopolitically, while protecting our environment. We commit to putting the rights of women and girls at the centre of our bilateral cooperation to promote a safer, more equitable and prosperous world. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to accelerating our work together on inclusive growth, climate change and gender equality through our Strategic Development Partnership.

Rishi Sunak
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Yoon Suk Yeol
President of the Republic of Korea

Recognising our determination to ensure our partnership delivers our ambition, we commit to the following:

1. Strengthening an open and resilient international order

We must deepen our defence and security ties to promote peace and stability, and strengthen global and regional resilience, including by consulting each other on important regional and global security issues. Furthermore, we will establish a new ROK-UK Foreign and Defence Ministerial 2+2 Meeting that will enhance cooperation in addressing regional and global challenges to peace and security, and consider measures in response. Together, we will:

- Work together to sign a UK-ROK defence cooperation Memorandum of Understanding to develop a comprehensive institutional framework for deeper UK-ROK defence cooperation.
- Commit to further bilateral exercises to increase interoperability between our armed forces.
- Pursue a defence partnership for joint defence equipment capability development, including through research and development programmes, to ensure our armed forces can meet the evolving threat landscape.
- Develop a refreshed industrial research and development initiative including intensified UK-ROK defence industry dialogues that lead to a joint defence export Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identifying priority markets.
- Conduct joint UK-ROK sanctions enforcement patrols against DPRK, to strengthen and support UNSC resolutions to limit funding to DPRK's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.
- Establish a UK-ROK Strategic Cyber Partnership, focused on developing key capabilities and closer coordination to counter and deter cyber threats, and build resilience, including by strengthening collaboration with industry.
- Share maritime security related information and explore the possibility of ROK's participation in the UK's Maritime Domain Awareness Programme to tackle maritime threats in the Indo-Pacific region more efficiently.
- Work together to defend democracy in both of our countries and internationally, including through a senior official-led dialogue, to identify and respond to issues that undermine our liberal democracies; and cooperation on the third Summit for Democracy.

2. Pursuing prosperity, growth and security in our economies

To strengthen both our own and global economic security, build technology partnerships, diversify our supply chains and enhance cooperation among trusted partners, we will:

- Revitalise the 1985 UK-ROK Treaty on Science and Technology, through an Implementation Arrangement, to elevate our science and technology partnership, creating a framework to promote collaborative research and development, boosting innovation and commercialisation, and industrial and business cooperation in critical technologies and sectors, and coordination on governance issues.
- Welcome the launch of the ROK-UK Digital Partnership, which will foster collaboration across shared priorities, including telecoms supply chain diversification, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.
- Recognise the need for global norms and technical standards that promote innovation in digital technology, including artificial intelligence, while promoting our shared values and minimising risks. Building on this shared understanding, we intend to continue discussions on matters of common interest, involving norms and technical standards including advancing AI safety, closing the digital

divide, addressing digital literacy, providing citizen-centric digital government services, creating a sustainable digital ecosystem.

- Deepen collaboration on semiconductors. We will work together to improve the resilience of semiconductor supply chains through both bilateral activities and cooperation in multilateral fora. This will be underpinned by commitments set out under the UK-ROK Framework for Semiconductor Cooperation, which will strengthen cooperation in this sector.
- Undertake to deepen collaboration on the responsible military use of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. In that regard, the UK welcomes the ROK hosting REAIM in Seoul in 2024 and will explore opportunities to provide support. Our goal is to enhance international security. The use of AI in the military domain should always be in accordance with international humanitarian law. We are committed to working together to maximise benefits and address risks that emerging and disruptive technologies could bring about, as well as advancing norms and principles of responsible use. We will endeavour to strengthen arms control and non-proliferation.
- Welcome the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Space Cooperation between the UK and the ROK. This MOU will cultivate a closer partnership on Space matters, marking a key milestone in our relationship on Space.
- Building on the continued scientific and research engagements of the two countries, look forward to ROK's potential opportunity to sign a Cooperation Agreement on the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).
- Contribute to sustainable human and economic development, by addressing global challenges and exploring unknown areas. We recognise the importance of increased cooperation across the broad spectrum of research and innovation, from fundamental science to business innovation. We will strengthen research and innovation cooperation between the two countries, including through joint research and personnel exchanges.
- Recognise the significance of quantum technology, a critical innovation enabler in the industry and security environments, and actively respond to the rapidly changing technological landscape through various measures, talent exchanges and standardisation efforts.
- Welcome the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on digital government cooperation between the UK and the ROK. This Memorandum of Understanding will be the fundamental platform for the discussion regarding more effective and efficient public sector digital transformation which is essential for the prosperity and growth of our economies.
- Explore opportunities for cooperation on engineering biology – a transformative emerging technology – such as closer research collaboration, sharing of best practices in responsible innovation, and promoting pro-growth norms in the global bio economy.
- Advance our shared vision for the trusted use of artificial intelligence, and use our Digital Partnership to expand our partnership in artificial intelligence, including through joint research, policy sharing, and establishment of a civil cooperation network. The UK and the ROK will also endeavour to collaborate on the development of international governance on artificial intelligence through multilateral fora, including through co-hosting a mini, virtual Artificial Intelligence Safety Summit.
- Recognise the importance of interoperability and supplier diversity in building a robust digital infrastructure, laying a solid foundation for the digital economy. We will facilitate bilateral and multilateral R&D collaboration and partnership between our countries' industry and academia.
- Promote the need for strong international partnerships to support and strengthen the rules-based international trading system. We are committed to this goal and to the importance of free and fair competition to promote global trade and opportunities for our businesses. We commit to pursuing trade policies which are non-discriminatory and compatible with the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework, and which encourage predictability in our trading relationships. We respect the vital role played by the WTO in free, fair, rules-based international trade. We will raise our voices

jointly to uphold the principles of rules-based free trade to advance global trade rules that are fit for the 21st century.

- Following the completion of all necessary domestic procedures on each side, open negotiations to strengthen our Free Trade Agreement (FTA), to improve and expand on existing commitments, including through ambitious commitments in areas where trade policy has evolved since the original FTA was signed. This modernisation of the FTA is also expected to reflect the importance of emerging trade agendas such as supply chain resilience, digital economy, and energy cooperation. Relevant UK and ROK Ministers commit to launching upgrade negotiations in November 2023.
- Commit to work collaboratively to overcome market access barriers in a broad range of areas, as part of the FTA and other wider bilateral agreements and arrangements.
- Complementing and linked to FTA arrangements, commit to annual high-level meetings between the UK's Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and ROK's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) to enhance dialogue and further strengthen high level UK-ROK collaboration on strategic opportunities and challenges of mutual interest.
- Establish the UK-ROK Economic and Financial Dialogue between HM Treasury and ROK's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF) by the end of 2024 with an ambition to ensure economic prosperity of both our nations by deepening cooperation and sharing of information in areas such as macroeconomic stability, fiscal policy, financial markets, economic security and international financial issues.
- Establish an investment cooperation channel by the end of 2024 between the UK's Department for Business and Trade and ROK's Ministry of Economy and Finance, including an annual meeting of strategic investors under a Government-to-Government framework, to further enhance bilateral economic links and encourage mutual investment between the UK and the ROK.
- Establish the UK-ROK Supply Chains Dialogue by the end of 2023 with an ambition to ensure cross-government exchanges and cooperation to promote resilience of critical supply chains, essential for economic activity and security, including for materials, parts and equipment for cutting-edge technologies, essential medical products, energy, and critical mineral resources.
- Strengthen our positions as global science and technology superpowers, supporting high-potential companies to invest in each other's tech sectors, driving innovation and research and development partnerships.
- Strengthen work towards signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) for ROK-UK cooperation in the maritime sector. Such an arrangement would strengthen our bilateral cooperation allowing both our nations to work closely together on major maritime issues.
- Sign the UK-ROK Customs Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance. This will support our common objectives of facilitating legitimate trade and commercial opportunities, and tackling serious and organised crime through effective customs enforcement.
- Recognising the shared strengths of our respective creative sectors (film, television, music, video games, advertising, design and designer fashion, publishing, architecture, museums and crafts), deepen business exchanges and official working level trade cooperation exchanges in these dynamic sectors.
- Recognising our respective strengths in education and skills, deepen business exchanges in this sector.
- Work together to boost people-to-people ties between our younger generations. We appreciate the active collaboration and valuable support of our two governments to facilitate those participating in our Youth Mobility Scheme and Working Holiday Programme. We will endeavour to generate further momentum for this initiative.

3. Delivering a sustainable, secure and resilient future

Together, we will protect our people and our planet, and we will deepen our commitment to keeping a limit of a 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise within reach and achieving net zero by 2050, in line with the trajectories set out in the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Climate Pact. We will commit to holistically addressing energy security, the climate crisis, and risks to the supply of affordable, clean energy. To achieve this, we will:

- Sign a new UK-ROK Clean Energy Partnership to drive this cooperation – with the accelerated deployment of clean energy, particularly offshore wind, and civil nuclear, central to our ambition. We will share expertise and experience, collaborate on the setting of standards and regulations, and build business partnerships to accelerate the deployment of clean energies in both countries and in third countries.
- Convene an annual UK-ROK Clean Energy high-level meeting, enabling policymakers and industry CEOs to review opportunities for reciprocal trade and investment partnerships in third countries. This will be underpinned by senior official dialogues and new/refreshed MOUs covering:
 - o Offshore wind: supporting both the UK and the ROK to achieve respective 2030 deployment ambitions, energy security and underpinning economic growth. Sharing lessons learnt, addressing the barriers to deployment, and identifying opportunities for construction and sustainable supply chain development and enabling business partnerships through investment. Signing an MOU on offshore wind and committing to building a mutually beneficial relationship to accelerate the scale and speed at which fixed and floating offshore wind is deployed in the UK, the ROK and third countries, delivering for economic growth for both countries, and shoring up energy security.
 - o Civil nuclear: recognising the global need to deploy nuclear to combat climate change, and the need for diversifying nuclear supply-chains, both sides will seek to maintain and develop the broadest possible relationship, including on: strengthening nuclear fuel supply chains; safety, security and non-proliferation; decommissioning; and the development of gigawatt-scale nuclear reactors, small modular reactors, and other advanced nuclear reactors, in both countries and in third country markets underpinned by the MOUs signed between the two countries in November 2023.
 - o Underpinning all aspects of the Clean Energy Partnership will be a commitment by the UK and the ROK to accelerate the global transition to net zero.
 - o The UK and the ROK reaffirm to implement existing phase-out commitments of domestic unabated coal power generation and will endeavour to accelerate the transition.
 - o The UK and the ROK commit to intensify our cooperation to accelerate the decarbonisation of our energy systems to achieve net zero by 2050 and to take action on global sectoral ambitions including tripling nuclear energy, tripling of global renewables capacity, and doubling of global energy efficiency improvements. We acknowledge that initiatives such as the Breakthrough Agenda and Carbon Free Energy Initiative can play a role in achieving these shared goals.
 - o The UK and the ROK will establish a Critical Minerals Joint Working Group. This will explore working towards an MOU to enhance research and innovation collaboration, encouraging partnerships between companies, industrial bodies, and academic institutions, and information sharing and cooperation on international standards.
- Continue to work closely together to promote climate ambition in multilateral fora including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). We welcome the adoption by ICAO Assembly, of a long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the recently updated IMO Greenhouse Gas Strategy which sets a common ambition to reach net zero GHG emissions by or

around, (i.e. close to) 2050. The UK and the ROK commit to working in collaboration to aid decarbonisation of these vital sectors, including through complementary initiatives such as the International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition.

- Commit to working together through international fora to meet our global environmental targets and shared interests, protect and restore nature and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. This includes working effectively together to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to deliver global targets and goals by 2030.
- Work together to deliver on the vision set out within the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration (GLD) on Forests and Land-use – working collaboratively through the Forests & Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP) and LEAF Coalition.
- Remain committed to helping developing nations reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, as demonstrated through our substantially enhanced contributions to the Green Climate Fund's second replenishment in 2023.
- Enhance cooperation to help achieve commercially viable fusion energy. This may include collaborating on research and development projects, activities that support fusion power plant development, coordinating on related policies where appropriate (such as fusion regulations and standards), and supporting the development of the supply chain.
- Partner to help countries make progress, secure investment, build resilient economies and institutions, and unleash their population's potential. Cooperation will be guided by our commitments, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Paris Agreement.
- Commit to a Strategic Development Partnership to strengthen our cooperation. A UK-ROK Development Cooperation Policy Dialogue will be held annually at senior official level where progress will be underpinned by an action plan, developed and jointly decided upon during the upcoming Development Cooperation Policy Dialogue. This partnership will deepen cooperation in digital transformation, climate and environment, health, private sector engagement, development finance, and women and girls.
- Deepen cooperation between the British Investment Partnerships and ROK's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to pursue new collaboration in 2024.
- Strengthen our respective roles as founding Members of the Global Green Growth Institute in supporting developing countries' efforts to accelerate green transition and tackle climate change, through increased financial contributions to the Institute.