

**Memorandum of Understanding on Deepening Blue
Economy Cooperation between
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Immigration of the Government of the
Cook Islands
and
the Ministry of Commerce of the People's
Republic of China**

The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Government of the Cook Islands (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), actively implementing the Global Development Initiative, and jointly building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to form synergy with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and jointly building a maritime community with a shared future, carrying out the Cook Islands Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui National Sustainable Development Agenda (NSDA) 2020+, and China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, based on the goodwill and needs of businesses of both countries and the practical foundation for strengthening cooperation in the blue economy, hereby agree as follows:

Article 1

The Parties will uphold a mutually-beneficial development partnerships, deepen practical cooperation in the field of blue economy. This includes fostering innovation and sustainable growth drivers, ensuring that all development aligns with principles of conservation sustainability, and ecosystem resilience. High-quality bilateral investment cooperation will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promote equitable, greener and healthier global development.

Article 2

The Parties will enhance synergy between blue economy strategies and policies with principles of sustainability, encouraging local governments, industry organisations, research institutes, financial institutions and businesses, to explore the potential of blue economy cooperation through coordinated maritime resource assessments, sustainable development planning and capacity building initiatives to jointly foster a resilient and prosperous blue economy partnership in the future.

Article 3

The Parties will encourage businesses to conduct investment cooperation in the blue economy, including but not limited to the following fields or industries:

- Mariculture, distant water fishing, seafood processing, etc.;
- Marine biopharmaceutical, marine engineering technology, seawater desalination, marine salt industry, etc.;
- Port wharves, shipbuilding and ship repair, ocean transportation, etc.;
- Marine tourism and leisure services;
- Marine Conservation programs and marine environmental sustainability initiatives;
- Photovoltaic, wind power, tidal power and other clean energy transmission networks;
- Exploration and development of deep sea mineral resources.

Article 4

The Parties will promote the introduction of more pragmatic and efficient policies and measures, encourage and support businesses to jointly establish marine economic cooperation parks and deep-sea fishing bases, and create better and more attractive investment cooperation platforms for enterprises of the two countries.

Article 5

The Parties will encourage businesses to, in compliance with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the carbon-neutral commitment targets, fulfill environmental obligations, promote green design, green procurement, green construction, green production and green operation in the blue economy investment cooperation, and facilitate the coordinated development of the local economy, society, people and the marine ecological environment.

Article 6

The Parties will encourage businesses to accelerate green and low-carbon transformation, increase investment in green technology, jointly promote innovation in marine science and technology, green and low-carbon technology, and promote the application and transformation of science research achievements.

Article 7

The Parties agree to establish an Investment Cooperation Working Group under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Government of the Cook Islands the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and as the Executing Agencies of this Memorandum, to increase policy exchanges, implement the work set out in this Memorandum and promote investment cooperation in the blue economy in a more pragmatic and efficient manner.

The communication mechanism, which comprises regular communication through the Primary Contact Points, established within the Cook Islands High Commission in Wellington, New Zealand and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Wellington, New Zealand.

Article 8

Any dispute about the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be solved through consultations between the Parties, who will work in good faith to resolve differences by mutual agreement.

Article 9

This Memorandum will come into effect on the date of signature and remain in effect for five (5) years.

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by providing written notification to the other Party three (3) months in advance. The termination of this Memorandum will not affect the completion of any cooperation activity which has been formalized while it was in force.

This Memorandum may be amended by the mutual agreement of the Parties, formalized by an exchange of written communications, specifying the date of its entry into force of such amendment.

This Memorandum is a statement of the intent of the Parties and is not intended to create rights and obligations under international law. Each Party's implementation of this Memorandum shall be consistent with its domestic law.

Signed in Harbin on 14 February, 2025, in duplicate in the English and Chinese languages, each text being equally valid.

On behalf of

People's Republic of China

On behalf of

Cook Islands