

**Joint Declaration on Strategic Cooperation**  
**between**  
**the Government of the Republic of Austria**  
**and**  
**the Government of New Zealand**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand have an enduring partnership based on shared values, common interests, and close people-to-people ties.

Our countries work closely together - bilaterally, multilaterally and within the framework of the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and New Zealand - to promote peace and security, democracy, human rights, the rules-based international order, free and open trade, and economic prosperity.

Reflecting on our commitment to foster a safer, more stable, prosperous and sustainable world – the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will enhance our partnership by focusing on cooperation in the following areas.

**Peace and security**

Recognising the increasing geostrategic challenges our countries face, the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will explore opportunities to cooperate to support the rules-based international order, the multilateral system, in particular in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and the promotion of global peace and prosperity including in the Indo-Pacific.

Reflecting the strong ongoing cooperation on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will continue to work together to support and strengthen the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We support the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and all efforts to strengthen the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and new and legally-binding international rules to address the challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems.

We will continue our shared work to counter terrorism and violent extremism, including through the Christchurch Call to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online. The Call seeks to ensure the safety of our people while protecting and promoting human rights and a free, open, secure internet.

### **Democracy, human rights and the rule of law**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand reaffirm their commitment to promote and protect democratic principles and values, human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the rule of law and the rules-based international order through cooperation in multilateral fora, and through appropriate regional and bilateral mechanisms.

We will explore new opportunities for international collaboration to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms including: gender equality, the empowerment of women, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons, the elimination of arbitrary detention, and abolition of the death penalty.

## **Trade and investment**

Recognising that our ongoing peace and prosperity depends on open markets and an effective rules-based international trading system, we will continue to work together to advocate for free, inclusive and sustainable trade, and strong regional and international institutions and rules that support this.

We look forward to the early ratification of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement (NZ-EU FTA), and to working together to take advantage of the opportunities this high quality agreement will provide for our economies.

We will work together to identify opportunities to deepen our economic partnership, and facilitate bilateral trade and investment flows.

Building on the NZ-EU FTA, the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will seek to deepen trade and economic ties in areas such as tourism, energy, agriculture, green technology, health sciences, viticulture and industry, in a manner that promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

## **Research, science and innovation**

Recognising the importance of research, science and innovation as avenues for deepening our partnership, the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will explore opportunities for collaboration in new areas of mutual interest.

Building on existing research, science and innovation linkages, the Government of New Zealand welcomes the Government of the Republic of

Austria's support for becoming an Associate Country of *Horizon Europe* as a further avenue for enhancing collaboration between our research communities, and to address common challenges including climate change, biodiversity, food security and health.

### **Climate change and sustainability**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand are committed to playing their part to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. They express grave concern that those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (and have significant capacity constraints), such as the least developed countries and small island developing States, are already experiencing an increase in such effects.

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of New Zealand will continue to cooperate on climate action, such as under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and through the High Ambition Coalition (HAC).

We will explore targeted cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy and new technologies and innovative solutions to support our respective green transitions to a low emissions future.

## Reconnecting

Austria and New Zealand enjoy close people-to-people, educational, and cultural ties.

As we rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and reconnect, we look forward to welcoming tourists, students, business people and other visitors from each other's countries. In light of this, we will explore ways of promoting mobility for schooling, tertiary and vocational study, and work abroad opportunities for young people including the consideration of changes to Working Holiday Scheme visas as part of future work on New Zealand's Working Holiday Scheme settings.

Signed in Wellington, New Zealand on 5 May, 2023.


For the Government of  
the Republic of Austria



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Martin Kocher  
Federal Minister of Labour and  
Economy

For the Government of  
New Zealand



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Damien O'Connor  
Minister for Trade and Export  
Growth