

JOINT DECLARATION

ON THE NORWEGIAN-UK STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

We, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the UK”) and the Kingdom of Norway (“Norway”), neighbouring countries and major powers in the North Sea, bound by geography, history and shared democratic values, are committed to working together to promote our common interests.

Alongside our wider cooperation, underpinned by the ‘Joint Declaration to Promote Bilateral Strategic Cooperation’, signed between our countries in 2022, we are determined to both build on our longstanding security and defence cooperation, and also refocus our partnership on energy and the green transition, as areas key to our citizens’ security and shared growth. As allies and partners across the North Sea we also have a shared commitment to and responsibility for High North and Euro-Atlantic stability and security.

As global partners we reiterate our commitment as likeminded nations to stand united in our support for freedom and democracy, multilateralism, an open and stable rules-based international order, and the rule of law. We will continue to cooperate closely to support Ukraine; contribute to building lasting peace in the Middle East; and respond to the geopolitical realities that challenge the prosperity and security of our peoples and of the wider Euro-Atlantic area. As committed development partners and leading donor countries we will strengthen our coordination on global challenges, including climate change, humanitarian and development needs, and the upstream causes of irregular migration.

On defence and security, we will build on our deep strategic and operational cooperation to create an even closer partnership. We will further deepen our bilateral defence cooperation across all domains, as well as our defence industrial cooperation. We will ensure this is underpinned by structures that promote even greater interoperability between our armed forces, a shared understanding of threats, and joint capability development. We will continue working closely together within NATO, as the cornerstone of transatlantic and European security, and in the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), amongst other multilateral forums. The UK and Norway will continue to invest in our unique, strategic cooperation in the High North, the North Atlantic and beyond. We will enhance our deterrence and resilience capabilities to counter malign hybrid activity, including interference in democratic processes, and protect against espionage, foreign information manipulation and interference, disinformation, malicious cyber activities, hostile foreign direct investment, and physical threats to people. We will bolster our collaboration to address these challenges by sharing information and best practices bilaterally and regionally.

We recognise that as major powers in the North Sea, we share a special responsibility in the development, assurance and protection of offshore and subsea critical national infrastructure (CNI), particularly in the energy sector. We will continue to strengthen our existing partnerships bilaterally and across the North Sea to enhance our situational awareness and ensure infrastructure is resilient against a range of threats, including deliberate disruptions.

On energy and climate, we reaffirm our respective climate commitments. We agree that high and aligned ambitions, collective effort, and urgent action are needed to speed up the transition to climate neutrality, support green growth in our economies, drive sustainable growth and investment, and maintain energy security in the region. This includes facilitating

both efficient markets and continued engagement by UK and Norwegian companies across our border. We will reinforce our cooperation by establishing a Green Industrial Partnership and by continuing to build upon our established energy cooperation, such as on CCS. This will enhance cooperation on future clean energy systems, on joint support for international climate goals, including through diplomatic engagement with third countries, and on collaboration on clean energy supply chains, skills, and global raw materials markets to ensure we create the conditions needed to meet common ambitions.

Noting our mutual aim for economic growth and prosperity, we will continue working closely together on trade, building on an already strong relationship, to find further opportunities for growth. We will use our existing structures under the UK-EEA/EFTA Free Trade Agreement and build relationships across our governments on wider areas of trade policy where we find alignment. The UK and Norway share a common interest in defending and developing a rules-based multilateral trade regime.

We also acknowledge the importance of collaborative efforts in skills, education, and knowledge-based development as essential components of a resilient and innovative economy, ensuring that our industries remain equipped to meet future challenges.

The scope and priorities for this work shall be reviewed by annual senior official and ministerial meetings. As such, we commit to enhanced bilateral dialogues on these and other topics, renew the importance of our established senior officials' annual Energy Dialogue, and to continue our strategic and operational cooperation, including through existing mechanisms.

Signed in Øygarden, Norway on the 16th of December 2024, in duplicate.

**The Prime Minister of The United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland**

**The Prime Minister of The Kingdom of
Norway**

Keir Starmer

Jonas Gahr Støre