

Enhanced Strategic Partnership between Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany

Annex: Cooperation Activities 2025-2027

Australia and Germany remain committed to exercising their strategic influence in the multilateral system and bilaterally to combat global challenges and ensure a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region and Europe. Building on our successful partnership, we identify significant opportunities to deepen our relationship to deliver on this commitment.

In support of the common strategic interests outlined in the Enhanced Strategic Partnership, Australia and Germany will pursue the following two-year action plan:

1. Lifting the Strategic Partnership to a new level

- 1.1 Deepen bilateral contact at senior political levels
 - a. Regular leader-level exchanges
 - b. Regular ministerial exchanges between respective Trade Ministers and Foreign and Defence Ministers, jointly as 2+2 meetings when possible.
- 1.2 Convene annual strategic dialogues between senior officials on the Indo-Pacific, National Security, Defence, and bilateral relationship.
- 1.3 Broaden annual consultations between foreign ministries on multilateral cooperation, including arms control/non-proliferation, international legal issues, and policy planning.
- 1.4 Continue regular bilateral Defence Policy Talks between defence ministries on strategic policy, strategic communications and defence materiel cooperation.
- 1.5 Continue 1.5 track dialogues, partnering with German and Australian think tanks.
- 1.6 Continue formal exchanges of foreign ministry officers.
- 1.7 Foreign Ministers will review progress on the implementation of the action plan biennially.

2. Increasing strategic convergence in the Indo-Pacific

- 2.1 Regular exchanges on the strategic outlook for the Indo-Pacific and Europe.
- 2.2 Hold practical exchanges on respective development priorities at senior officials and working levels covering climate change, cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and Africa, multilateral cooperation, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals including gender equality.
- 2.3 Coordinate support for ASEAN centrality and engagement, including through the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Groups on Cyber Security and HADR during the 2024-2027 cycle.
- 2.4 Support jointly the development of Indo-Pacific countries, including through capacity building.
 - a. Strengthen Southeast Asian and Pacific states' resilience, independence and cohesion

- b. Encourage quality infrastructure investment in the Indo-Pacific
 - c. Reinforce Pacific regionalism by supporting Pacific priorities as identified in the Pacific Islands Forum's *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*
 - c. Support the activities of the Mekong River Commission
 - d. Seek opportunities for cooperating on key technologies with Indo-Pacific partners including Singapore, South Korea, Japan and India.
- 2.5 Maintain high-level political engagement with Pacific Island Forum Members, including through PIF Leaders Meetings as appropriate, and ministerial visits.
- 2.6 Expand cooperation with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- 2.7 Enhance cooperation between armed forces, and support deployments of Defence services in the respective Regions.

3. Strengthening economic, scientific and technological cooperation

Economic ties:

- 3.1 Support the finalisation and implementation of the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement.
- 3.2 Enhance cooperation on economic and research security. Continue dialogue with annual consultations between senior officials.
- 3.3 Continue to facilitate bilateral investment through respective trade promotion agencies.
- 3.4 Under the Australia-Germany Energy and Climate Partnership, and building on the results of HySupply, continue work streams under the joint Green Metals for Sustainable Steel AG study, including finalising initial supply chain analysis, supporting connections with German-led technical studies and building on the outcomes to support future practical cooperation.
- 3.5 Continue implementation of joint funded projects under HyGate (launched 2023) supporting innovative hydrogen production technologies.
- 3.6 Maintain regular exchanges on the preparation of the bilateral H2Global window; including EU state aid notification process with confirmation expected in the first half of 2026 and auction process to commence in the second half of 2026 with first deliveries expected in 2030/2031.
- 3.7 Expand the information exchange within the Critical Minerals Working Group of the Resource Partnership. Build on the results of the feasibility study on critical minerals value chains. Organize common B2B Networks in the frame of existing conferences (EU Raw Materials Week) or fair (IMARC).
- 3.8 Support greater private sector cooperation on the digital economy, smart city technologies, advanced manufacturing and Industry 4.0, including the existing cooperation between the Australian Industry 4.0 Advanced Manufacturing Forum and the German Plattform Industrie 4.0.
- 3.9 Strengthen cooperation to ensure international standards, especially in relation to new technologies, are developed in ways consistent with democratic principles and

maintain an open economy. Strengthen cooperation also with other like-minded countries within the framework of the OECD and other international formats, in the development of new standards, particularly for smart device security

Environmental protection, climate and research links:

- 3.10 Continue ongoing collaboration under the International Climate Cooperation Pillar of the Energy and Climate Partnership, including COP preparatory work and other mutually agreed priorities.
- 3.11 Build on industrial decarbonisation approaches, including hydrogen and hydrogen derivative supply chains cooperation to align certification schemes requirements for low emission commodities such as renewable hydrogen, low carbon fuels and green metals and help shape international certification approaches to support green trade corridors bilaterally and through multilateral initiatives and fora like Climate Club, the IPHE and the OECD.
- 3.12 Continue bilateral Environmental Dialogue on environmental permitting processes. Expand bilateral exchange and cooperation on practical actions and policy measures to meet obligations under the Paris Agreement, including emissions reductions and the role of low emissions technologies.
- 3.13 Establish exchanges on environmental topics, including for instance the sustainable management of minerals and metals, circular economy approaches and recycling, pollution (particularly of the ocean) and reducing marine litter, encouraging low emissions technologies, and sustainable supply chains.
- 3.14 Continue the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme.
- 3.15 Explore opportunities to enhance Antarctic cooperation such as joint participation in the Antarctica InSync research program, aiming to synchronize research across Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, connecting ice, ocean, climate, and life to protect this vital region, and collaborative research on rapidly changing sea-ice conditions on Antarctic marine ecosystems from the German research vessel *RV Polarstern* and the Australian research vessel *ASRV Nuyina*.
- 3.16 Support participation of the German research and innovation community in the Australian Government Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program by providing linkages with current CRCs and CRC projects, including in low carbon and clean technology areas.
- 3.17 Continue to hold biennial Australia-Germany Joint Science and Technology Meetings to expand bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, holding the next Science and Technology Dialogue in 2026 in Germany.
- 3.18 Support international climate mitigation and adaptation measures, including climate finance as well as Pacific development priorities.
- 3.19 Advance cooperation on space at the government and industry levels, building on participation of the German Aerospace Center in the 76th International Astronautical Congress 2025 in Sydney and visit of the SKA Low Telescope.

- 3.20 Strengthen cooperation and networks between universities and research institutions, including exploring possible association to Horizon Europe.
- 3.21 Intensify dialogue on digital transformation among others with Japan, India and South Korea.

Cultural and education activities:

- 3.22 Introduce measures to support democratic and civil societies through initiatives like (1) cultural weeks (2) youth- and student exchanges (3) exchanges for German teachers and students, language assistants, scholars (4) exchanges for artists (5) city partnerships (6) sport events; support German as foreign language (GFL) through (1) expanding MoU GI-VIC/ Ministry of Education to other territories (Qualification of Australian GFL-teachers) (2) simplify procedures for visas of German GFL-teachers, including recognition of qualifications.
- 3.23 Collaborate on women's economic empowerment initiatives and exchange best practices on government-led programs to support women in leadership.
- 3.24 Co-develop screen projects of cultural significance.
- 3.25 Joint engagement to progress establishment of an Institute for German and European Studies at the Australian National University in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
- 3.26 Expand the exchange of information on the future of government communication, societal resilience and the media in a digital society.
- 3.27 Continue dialogue and facilitation of the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains and cultural heritage material.

Defence, national security and resilience activities:

- 3.28 German armed forces to participate in military exercises in Australia, as resources allow (Talisman Sabre 2027, Pitch Black 2026).
- 3.29 Introduce training of German Student Pilots in Australia.
- 3.30 Continue exchange on a possible legal framework for defence cooperation.
- 3.31 Deepen cooperation on cyber, critical and emerging technology, online safety and on 5G use cases in industrial settings. Continue joint program to increase the participation of women diplomats in permanent future cyber mechanism of the UN General Assembly.
- 3.32 Leverage cooperation opportunities of shared interest and benefit in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Germany's Ministry of Defence and Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group.
- 3.33 Continue to deepen cooperative relationship in the space domain as agreed to in the Declaration of Intent for a Military Space Partnership.
- 3.34 Cooperate on building security and confidence in the new domain of outer space by actively engaging in international processes on promoting responsible behaviour.
- 3.35 Continue and deepen co-operation on Holocaust-education and on countering antisemitism and addressing all forms of hate and prejudice.

- 3.36 Increase co-operation on countering foreign interference, including at the annual CFI Summit and through an annual in person Working Group Meeting as well as virtual meetings as required, and building societal resilience, and enhance coordination on countering disinformation.
- 3.37 Hold annual consultations at DG/DepSec level under the German-Australian Strategic Dialogue on National Security, alternating between Australia and Germany, and continuous exchanges on working level.
- 3.38 Continue and deepen engagement to tackle ransomware threats.
- 3.39 Exchange best practice and guidelines for countering foreign interference in critical and emerging technologies and in the research and education sectors.
- 3.40 Continue bilateral exchanges on Strategic Communication to share best practices and deepen coordination on rules and norms guiding responses to emerging information threats and emerging technologies.
- 3.41 Support ongoing coordination on international maritime security issues, including legal aspects of international maritime security and civil maritime security.
- 3.42 Work towards ministerial endorsement, signature and entry into force of the Agreement on the Exchange and Reciprocal Protection of Classified Information.
- 3.43 Exchange best practice and strategies on Counter-Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism under the Strategic Dialogue on National Security.

4. Protecting the global rules-based order through strengthened cooperation in multilateral institutions

- 4.1 Focus on cooperation in key areas: UNGA, G20, OECD and WTO as well as minilaterals.
- 4.2 Prioritise exchange on support for multilateral trade and the international law system.
- 4.3 Establish an informal dialogue on UN candidacies.
- 4.4 Agree to push for reform at the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including at executive boards, to ensure more robust procurement systems, especially in low-capacity environments, to deliver quality outcomes and support local jobs.
- 4.5 Strengthen cooperation between likeminded states on leadership elections for key multilateral and multistakeholder institutions and international standard-setting bodies.
- 4.6 Cooperate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including supporting a successful outcome at the eleventh Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.
- 4.7 Coordination of respective positions on international standards for biosecure international travel and emerging technologies.
- 4.8 Cooperate in multilateral fora to address forced labour and other forms of exploitation in global supply chains and to advance the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- 4.9 Deepen cooperation to protect the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development framework and work to shape reforms of the UN development system and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), including to ensure responsiveness to the unique needs of Small Island Developing States.
- 4.10 Promote the UN's role in conflict prevention, including through improved peacebuilding architecture and by enhancing the effectiveness of the UN Peacebuilding Fund
- 4.11 Strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and attached agencies and support reform efforts in specialised agencies and protect mandates relating to gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights to ensure no backsliding, noting increasing pushback on gender equality and regression on human rights across UN fora.
- 4.12 Defend the multilateral human rights system, including gender equality and the rights of persons with disability in all multilateral fora, and promote and protect universal human rights through multilateral human rights forums, such as the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly Third Committee, and in thematic groups such as the Equal Rights Coalition.
- 4.13 Strengthen collaboration on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including through enhanced cooperation in cyber and outer space security and for the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, and as members of the WPS Focal Points Network.
- 4.14 Cooperate in multilateral fora on consumer protection policy and support their work.
- 4.15 Strengthen cooperation in the World Health Organisation, International Telecommunication Union, International Energy Agency and in the G20.
- 4.16 Strengthen cooperation in the Alliance for Multilateralism including with partners in the Indo-Pacific.
- 4.17 Intensify collaboration on wildlife issues and in the World Heritage Committee.