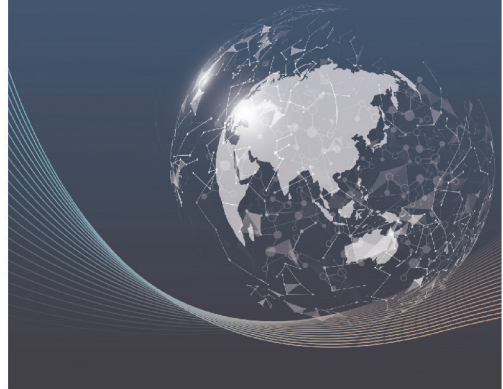


The Action Plan
for a Free, Peaceful,
and Prosperous **Indo-Pacific**



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I **Background: Establishing the Action Plan**

On December 28, 2022, the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) announced the Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific, the nation's inaugural comprehensive regional strategy. The strategy demonstrates the ROK government's commitment to contribute to the freedom, peace, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific as a "global pivotal state," acknowledging the region's increasing strategic significance. To put this commitment into action, nine core lines of effort have been established and a government-wide action plan has been prepared after much interagency consultation.

Throughout the process of formulating an action plan, the ROK government held extensive strategic consultations with key partner countries. This involved various forms of engagement to explore concrete areas of cooperation. Additionally, the ROK government actively sought the opinions of partner countries, including members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Pacific Island countries, while incorporating the insights of a diverse range of domestic and international experts into its deliberations.

In announcing the Action Plan, the ROK government reaffirms its commitment to enhancing its engagement and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The plan presents the government's clear foreign policy direction, aiming to increase the consistency and predictability of its diplomacy. It also provides a roadmap for the systematic implementation of the Indo-Pacific Strategy at the government level.

Based on this Action Plan, the ROK government will publish an annual report to track progress in each of the nine core lines of effort, including high-level diplomatic activities. To facilitate this process, the government will appoint a high-level official exclusively dedicated to overseeing the government-wide implementation of the strategy. The official will monitor the progress made in implementing the action plan and also represent the government at external meetings and discussions concerning the Indo-Pacific Strategy.



Direction of the Action Plan

01. Freedom

To establish a regional order based on norms and rules, the ROK government will strengthen solidarity in the Indo-Pacific region by establishing strategic consultative mechanisms with countries worldwide. Firstly, the ROK government will launch and regularize the Indo-Pacific High-Level Forum to engage in vibrant discussions regarding the future of the region and its order. Collaboration with regional organizations and countries both within and beyond will be the key aspect of these discussions. Furthermore, the ROK government will establish platforms for bilateral and minilateral discussions to address diverse issues within the region and explore concrete avenues of cooperation with key nations. This includes the annual ROK-U.S.-Japan Indo-Pacific Dialogue, as agreed during the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David.

As a vibrant democracy, the ROK will continue to promote democracy in the region by hosting the third Summit for Democracy in 2024, building on the success of the second summit in 2023, of which the ROK was a co-host. At the same time, the ROK will remain dedicated to collaborating with the international community to improve the human rights situation in North Korea. The ROK also aims to strengthen cooperation with partner countries to counteract foreign disinformation campaigns that compromise the reliability of information and undermine the foundation of democracy.

Moreover, the ROK aspires to contribute to the establishment of a stable and equitable regional order by actively engaging in areas that require new norms, such as emerging technology, space security, climate change, the environment, health, and multilateral trade. To this end, following its co-hosting of the inaugural Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain Summit, the ROK is planning to host the second conference in 2024. Additionally, the ROK will fulfill its role and responsibilities befitting its growing leadership in the regional and international community by bolstering diplomatic infrastructure, including diplomatic missions and human resources realignment, both regionally and globally.

02. Peace

The ROK government aims to strengthen comprehensive security cooperation, encompassing maritime security, to reduce conflicts and realize regional peace. To effectively address situations arising in the vast maritime areas connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, the ROK government

plans to establish a maritime domain awareness (MDA) platform and lay the foundation for information-sharing among regional countries. Specifically, the government aims to bolster cooperation in maritime law enforcement by fostering exchanges between relevant agencies and supporting capacity-building for Southeast Asian and Pacific Island countries. These efforts will contribute to combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

Concurrently, the government aims to address the significant challenges posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and pave the way for sustainable peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and the Indo-Pacific region. Building upon the Audacious Initiative, efforts will be directed toward creating a strategic environment in which North Korea has no choice but to return to denuclearization talks. To achieve this, the ROK government will focus on increasing its deterrence capability by leveraging the ROK-U.S. alliance and ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral security cooperation, while enhancing international collaboration to bolster the effectiveness of the sanctions imposed on North Korea. Further, the ROK government will strive to gain wider support from the international community for "a unified Korean Peninsula that is free and at peace," as stated in the Spirit of Camp David announced in August 2023.

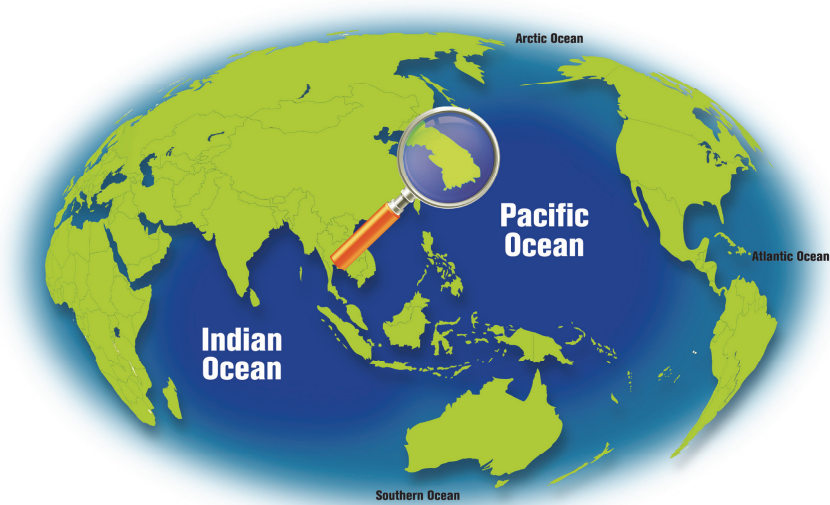
03. Prosperity

With the goal of putting its official development assistance (ODA) volume on par with those of the world's top ten donor countries, the ROK government aims to strengthen "contributive diplomacy" by engaging in tailored development cooperation partnerships that will serve to meet the on-the-ground demands in key areas such as digital transformation, education, and climate change. The government will also scale up its investment in infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific. Specifically targeting ASEAN countries, the ROK government aims to expand its support in five key priority areas — digital transformation, education, climate change, smart cities, and healthcare — combining the demands of partner countries with its strengths. Furthermore, the government will double its ODA to the Pacific Island countries by 2027 and expand, renew, or conclude Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) Framework Agreements with key partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The ROK government will also seek signing Economic Development Promotion Fund (EDPF) Cooperation Agreements with Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, offering partner countries more financing options for their infrastructure development.

The ROK government will expand investment for the sustainable development of the Indo-Pacific and establish or expand cooperation funds dedicated to facilitating regional cooperation in the

Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the government will increase its cooperation with partners to stabilize and diversify the supply chains of essential goods. Moreover, the government is planning on increasing its engagement in reshaping trade frameworks, including active participation in negotiations within the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and discussions on digital economic norms.

Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific





Action Plan : Objectives and Initiatives

■ Nine Core Lines of Effort

01

Build a Regional Order Based on Norms and Rules

1. Strengthening communication with global partners to build a rules-based regional order in the Indo-Pacific
2. Institutionalizing ROK-U.S.-Japan cooperation
3. Expanding cooperation with minilateral entities
4. Supporting the UN's role in safeguarding the international order



02

Cooperate to Promote the Rule of Law and Human Rights

1. Joining regional initiatives to promote the rule of law
2. Strengthening cooperation on democracy and human rights
3. Supporting capacity-building initiatives on governance and election management



03

Strengthen Non-Proliferation and Counter-Terrorism Efforts across the Region

1. Pursuing North Korea's complete denuclearization based on the Audacious Initiative
2. Strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance and ROK-U.S.-Japan security cooperation
3. Ensuring the full implementation and enhancing the effectiveness of sanctions on North Korea
4. Revitalizing the regional counter-terrorism discourse and activities
5. Participating in dialogues and collaborations to establish international space security norms
6. Revitalizing the discussions and activities on regional non-proliferation



04

Expand Comprehensive Security Cooperation

1. Combating piracy and ensuring safety of navigation
2. Cooperating in real-time maritime surveillance and information sharing
3. Expanding joint maritime exercises
4. Cooperating in enforcing maritime law and combating IUU fishing
5. Strengthening bilateral and multilateral cybersecurity cooperation
6. Supporting healthcare capacity-building in developing countries
7. Strengthening the global public health system
8. Expanding cooperation on transnational security challenges with NATO
9. Strengthening regional defense capabilities



05

Build Economic Security Networks

1. Expanding regional economic security networks
2. Cooperating to stabilize essential supply chains
3. Leading the regional discussion on free trade norms and participating in IPEF negotiations
4. Leading the global norm-setting discussion on digital economy
5. Successfully hosting the 2025 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
6. Expanding collaborative efforts to establish infrastructure networks



06

Strengthen Cooperation in Critical Domains of Science and Technology and Close the Digital Gap

1. Participating in the network of leading nations in advanced sciences and technologies
2. Strengthening regional technological cooperation, including international R&D collaboration
3. Closing the regional digital gap
4. Strengthening international cooperation on digital transformation
5. Collaborating for an open and transparent telecommunications network



07

Lead Regional Cooperation on Climate Change and Energy Security

1. Engaging in cooperation on climate change aiming for regional carbon neutrality
2. Increasing collaboration to stabilize the energy market in the Indo-Pacific
3. Providing support for the expansion of eco-friendly energy sources
4. Participating in multi-level cooperation on climate change response
5. Strengthening cooperation on disaster risk reduction
6. Building regional capacity for nuclear safety and security in collaboration with the international community, including the IAEA
7. Actively engaging in the development, infrastructure, and regulatory discussions concerning SMRs
8. Building an ecosystem for the regional nuclear energy market



08

Engage in "Contributive Diplomacy" through Tailored Development Cooperation Partnerships

1. Pursuing tailored development cooperation projects in the key areas of the region
2. Expanding ODA for the Indo-Pacific by increasing its volume to the level of the world's top ten donor countries
3. Forging strategic cooperation with major donor countries
4. Fostering innovative cooperation with the private sector
5. Managing the cooperation funds for the four regions in the Indo-Pacific



09

Promote Mutual Understanding and Exchanges

1. Invigorating exchanges between future generations
2. Strengthening academic exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding
3. Diversifying cultural exchanges and expanding two-way interaction
4. Enhancing transparency in information distribution to secure trust
5. Strengthening the diplomatic infrastructure
6. Enhancing human networks



01 Build a Regional Order Based on Norms and Rules

The ROK will diversify its strategic communication channels to discuss a wide range of regional and global issues with partner countries both within and outside the Indo-Pacific. In order to strengthen the regional order based on norms and rules, the ROK will engage in various forms of unilateral cooperation including close cooperation with the U.S. and Japan. The ROK is also committed to making constructive contributions in the multilateral arena, including active involvement in the United Nations (UN).

1.1. Strengthening communication with global partners to build a rules-based regional order in the Indo-Pacific

In pursuit of a regional order based on norms and rules, the ROK government will enhance communication at all levels with countries that share values and a vision for the region, as well as regional organizations, think tanks, and stakeholders around the globe. To this end, the government will

- launch an annual high-level forum on the Indo-Pacific;
- establish and operate consultative groups with key nations, including the Trilateral ROK-U.S.-Japan Indo-Pacific Dialogue; and
- actively engage in multilateral consultative entities and strengthen cooperation with regional organizations, including ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the African Union (AU).

1.2. Institutionalizing ROK-U.S.-Japan cooperation

The ROK is committed to institutionalizing its trilateral cooperation with the U.S. and Japan, with whom it shares the values of liberal democracy and human rights. To this end, the ROK government will

- pursue annual ROK-U.S.-Japan Trilateral Leaders' Summits;
- hold annual ROK-U.S.-Japan Foreign Ministers' and National Security Advisors' Meetings;
- hold ROK-U.S.-Japan Vice Foreign Ministerial Meetings;
- advance cooperation among ROK-U.S.-Japan diplomatic missions abroad; and
- implement the Commitment to Consult (C2C) with the U.S. and Japan to coordinate responses to regional challenges, provocations, and threats.

1.3. Expanding cooperation with minilateral entities

The ROK government will activate various minilateral consultative bodies to add momentum for greater regional cooperation. To this end, the government will

- pursue ROK-Japan-Australia-New Zealand high-level meetings;
- organize ROK-U.S.-Australia working-level meetings and high-level consultations to explore potential areas of cooperation with countries in the North Pacific; and
- seek functional cooperation with the Quad in areas such as advanced technologies, health, and climate change.

1.4. Supporting the UN's role in safeguarding the international order

The ROK government will continue to support the role of the UN in safeguarding the rules-based international order and make constructive contributions by taking up an active role in the multilateral fora. To this end, the government will

- contribute to maintaining and enhancing international peace and security, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2024-25 term;
- actively engage in the UN General Assembly and relevant meetings; and
- participate in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) and fulfill the pledges at UN Peacekeeping Ministerials.

02 Cooperate to Promote the Rule of Law and Human Rights

In addition to actively promoting the rule of law in the region and leading the process of formulating international law and norms, the ROK will strengthen cooperation in fostering democracy and human rights by strengthening the regional governance capacity and hosting the Summit for Democracy.

2.1. Joining regional initiatives to promote the rule of law

The ROK government will deepen its collaboration with key domestic and international organizations related to international law and contribute to international norm-setting so as to join in the efforts to promote the rule of law within the region. To this end, the government will

- enhance communication with key partners within and outside the Indo-Pacific region through the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and the Council of Europe's Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI);

- work with international organizations and courts related to international law, such as the UN, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the International Seabed Authority (ISA), to contribute to the shaping of a rules-based international order;
- strengthen ongoing cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and participate in the development of international norms at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH); and
- make efforts to facilitate the implementation of international humanitarian law by supporting the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and holding meetings of the International Humanitarian Law Committee of the ROK.

2.2. Strengthening cooperation on democracy and human rights

As a model democracy, the ROK will contribute to enhancing solidarity and cooperation among democracies in the region. The ROK government will join in the efforts to promote human rights in the region, including addressing North Korean human rights issues and preventing conflict-related sexual violence. To this end, the government will

- host the third Summit for Democracy;
- implement development cooperation projects worth \$100 million to enhance democracy in Indo-Pacific countries;
- promote the Action with Women and Peace Initiative;
- launch the ROK-U.S.-Japan Women's Empowerment Initiative; and
- convene international forums on the North Korean human rights situation and facilitate the activities of the Ambassador-at-large for International Cooperation on North Korean Human Rights.

2.3. Supporting capacity-building initiatives on governance and election management

The ROK government will continue its efforts to lay a firm foundation for democracy within the region by supporting the enhancement of democratic governance capabilities, characterized by responsibility and transparency. To this end, the government will

- assist in anti-corruption capacity-building for developing countries by sharing the ROK's anti-corruption policies and systems;

- e.g., the UN Development Programme (UNDP) partnership to share the ROK's "Clean Portal" system and anti-corruption capacity-building training programs
- support democratic development by enhancing the election management capabilities of relevant agencies and facilitating the exchange of election-related knowledge and information;
- strengthen statistical capabilities to ensure transparent and accountable policy decision-making;
 - e.g., carrying out capacity-building projects in Mongolia, Tanzania, and Viet Nam for building statistical capabilities, as well as signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Ethiopia to transfer advanced statistical methods.

03 Strengthen Non-Proliferation and Counter-Terrorism Efforts across the Region

The ROK government will pursue the complete denuclearization of North Korea through the Audacious Initiative. In response to the serious challenge posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile program to the international non-proliferation regime, the ROK will enhance the ROK-U.S. alliance, ROK-U.S.-Japan security cooperation, and the effectiveness of the sanctions against North Korea. In tandem, it will strengthen counterterrorism activities in the region and revive the discussions on space security, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

3.1. Pursuing North Korea's complete denuclearization based on the Audacious Initiative

By expanding international understanding and support for its North Korea and reunification policies, including the Audacious Initiative, the ROK government will create a strategic environment in which North Korea has no choice but to return to the denuclearization talks. To this end, the government will

- hold ROK-U.S. meetings and trilateral meetings with Japan at all levels, including leaders, foreign ministers, and special representatives for North Korean nuclear affairs;
- strengthen ASEAN outreach regarding the situation on the Korean Peninsula and the Audacious Initiative; and
- convene roundtable discussions with diplomatic missions in Korea, such as the Korean Peninsula Club and Peace Club, focusing on North Korea-related issues.

3.2. Strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance and ROK-U.S.-Japan security cooperation

To effectively deter and respond to the escalating North Korea nuclear and missile threats, the ROK will prioritize strengthening both the ROK-U.S. alliance and ROK-U.S.-Japan security cooperation. While upholding the robust combined defense posture based on the ROK-U.S. alliance, the ROK government will concurrently work to further strengthen extended deterrence and enhance trilateral security cooperation. To this end, the government will

- increase ROK-U.S. strategic communication and multi-layered policy coordination, including various types of diplomatic and defense consultative groups;
- strengthen extended deterrence through coordinated, mutually complementary extended deterrence consultative bodies, including the ROK-U.S. Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG) and the Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultative Group (EDSCG);
- discuss follow-up measures regarding the application of the ROK-U.S. alliance across sectors such as space and cyberspace;
- expand the scope and scale of various ROK-U.S. combined exercises;
- conduct high-level policy consultations such as ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral ministerial meetings and operate regular consultative bodies;
- institutionalize ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral exercises through the establishment of a multi-year exercise plan; and
- operationalize ROK-U.S.-Japan real-time sharing of North Korean missile warning data.

3.3. Ensuring the full implementation and enhancing the effectiveness of sanctions on North Korea

The ROK government aims to deter North Korea's nuclear ambitions by reinforcing the effectiveness of sanctions through enhanced international cooperation in blocking its sanctions evasion activities and financing nuclear and missile development. To this end, the government will

- promote information sharing and coordinated démarches among key countries regarding suspected violations of UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea, targeting countries not fully implementing these sanctions;
- monitor and collect evidence of illegal maritime activities by North Korea;
- increase public awareness and strengthen coordination with partners to counter North Korea's illicit cyber activities; and
- strengthen cooperation with international organizations to prevent and respond to North Korea's proliferation financing.

3.4. Revitalizing the regional counter-terrorism discourse and activities

The ROK government will actively participate in the counter-terrorism discussions within the UN and various bilateral or regional cooperation platforms. Collaborating with entities such as the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European Union (EU), the ROK government aims to significantly contribute to strengthening the anti-terrorism capabilities of the Indo-Pacific region. To this end, the government will

- hold bilateral counter-terrorism consultations;
- promote counter-terrorism capacity-building projects with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT);
- promote counter-terrorism cooperation with NATO based on the ROK-NATO Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP);
- promote counter-terrorism exercises and capacity-building with countries within and outside the region; and
- join global initiatives to combat terrorist financing and money laundering by engaging with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).

3.5. Participating in dialogues and collaborations to establish international space security norms

The ROK government will strengthen its role in the international community by cooperating with leading nations in the field of space security and actively engage in the norm-setting discussions on space governance. To this end, the government will

- work with key partners through bilateral and trilateral dialogues including the ROK-U.S. Space Security Dialogue, the ROK-Australia Space Policy Dialogue, and the ROK-U.S.-Japan Space Security Dialogue;
- actively engage in the international discussions on possible norms, rules, and principles related to space security through participation in the Open Ended Working Group on Space Security (OEWG), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), and the Group of Governmental Experts on Prevention of an Arms Race in outer Space (PAROS GGE); and
- secure critical technologies for space environment protection, build infrastructure to enhance space-based environmental monitoring capacity, and cooperate in information sharing with relevant international agencies.

3.6. Revitalizing the discussions and activities on regional non-proliferation

As a model nation for non-proliferation, the ROK aims to support neighboring countries in strengthening their non-proliferation capabilities by fostering relevant collaboration. Through these efforts, the ROK intends to contribute to solidifying non-proliferation norms within the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, by seeking continuous cooperation and support from nations in the region, the ROK aims to address the persistent threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations to the international nonproliferation regime. To this end, the ROK government will

- enhance the regional non-proliferation capacity by strengthening international cooperation through initiatives such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Seoul Workshop and the ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues;
- host bilateral disarmament dialogues with regional partners including the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India; and
- engage in regional outreach activities related to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

04 Expand Comprehensive Security Cooperation

Recognizing the importance of maritime security in the interconnected Indo-Pacific region, the ROK government will actively contribute to safeguarding vital sea lanes and ensuring navigational safety and engage in international discussions to establish a robust MDA system. Additionally, the ROK government will seek coordinated responses to natural disasters and IUU fishing activities through enhanced cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies. To address the complex security challenges of the 21st century, including cyber threats and the public health crisis, the government will expand comprehensive security cooperation with strategic partners both regionally and globally.

4.1. Combatting piracy and ensuring safety of navigation

The ROK government will safeguard critical sea lanes and secure navigation safety in the Indo-Pacific through the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and the deployment of the Cheonghae Unit. To this end, the government will

- enhance cooperation by implementing ReCAAP and providing support to the Information Sharing Center (ISC)*;
- * The ISC serves as the secretariat of ReCAAP.
- promote domestic anti-piracy capacity-building projects with ReCAAP;
- conduct counter-piracy operations and secure sea lines of communication by deploying the Cheonghae Unit;
- conduct maritime security and counter-piracy operations in collaboration with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and the European Union Naval Force Operation ATLANTA (EURO NAVFOR ATLANTA); and
- dispatch liaison officers to the US Indo-Pacific Command (PACOM), the EURO NAVFOR, and the NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

4.2. Cooperating in real-time maritime surveillance and information sharing

The ROK government will establish a maritime domain awareness (MDA) platform and promote cooperation in real-time maritime monitoring and information sharing. To this end, the government will

- develop an MDA platform and enhance information sharing with regional partners by digitizing maritime data and creating an AI-based system for situational awareness assessment and forecasting;
- integrate the maritime information collected and managed by relevant agencies, including the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and the Navy; and
- participate in the Maritime Information Sharing Exercise (MARISX)*.
- * MARISX is a biennial maritime exercise conducted by the Republic of Singapore Navy.

4.3. Expanding joint maritime exercises

The ROK government will participate in key multilateral joint exercises, focusing on enhancing its capacity for combined operations and improving interoperability. To this end, the government will

- strengthen its capacity to conduct combined operations by engaging in major bilateral and multilateral joint exercises in the region, such as the Rim of the Pacific (U.S.), Pacific Dragon (U.S.), Cobra Gold (Thailand), Kamandag (the Philippines), Komodo (Indonesia), and Talisman Sabre (Australia).

4.4. Cooperating in enforcing maritime law and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The ROK government will increase exchanges among maritime security agencies in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen cooperation in maritime law enforcement in order to ensure regional maritime security and support the protection of national sovereignty over marine resources. To this end, the government will

- host the 20th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in 2024;
- facilitate the capacity-building of maritime law enforcement agencies by inviting officials to training programs; and
- implement projects aimed at enhancing capacity to respond to IUU fishing in the region, such as projects on multisensory remote sensing for controlling IUU fishing activities and workshops or training programs for Pacific Island countries, and seek to further expand cooperation, including ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral cooperation to combat IUU fishing in ASEAN.

4.5. Strengthening bilateral and multilateral cybersecurity cooperation

The ROK government will contribute to the development of international cyber norms in order to establish a secure cyberspace based on norms and rules. Additionally, the ROK government will enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation to effectively address transnational threats, as well as bolster the cybersecurity capacities of regional partners. To this end, the government will

- hold bilateral cyber policy consultations with the U.S., Singapore, Australia, and India;
- operate the Cyber Cooperation Working Group (CCWG) to strengthen ROK-U.S. cyber cooperation;
- participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meetings on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Security;
- lead multilateral cooperation initiatives by creating a cyber working group within the Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD) and participating in the Cyber Training and Exercise (CYTREX) of the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus);
- enhance bilateral cyber security partnerships with allies including the United Arab Emirates, Poland, and India;
- actively participate in international cyber defense exercises such as the U.S.-led Cyber Flag exercise;
- enhance the ROK-U.S. cyber threat information sharing system; and

- promote capacity-building in partner countries through the Cybersecurity Alliance for Mutual Progress (CAMP)*, the Asia-Pacific Information Security Center (APISC)** Security Training Course, and the ASEAN Cyber Shield (ACS)***.

* CAMP provides support to its member nations for strengthening their cybersecurity capabilities.

** The APISC conducts operational training for incident response teams in the Asia-Pacific region.

*** The ACS is a program funded by the ROK-ASEAN Cooperation Fund that aims to foster cybersecurity experts in the ASEAN region.

4.6. Supporting healthcare capacity-building in developing countries

As a global leader in public healthcare, including vaccines and bioscience, the ROK will expand its support for partner countries' capacity-building projects in the health sector. To this end, the ROK government will

- host the 2024 ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting;
- promote regional cooperation and capacity-building on public health;
- provide support for health professionals' education and strengthening the research capacity of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences of Fiji National University, enhance the healthcare systems of Pacific Island countries with a focus on non-communicable diseases and integration of digital health solutions, provide support for strengthening the management and operation system of medical devices in Sri Lanka, increase the presence of Korean pharmaceutical companies and medical institutions in Indonesia, and train healthcare personnel in Viet Nam;
- train the healthcare workforce in Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Africa through the Dr. Lee Jong-wook Fellowship Program*; and

* This program carries on the late Dr. Lee Jong-wook's legacy by inviting healthcare workforce from developing countries and train them to increase their competence.

- expand education for bioscience professionals from middle-and low-income countries as a global training hub in biomanufacturing*.

* The ROK was designated by the World Health Organization as the only global training hub in biomanufacturing for enhancing the vaccine self-sufficiency of middle-and low-income countries.

4.7. Strengthening the global public health system

Recognizing the need to strengthen the global health system amid the spread of infectious diseases, the ROK government will continue to actively collaborate with relevant international organizations and regional partners. To this end, the government will

- participate in the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate an international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response;
- participate in the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (WGIHR); and
- strengthen cooperation in responding to and preparing for infectious diseases in Northeast Asia, including discussions among the health ministries of the ROK, Japan, and China on response to future pandemics at the 16th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting.

4.8. Expanding cooperation on transnational security challenges with NATO

As a "partner across the globe" of NATO since 2006, the ROK aims to strengthen its cooperation with the organization on a range of issues. The ROK government is committed to addressing transnational security challenges, including in the areas of cyber defence, non-proliferation, and science and technology. To this end, the government will

- implement the ROK-NATO Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP)*;
 - * As a replacement of the Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme (IPCP), the ITPP systematizes and institutionalizes bilateral cooperation in 11 areas, including nonproliferation, cyber defence, and science and technology.
- fully implement the follow-up measures to the NATO summit including contributions to the NATO Trust Funds; and
- participate in the North Atlantic Council with the Commonwealth of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea (NAC+4).

4.9. Strengthening regional defense capabilities

The ROK government will contribute to establishing stable international relations and regional peace by strengthening regional security capabilities, encompassing both traditional and non-traditional security. By expanding the scope of the defense industry network through reciprocal cooperation in defense research and development, industrial cooperation, capability acquisition, and weapons systems acquisition, the ROK government will contribute to advancing the defense capability of the Indo-Pacific. To this end, the government will

- promote tailored defense industry cooperation with the regional partners seeking capacity improvement in order to enhance regional peace and stability and
- contribute to maritime security capacity-building in the region by providing retired vessels and training programs on the utilization of naval equipment.

Recognizing the importance of stable and predictable economic relations in achieving regional prosperity, the ROK government is committed to intensifying consultations and collaboration on economic security within the region, with the aim of ensuring stable supply chains of critical goods and materials. The government will further strive to create an open, dynamic, and inclusive economic cooperation system in the Indo-Pacific region by successfully hosting the 2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting, by contributing to the development of digital economic norms, and by actively engaging in the ongoing IPEF negotiations and implementation process. In addition, the government will contribute to the prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region by sharing technologies to support the sustainable development of the region's infrastructure.

5.1. Expanding regional economic security networks

The ROK government is committed to expanding economic security networks within the region to enhance the stable management and resilience of supply chains. Additionally, the government aims to explore new growth engines to strengthen the economic security framework.

- **[Actively operating consultative bodies on economic security]** The government will operate strategic consultative bodies focused on economic security with key nations and strengthen the foundation for cooperation by activating existing bodies such as joint economic committees and committees for economic cooperation. To this end, the government will
 - hold ROK-U.S., ROK-Japan, and ROK-U.S.-Japan economic security dialogues and the ROK-Canada 2+2 High-Level Economic Security Dialogue and
 - launch the ROK-India Ministerial Committee on Industrial Cooperation as well as strengthen existing consultative groups such as the ministerial joint committees.
- **[Finance]** The ROK government will actively engage in the discussions to strengthen financial safety nets in the East Asia region with partners including ASEAN. To this end, the government will
 - improve the effectiveness of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM, a regional multilateral currency swap arrangement) and promote financial stabilization in the region and
 - continue to pursue regional financial cooperation tasks including fintech and open banking.
 - collaborate with the ASEAN+3 Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
 - expand cooperation with the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR);

- expand food aid programs for developing countries; and
- promote the “K-rice belt” project in Africa.

5.2. Cooperating to stabilize essential supply chains

The ROK government is steadfast in its commitment to bolster international cooperation on early warning systems, with the goal of efficiently addressing disruptions in global supply chains. Through both bilateral and unilateral collaboration, efforts will be directed towards stabilizing and diversifying the supply chains of critical minerals and more. To this end, the government will

- expand pilot projects for the integration of early warning systems between ROK and U.S. diplomatic missions abroad;
- continuously identify and explore cooperative projects based on the ROK-Canada Critical Minerals Supply Chain Cooperation MOU (signed on May 17, 2023);
- actively participate in multilateral consultative groups on critical minerals such as the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) and expand public-private partnerships on critical minerals; and
- promote the establishment of an ROK-Viet Nam critical minerals supply chain center, the Korea-Mongolia Rare Metal Cooperation Center, and the ROK-Indonesia Center for Joint R&D on Critical Minerals.

5.3. Leading the regional discussion on free trade norms and participating in IPEF negotiations

The ROK government will enhance free trade by ensuring the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and improving existing free trade agreements (FTAs), while responding to protectionism both within and outside the region. Additionally, the ROK government will continue to take the lead in establishing a new economic cooperation order in the region by actively participating in the ongoing IPEF negotiations and the subsequent implementation process. To this end, the government will

- participate in the RCEP Joint Committee, subsidiary committees, and ministerial meetings to facilitate the implementation of RCEP;
- upgrade the ASEAN-Korea FTA;
- make headway in the negotiations to improve the ROK-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA); and

- continue cooperation with regard to ratifying and signing IPEF agreements, participating in IPEF trade agreement negotiations, and implementing IPEF agreements.

5.4. Leading the global norm-setting discussion on digital economy

In light of the absence of unified norms on digital trade despite its widely recognized importance, the ROK government will actively participate in the discussions on global digital norms and concurrently build a strong digital economy and trade network with key economies. To this end, the government will

- enforce the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)*, a plurilateral digital trade agreement;
 - * Singapore, New Zealand, and Chile are the three founding members of DEPA. The negotiations on the ROK joining DEPA as the first non-founding member were substantially concluded in June 2023.
- pursue the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the WTO Joint Initiative on e-commerce and the digital economy chapter under the IPEF trade pillar;
- continue establishing digital trade norms through bilateral agreements;
- expand the digital trade network by initiating the ROK-EU digital trade agreement (negotiations launched on October 31); and
- join discussions on shaping global norms to facilitate cross-border transfers of personal information while protecting it.

5.5. Successfully hosting the 2025 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

By successfully hosting the 2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, the ROK government aims to strengthen cooperation in achieving trade and investment liberalization, promoting innovation and digitalization, and fostering sustainable and inclusive development. To this end, the government will

- launch the APEC Host Committee and Organizing Committee and
- develop a collaborative system among the troika of APEC chairs, which consists of the former, current, and succeeding chairs.

5.6. Expanding collaborative efforts to establish infrastructure networks

The ROK government will leverage its expertise in smart cities, smart mobility, and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to support sustainable infrastructure development in the region. To

this end, the government will

- strengthen cooperation across ASEAN and Africa on the establishment of plans for smart cities;
- deepen international cooperation to foster smart mobility, including electric and autonomous vehicles, through initiatives like the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Forum; and
- strengthen the collaborative framework on ITS by hosting the 2025 ITS Asia Pacific Forum and the 2026 ITS Global Forum.

06 Strengthen Cooperation in Critical Domains of Science and Technology and Close the Digital Gap

The ROK government will encourage the dynamic development of technology in the Indo-Pacific region by actively participating in the network of global technology leaders and by strengthening international cooperation in R&D, particularly that of critical and emerging technologies which undergird national security and competitiveness. These critical and emerging technologies include artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, and advanced biotechnology. Furthermore, based on its ICT capacity and experience in digital transformation, the ROK is striving to play a leading role in promoting digital transformation and narrowing the digital gap in the region. To achieve these goals, the ROK government will establish Information Access Centers (IACs) in developing nations and share its successful e-government system.

6.1. Participating in the network of leading nations in advanced sciences and technologies

The ROK government intends to strengthen collaboration with leading nations in science and technology, fostering collaboration in the area of critical and emerging technology. Furthermore, the ROK government will actively participate in shaping international norms in multilateral fora and promote regional cooperation in semiconductors, AI, quantum, advanced biotechnology, next-generation telecommunication network, and space. To this end, the government will

- strengthen bilateral cooperation with leading nations in advanced science and technology by establishing and operating various consultation channels, such as the ROK-U.S. Next Generation Critical and the Emerging Technologies Dialogue;

- strengthen multilateral cooperation and participate in multilateral fora on critical and emerging technologies, such as the UN, the OECD, and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI);
- (Semiconductors) spearhead joint research initiatives* with leading nations to secure global competitiveness in semiconductors;
 - * These initiatives include the establishment of a joint research fund between the ROK Ministry of Science and ICT and the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States.
- (AI) lead the global discussions on AI norms by convening high-level international events* in the ROK as well as promote institutional collaboration, expert exchange, and joint research projects in the field of AI including the ROK-Canada AI Joint Research Project;
 - * These events include the Mini Virtual Summit on AI co-hosted by the ROK and the UK, the Global AI Forum, and the Second Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit.
- (Quantum) establish quantum science and technology cooperation systems* with leading nations, as well as promote exchange, network building, and joint research between domestic and foreign industries and R&D institutions;
 - * These projects involve the ROK-U.S. Joint Statement on Cooperation in Quantum Information Science and Technology (April 2023), the International Roundtable on Pursuing Quantum Information Together (2N vs 2N), and the ROK-U.S. roundtable on quantum information sciences (May 2023).
- (Advanced biotechnology) expand international cooperation including the launching of the Boston-Korea Project*;
 - * This project supports joint research between leading research institutions in Boston and the ROK.
- (Next-generation telecommunication network) strengthen the cooperation framework and diversify the 6G supply chain by promoting international collaborative research on 6G with key countries such as the U.S. and Finland and by hosting the "6G Global" event; and
- (Space) diversify cooperation in space exploration, education, and industry and strengthen cooperative relations with emerging countries.

6.2. Strengthening regional technological cooperation, including international R&D collaboration

The ROK government is committed to addressing the global trend towards geotechnological blocs by establishing stable bilateral and multilateral research cooperation mechanisms and reinforcing technological collaboration. To this end, the government will

- explore new cooperation agendas through high-level channels such as the ROK-India Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee and the ROK-Canada Joint Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation;
- promote research collaboration utilizing infrastructure, including support for the second phase of the Viet Nam-Korea Institute of Science and Technology (VKIST)* project;
 - * VKIST is Viet Nam's premier research institute in science and technology modeled after the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).
- continue the negotiations for joining the Horizon Europe* as an associated member;
 - * Horizon Europe is the EU's funding program for research innovation, providing 95.5 billion euros (130 trillion won) over the period 2021-2027. Horizon Europe offers associate membership to non-EU member states that meet the criteria related to scientific and technological capabilities, open economy, and intellectual property protection.
- launch internship programs for Korean undergraduate students at German research institutions, such as the Max Planck Institute and the Fraunhofer Society; and
- foster ROK-UK cooperation across 11 digital fields* following the signing of the ROK-UK Digital Partnership in November 2023.
 - * future telecoms and supply chain resilience, semiconductors, AI, developing technology ecosystems, data, global digital norms, digital technical standards, Internet governance, fair and competitive digital markets, cyber security, online safety

6.3. Closing the regional digital gap

The ROK government aims to contribute to narrowing the digital gap among nations in the Indo-Pacific region by establishing Information Access Centers (IACs) and operating collaborative channels for ICT policymakers. To this end, the government will

- increase the number of IACs in the Indo-Pacific region, including by establishing a new IAC in Bhutan by 2024;
- identify joint projects between the ROK and developing countries through collaborative channels for IT policymakers; and
- host the Global ICT Leadership Forum for high-level policymakers from developing countries and international organizations in 2024.

6.4. Strengthening international cooperation on digital transformation

The ROK government will seek to advance cooperative initiatives to support regional digital transformation, sharing the ROK's digital transformation experiences such as in establishing electronic administrative systems for customs and procurement. To this end, the government will

- launch and implement the Korea-ASEAN Digital Innovation Flagship Project* and * an AI and data-related project to support the digital transformation of ASEAN
- share the ROK's digital transformation experience through projects on electronic administrative systems;
 - e.g., the electronic customs clearance system (UNI-PASS) modernization projects in Madagascar and Tanzania and
 - projects to strengthen cooperation on the ROK On-line E-Procurement System (KONEPS), which involve providing joint training with the Asian Development Bank in the ASEAN region and the establishment of e-procurement systems in developing countries.

6.5. Collaborating for an open and transparent telecommunications network

The ROK government will continue to strengthen cooperation aimed at establishing an open and transparent communication network by enhancing open wireless access. To this end, the government will

- share technological and policy trends in Open Radio Access Networks (Open-RAN) through ROK-U.S. working-level meetings;
- conduct joint research on Open-RAN with the U.S., the UK, and Singapore; and
- expand joint research and demonstration projects with the U.S., Japan, Europe, and other regions.

07 Lead Regional Cooperation on Climate Change and Energy Security

The Indo-Pacific region is facing significant challenges due to climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events. To strengthen its response capability, the ROK government aims to enhance cooperation in greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation, and other technological advancements. Additionally, in response to the global energy market instability, the ROK government will spearhead energy security-related cooperation. This includes establishing collaborative frameworks to facilitate the transition to clean energy and promoting efficient and safe use of nuclear energy, ultimately achieving carbon neutrality and energy security simultaneously.

7.1. Engaging in cooperation on climate change aiming for regional carbon neutrality

The ROK government will lay the legal foundation for climate change cooperation by signing bilateral climate change agreements with partner countries in the region. It will actively pursue international greenhouse gas mitigation projects, particularly on zero-emission vehicles, green shipping, and methane emissions reduction. Collaboration in climate change adaptation and climate technologies will also continue. To this end, the government will

- (Greenhouse gas mitigation) sign and implement bilateral climate change agreements and MOUs to establish the legal framework for international greenhouse gas mitigation projects, while advancing pilot projects in Viet Nam, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and Lao PDR;
- (Carbon market) strengthen carbon market cooperation through the Global Carbon Pricing Challenge led by Canada;
- (Zero-emission vehicles) support pilot projects for the promotion of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in Indonesia to foster the creation of an electric vehicle ecosystem in the region;
- (Green shipping) build a carbon-free fuel supply network and promote R&D for demonstration technologies based on the findings of the ROK-U.S. green shipping corridor pre-feasibility study;
- (Methane reduction) initiate pilot projects under the Partnership for the ROK-ASEAN Methane Action (PARMA);
- (Adaptation to climate change) contribute to regional capacity building through cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and
- (Cooperation in climate technologies) support the establishment and operation of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) ROK Liaison Office and carry out pilot projects utilizing science, technology, and ICT in four Southeast Asian countries (Viet Nam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand) in collaboration with the UNDP.

7.2. Increasing collaboration to stabilize the energy market in the Indo-Pacific

Amidst ongoing global energy market instability, the ROK government is committed to securing an undisrupted supply of traditional energy resources for the region by strengthening cooperation with regional partners. Simultaneously, the ROK government will accelerate the transition to clean energy, aiming to achieve global net-zero targets. To this end, the government will

- hold the 10th ROK-U.S. Energy Security Dialogue;
- resume the bilateral ROK-Japan and trilateral ROK-U.S.-Japan energy security dialogues; and
- organize clean energy conferences to strengthen climate change response and energy cooperation in the region.

7.3. Providing support for the expansion of eco-friendly energy sources

Committed to addressing global climate change and bolstering regional climate resilience, the ROK government will actively support the expansion of clean energy for regional partners. To this end, the government will

- provide support for the Tina River Hydropower Project in the Solomon Islands;
- organize renewable energy capacity-building projects in Melanesia; and
- advance the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion project in the Marshall Islands.

7.4. Participating in multi-level cooperation on climate change response

The ROK government will actively share its climate change response policies with countries both within and outside the region. Additionally, it will continue to strengthen multi-level cooperation to build resilience against transboundary climate challenges. To this end, the government will

- host the annual ROK-ASEAN Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change;
- promote regular regional consultation mechanisms, including the ROK-Japan-China Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM) and the bilateral ROK-Viet Nam Environmental Ministerial Meeting;
- pursue development cooperation projects utilizing the Green Transformation Initiative (GTI)*;
* a multilateral climate change cooperation platform launched in 2022 led by the ROK and Indonesia
- explore green ODA through the GTI platform; and
- explore the possibility of an MOU between the ROK and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) on climate change adaptation and mitigation cooperation.

7.5. Strengthening cooperation on climate change and disaster risk reduction

The ROK government is committed to mitigating the impact of climate change in the region by collaboratively building the response capabilities of regional partners to address extreme weather

events and disaster risks. To this end, the government will

- provide support for the Tina River Hydropower Project in the Solomon Islands;
- organize renewable energy capacity-building projects in Melanesia;
- push ahead with the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion project in the Marshall Islands;
- expand early flood warning systems in the region (City of Olongapo and the Municipality of La Paz in the Philippines and Naitasri and Macuata Province in Fiji);
- pursue an integrated platform for typhoon monitoring and forecasting in the Philippines and a pre-feasibility study for the establishment of a marine weather prediction and early warning system in Fiji;
- build an early warning system for disaster risk reduction in Pacific Island countries and provide decision-ready tools to support coastal and marine spatial planning in the Pacific Islands;
- promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in partner countries;
- support and sustain Samoa's capacity-building in ocean acidification observation in response to climate change; and
- rebuild the Makogai Island Marine Research Station in Fiji to strengthen its climate change response capability.

7.6. Building regional capacity for nuclear safety and security in collaboration with the international community, including the IAEA

By supporting regional capacity building for nuclear safety and security, the ROK government will advance the safe and peaceful use of nuclear power, a highly efficient clean energy source. To this end, the government will

- provide education on nuclear safety for nuclear cooperation nations, including nations newly utilizing nuclear energy within the region, and
- conduct joint research projects with ASEAN through the RCA* Regional Office (RCARO) in Daejeon.

* The RCA, short for Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific, is an intergovernmental agreement among IAEA member states in the Asia-Pacific dedicated to research, development, and training in nuclear science to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The RCA office is located in the ROK.

7.7. Actively engaging in the development, infrastructure, and regulatory discussions concerning SMRs

The ROK government is committed to actively participating in international cooperation activities related to the development and deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) for the safe, economical, and versatile utilization of nuclear energy. To this end, the government will

- participate in the international discussions on SMRs, including initiatives such as FIRST*;
* FIRST, short for Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible use of SMR Technology, is a capacity-building initiative to support developing countries in introducing small modular reactors (SMRs). It was launched by the Biden administration as a follow-up measure to the 2021 Leaders' Summit on Climate.
- promote the development of innovative small modular reactors (i-SMR); and
- operate the Policy and Information Center of the RCARO and identify joint research areas.

7.8. Building an ecosystem for the regional nuclear energy market

Leveraging its world-class expertise in ensuring safety, efficiency, and economic viability in nuclear power generation, the ROK government will cultivate a dynamic ecosystem for the nuclear power market in the region. To this end, the government will

- promote cooperation with major regional partners on the occasion of high-level exchanges and foster the development of a cooperative nuclear ecosystem by engaging in various activities, including exchanges of information and experts.
* With the Philippines, the ROK will discuss nuclear energy cooperation measures including the resumption of the Bataan Nuclear Plant.
* With Viet Nam, the ROK will implement follow-up measures to the MOU on mutual cooperation between the KHNP and the CRI-VINATOM (signed in June 2023).
* With Indonesia, the ROK will explore ways to establish a cooperative relationship in the nuclear sector at the governmental level, including the possibility of signing an MOU in 2024. The ROK will also implement follow-up measures to the MOU between the PLN NP and the KHNP regarding joint pre-feasibility studies on nuclear power plants and small modular reactors technology in Indonesia and to the MOU between the KNA and HIMNI.

Engage in “Contributive Diplomacy” Through Tailored Development Cooperation Partnerships

With the goal of raising its ODA volume to the level of the world’s top ten donor countries, the ROK government will increase its contributions in line with the nation’s heightened economic stature so as to support the economic and social development of the Indo-Pacific and solidify the foundation for the region’s stability and prosperity. Furthermore, the ROK government is committed to implementing development cooperation projects worth 100 million US dollars that can contribute to the promotion of democracy. To maximize the effectiveness of development cooperation, the ROK government will forge partnerships with major donors that recognize the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region, while actively seeking innovative cooperation with the private sector.

8.1. Pursuing tailored development cooperation projects in the key areas of the region

As a “global pivotal state,” the ROK will continue to strengthen the foundation of peace and prosperity in the region while fostering economic and social development through contributive diplomacy that aligns with its economic strength. To this end, the ROK government will conduct the following development cooperation projects that are tailored to meet the needs of the region in key areas, including climate change, digital infrastructure, food security, and healthcare.

- (Climate change response) forest/Wetland Ecosystem Management and Livelihood Improvement to Climate Change Adaptation in the Mekong Delta Region, Viet Nam; Integrated Programme for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR; Project for Renewable Energy Expansion and Capacity Development, Fiji; Development of Flood Forecasting and Warning System in Licungo River basin, Mozambique
- (Digital) national Digital Municipality Services Project, Bangladesh; Capacity Development Project for Nurturing Cybersecurity Professionals in Indonesia; Establishment of Digital Agri-Land Information Management Platform for the Strengthening of Food Security in Lao PDR
- (Infrastructure) Cambodia-Korea Friendship Bridge Construction Project; New Dumaguete Airport Construction Project, the Philippines; Nairobi ITS Establishment and Junctions Improvement Project
- (Food security) value Chain Enhancement of High-value Crops through Smart Agriculture (VEHCSA) Project, the Philippines; Green, Circular Economy Support Program by Strengthening Agricultural Value Chain in Northern Viet Nam

- (Health) improvement of the Public Health Services in Dangkor District Referral Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Strengthening Reproductive Health System Focusing on Adolescence and Quality of Child Health Service in Community, Lao PDR; Project for Establishing the Nepal-Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital

8.2. Expanding ODA for the Indo-Pacific by increasing its volume to the level of the world's top ten donor countries

With the goal of increasing its ODA volume to the level of the world's top ten donors, the ROK government will continue to expand its ODA, both grants and concessional loans, for the Indo-Pacific. To this end, the government will

- set the government grant aid budget at 449.92 billion won (based on 2024 government budget proposal) for 2024, with approximately 62.6 billion won allocated to the Indo-Pacific region, in order to expand the ROK's ODA volume and elevate the ROK's status as an advanced donor country;
- progressively increase ODA project authorization and implementation, including a 36.2% increase in the EDCF budget to 22,088 billion won (based on 2024 government budget proposal) from the previous year in 2024;
- expand, renew, and sign new EDCF framework agreements* with key regional partners to facilitate large-scale, high-value-added infrastructure projects that will contribute to the economic growth of partner countries;
 - * These include agreements with Bangladesh (\$3 billion by 2027, signed), the Philippines (\$3 billion by 2026, signed), Viet Nam (\$2 billion by 2030, to be signed), and India (\$4 billion by 2026, to be signed).
- seek to sign a cooperation agreement with the Philippines for a 3 billion USD collaboration project through the EDPF* from 2024 to 2028 and initiate negotiations** for an agreement with Indonesia; and
 - * The EDPF, short for Economic Development Promotion Facility, is a program that utilizes funds from the Export-Import Bank of Korea to provide concessional financing to developing countries using government resources, while preserving the interest rate differential (spread).
 - ** The ROK has already signed a cooperation agreement to provide \$3 billion through the EDPF to Bangladesh by 2027 and \$2 billion to Viet Nam by 2030.
- promote new projects with the Philippines under the Economic Innovation Partnership Program (EIPP) *.
 - * This program, developed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in 2020, aims to support sustainable economic development in partner countries and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

8.3. Forging strategic cooperation with major donor countries

By consolidating strategic partnerships with major donor countries that share its vision for the Indo-Pacific, the ROK government will promote tailored development cooperation initiatives that align with the Indo-Pacific Strategy. To this end, the government will

- hold ROK-U.S. and ROK-Japan policy consultation on development cooperation and host the 2025 ROK-U.S.-Japan Development and Humanitarian Assistance Policy Dialogue and
- promote development cooperation policy dialogues with major donor countries.

8.4. Fostering innovative cooperation with the private sector

In pursuing development projects, the ROK government will broaden the foundation for collaboration by actively engaging with civil society and the private sector and revitalize financial support and investment from the private sector. To this end, the government will

- operate the Development Innovation Program and civil society cooperation programs of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA);
- organize forums to strengthen private sector cooperation, involving businesses, academia, and civil society;
- adopt creative and innovative ideas from the private sector through the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP); and
- support domestic businesses in securing contracts for large-scale infrastructure construction through the EIPP.

8.5. Managing the cooperation funds for the four regions in the Indo-Pacific

The ROK government will reinforce its regional contribution by effectively managing the cooperation funds for the four regions in the Indo-Pacific and by actively supporting the development of new collaborative initiatives. To this end, the government will

- establish the ROK-Indian Ocean Cooperation Fund (tentative name) and expand the three ASEAN-related cooperation funds*, the ROK-PIF Cooperation Fund (RPCF), and the Korea-AU Cooperation Fund.

* the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF), the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF), and the BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation Fund

In the Indo-Pacific, where diverse ethnicities, religions, cultures, and histories coexist, fostering mutual understanding through human and cultural exchanges is crucial for building healthy and mature regional relationships. To achieve peace and prosperity in the region, it is essential to cultivate trust and friendship through exchanges between future generations and nurture talent through academic collaboration. The ROK government will support vibrant exchanges in the region by strengthening the diplomatic infrastructure, such as establishing new embassies and enhancing human connectivity. Additionally, in response to the significant increase in the volume of information in the region, the ROK government will strive to enhance the reliability and transparency of information to build trust in the Indo-Pacific.

9.1. Invigorating exchanges between future generations

The ROK government will revitalize exchanges between future generations to foster mutual trust and friendship and to lay the foundation for healthy and mature relationships among countries. To this end, the government will

- pursue ROK-U.S. special exchange programs for youths and
- host the U.S.-ROK-Japan Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit.

9.2. Strengthening academic exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding

Through the expansion of Korean language education and academic exchanges, the ROK government aims to foster talent that will drive dynamic economic growth in the Indo-Pacific. This initiative will also promote a shared understanding and mutual recognition. To this end, the ROK government will

- increase the number of Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) * scholars;
 - * Launched in 1967, the GKS program invites outstanding students from 158 countries to the ROK and provides support for their Korean language education and degree courses at domestic universities and graduate schools.
- expand KOICA Master's and PhD Scholarships for Developing Countries; and
- support Korean language education in overseas primary and secondary schools.
 - * currently working with foreign local governments and educational institutions to get Korean adopted as a regular subject in primary and secondary schools abroad

- strengthen communication between the next generation through the Korea-Japan Youth Exchange Program;
- promote two-way student exchange through Technical and Vocation Education and Training (TVET) with ASEAN;
 - * A pilot project is underway for bilateral student exchanges and mutual credit recognition between the higher vocational education institutions designated by ROK and ASEAN authorities.
- enhance communication among youths from the ROK, Japan, and China through future generation exchange programs; and
- activate youth exchange through the Youth Camp for ASEAN and Friends' Engagement (YCAFE).

9.3. Diversifying cultural exchanges and expanding two-way interaction

The ROK government will seek to expand two-way communication by forming connections with various cultures in the region and promoting cultural exchanges. To this end, the government will

- host cultural events between the ROK and Pacific Island countries;
- promote the ROK-Canada Year of Cultural Exchanges for 2024-2025; and
- expand support for sports development in developing countries, including Pacific Island countries.

9.4. Enhancing transparency in information distribution to secure trust

Recognizing that foreign disinformation, fueled by artificial intelligence and advanced technologies, can undermine the foundation of democracy and trust in the region, the ROK government is committed to coordinating efforts to establish regional trust. To this end, the government will

- promote cooperation to improve the reliability of information and to secure sounder information space and
- promote cooperation with partner countries to address the foreign disinformation issue.

9.5. Strengthening the diplomatic infrastructure

The ROK government will enhance its diplomatic presence in the Indo-Pacific by establishing new resident diplomatic missions in the region and by increasing and diversifying exchanges and cooperation with the diplomatic authorities of regional partners through bilateral and multilateral high-level events. To this end, the government will

- encourage exchanges at all levels, including high-level;
- strengthen the ROK's diplomatic infrastructure by establishing a new diplomatic mission in the Marshall Islands;
- host the Korea-Africa Summit in 2024; and
- foster exchanges with foreign ministries and diplomats, including the Korean Language and Culture Program for Diplomats.

9.6. Enhancing human networks

In the belief that expansion of human exchanges and strengthened communication will form the bedrock of peace and security in the region, the ROK government is committed to strengthening human networks in the region. To this end, the government will

- invite distinguished individuals from the Indo-Pacific to visit the ROK;
- expand the ROK-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program; and
- build consensus over the rules-based regional order through various efforts to enhance communication with think tanks within and outside the region;
 - e.g., organizing joint seminars on the Indo-Pacific with think tanks in major Pacific Alliance member countries, participating in the ROK-ASEAN Think Tank Strategic Dialogue, and exploring the possibility of establishing a trilateral dialogue with think tanks in the U.S. and India.

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