



# EU STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



The EU is stepping up its strategic engagement with the vital Indo-Pacific region. The region's growing economic, demographic, and political weight makes it a key player in shaping the rules-based international order and in addressing global challenges. With this new strategy and the Global Gateway, the EU aims to contribute to the region's stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development, in line with the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law.

## THE INDO-PACIFIC IS VITAL FOR THE EU'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND THE EU IS A MAJOR PARTNER FOR THE REGION

### THE INDO-PACIFIC:

produces almost  
**of global GDP**



is **home to three** of the four largest economies outside the EU (China, India, Japan)

contributes two thirds  
**of global growth**



is at the forefront of the digital economy and technological developments

by 2030,  
**new middle class members** will come from the region

**of 2,4 billion**



is central to global value chains, international trade and investment flows

### ...AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Top investor, top development assistance provider and big trading partner for the region.

## THE EU IS ALREADY EXTENSIVELY ENGAGED IN THE REGION

Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region is crucial to implementing the global agenda, including achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Europe and the Indo-Pacific region must also work together now to promote a green and sustainable post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery for the well-being of our own peoples.

Over the years, the EU has consistently made significant contributions in the region in areas such as:



**development cooperation and humanitarian assistance**



**tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**



**partnership and free trade agreements**



**disaster risk reduction**



**upholding international law, including human rights and freedom of navigation**

# THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE INDO-PACIFIC MATTERS FOR THE EU AND THE WORLD

The futures of the EU and the Indo-Pacific are inextricably linked given the interdependence of the economies and the common global challenges. Around 40% of the EU's foreign trade passes through the South China Sea, making stability in the region a shared concern and area of cooperation.

Geopolitical competition is intensifying in the Indo-Pacific, creating significant strains on trade and supply chains as well as in technological, political and security areas.

The EU's enhanced engagement in the region aims at maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific for all while building strong and lasting partnerships

The EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific will allow the EU to **enhance cooperation in the following priority areas:**



## SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY

- Work with Indo-Pacific partners to reinforce value chains, strengthen and diversify trade relations, implement existing trade agreements, finalise ongoing trade negotiations and develop cooperation in strategic sectors.
- Strengthen rules to protect international trade against unfair practices, such as industrial subsidies, economic coercion, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.



## GREEN TRANSITION

- Work with partners to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change and to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.



## OCEAN GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen ocean governance in the region in full compliance with international law, in particular UNCLOS.
- Continue to support partners in the region to fight against IUU fishing and to implement Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.



## DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Expand the network of digital partnerships with Indo-Pacific partners, and explore potential new Digital Partnership Agreements.
- Strengthen cooperation on research and innovation with like-minded regional partners under the 'Horizon Europe' programme.



## DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- The EU will strengthen connections between Europe and the Indo-Pacific and help partner countries address the digital divide and further integrate into the global digital ecosystem.
- Support partners to establish a good regulatory environment and facilitate funding to improve connectivity on the ground between Europe and the Indo-Pacific.



## SECURITY AND DEFENCE

- Promote an open and rules-based regional security architecture, including secure sea lines of communication, capacity-building and enhanced naval presence in the Indo-Pacific.
- Explore ways to ensure enhanced naval deployments by EU Member States in the region.
- Support Indo-Pacific partners' capacity to ensure maritime security.
- Facilitate capacity-building for partners to tackle cybercrime.



## HUMAN SECURITY

- Support healthcare systems and pandemic preparedness for the least-developed countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Reinforce the EU's disaster risk reduction and preparedness engagement in the Indo-Pacific.



## THE EU'S APPROACH IS BROAD-BASED AND INCLUSIVE

The EU Strategy is inclusive of all partners in the region wishing to cooperate with us when our interests coincide. At the same time, and working with international partners who share similar concerns, the EU will continue to protect its essential interests and promote its values; namely democracy, human rights and the rule of law.