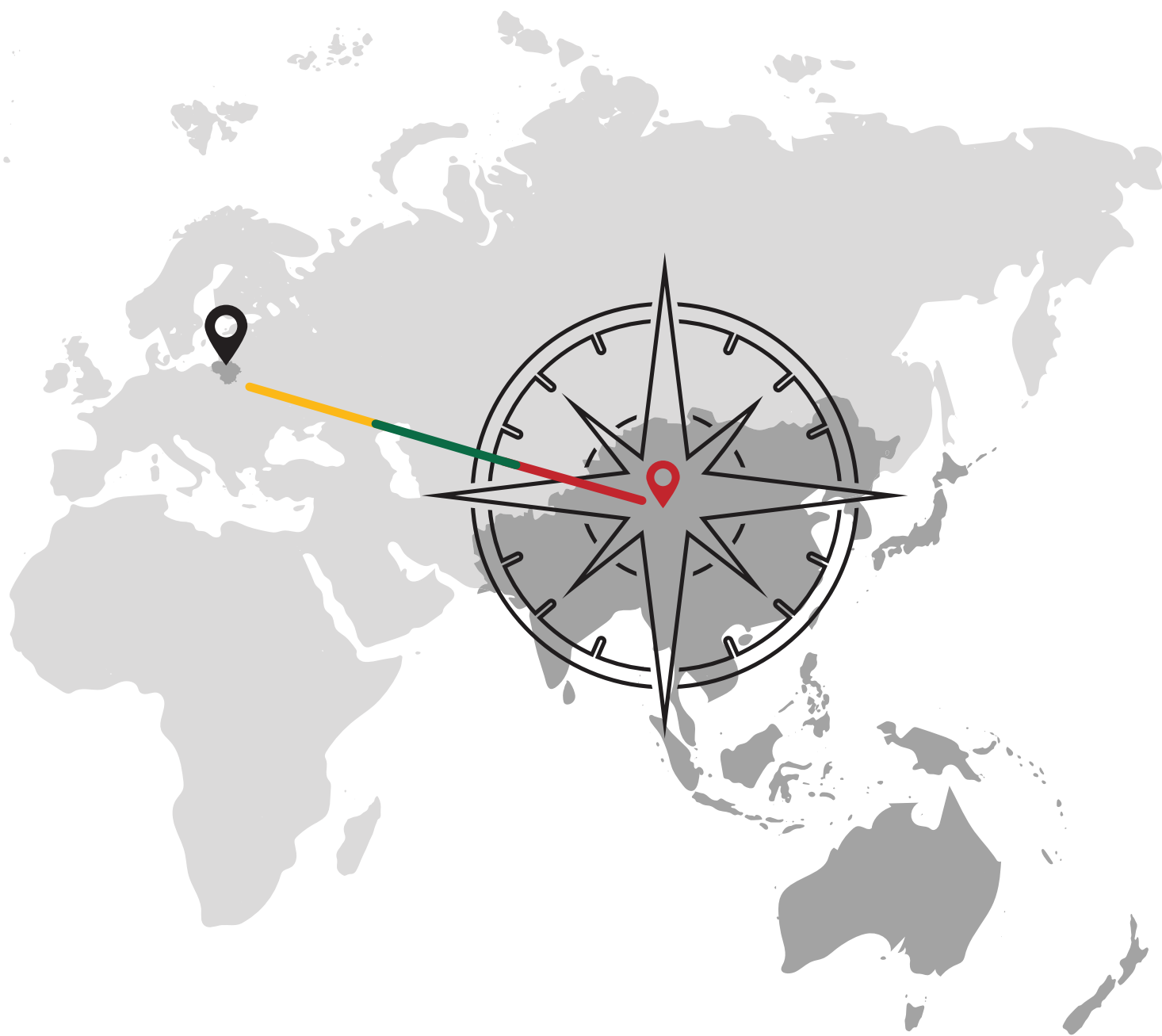




FOR A SECURE, RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

LITHUANIA'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



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LITHUANIA'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY – FOR A SECURE, RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific

1. In recent years, the Indo-Pacific region has grown its economic and geopolitical influence thus expanding its strategic importance. The region is home to key maritime trade routes and is pivotal in shaping the international order. Given the swift rise of China in the region and beyond, the trajectory of its domestic development and mounting readiness to alter the international order, the Indo-Pacific has become one of the main arenas for strategic and geopolitical tensions to play out. In this context, the countries in the Indo-Pacific such as Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia, New Zealand, India, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) are assuming a greater role in preserving political stability and economic sustainability in the region.
2. The 2022 Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine has shown that transatlantic and Indo-Pacific security are deeply interconnected. Russia has challenged international norms, such as territorial integrity, refraining from the use of coercion in transnational relations, state sovereignty, self-determination, and independence, the primacy of international law, respect for human rights and dignity. Russia's actions erode the rules-based international order and set a precedent that could be replicated by any other authoritarian state. Russia currently receives political, diplomatic, and material support from the countries that aim to dismantle or change the existing rules-based international order. **Hence, this prompts a number of Indo-Pacific states to preserve and enhance the rules-based international order. Lithuania considers these counterbalance states our closest likeminded partners in the region.**
3. Lithuania's Indo-Pacific Strategy has been designed in response to global geopolitical shifts that have a direct effect on our country and the European Union (EU).

// THE OVERARCHING GOAL OF LITHUANIA'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION IS TO STRENGTHEN THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER.

The implementation of the Strategy is expected to contribute to the sustainable development of the Indo-Pacific region, which will also have an impact on Lithuania's development, security, and social well-being. The Strategy sets out Lithuania's main interests in the Indo-Pacific and outlines the priority areas of its engagement.

4. The Strategy compliments the sustained efforts by the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and partner countries to keep the Indo-Pacific free, open, and within the framework of international rules. **Our core interest lies in fostering peace and security based on the rule of law and democracy, protection of human rights, the primacy of international law and effective multilateral cooperation. This Strategy aims to contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. It is crucial that**



the voice of the EU is unified in its relations with China, as well as in cooperating with the countries in the Indo-Pacific, so that we could abandon divisive formats and initiatives. We will aim to foster the bilateral Lithuania-US strategic dialogue on the Indo-Pacific as well as contribute to an open EU-US cooperation on this topic.

5. We will strengthen our current relationships and build new partnerships with countries in the region in line with Lithuania's national interests and foreign policy priorities. Our engagement will focus on contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security, the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), good governance practices, free market, connectivity, development of green economy, fight against climate change and its consequences, and protection of human rights and gender equality. In doing so, Lithuania will utilise its experience and respect cultural differences while at the same time listen to the needs and interests of the countries and partners in the region. **We will engage by developing bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as by utilising platforms of international organisations, together with socio-economic partners, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, and by making better use of parliamentary diplomacy.**
6. **We will strengthen relations with NATO partners in the region, i.e. Japan with which Lithuania has a strategic partnership, Australia, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and New Zealand.** We will also aim at mutually beneficial cooperation with India, the largest democracy and one of the largest economies in the world. Moreover, Lithuania will facilitate dialogue with fast-growing economies in ASEAN. We look to bolster our cooperation with Taiwan in the technology industry, resilience building, and democracy promotion among other areas. **We will seek to engage other countries and actors in the region that uphold free market principles and are committed to effective multilateralism and a world order based on international law.**¹
7. The Strategy derives its origins from: a) 2021 Guidelines of implementation of Lithuanian Interests in the Indo-Pacific region; b) bilateral and multilateral measures of Lithuania-USA Strategic Partnership; c) guidelines for the Lithuania-Japan Strategic Partnership; and d) the list of implementation measures outlined in Lithuania's Action Plan for Facilitating National Interests in the USA, Japan, and the Indo-Pacific 2022-2024. The Strategy is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuania's Progress Strategy "Lithuania 2030", the 2021-2030 National Progress Programme, and the project for Lithuania's vision for the future – "Lithuania 2050". The latter presents Lithuania as a resilient, constructive, and influential player in global politics that contributes to upholding the international world order based on democratic values, and, in so doing, coordinates its standards of leadership, open communication, and solidarity with partners.



¹In this strategy, the scope of the Indo-Pacific includes 41 countries and economies: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.



8. The Strategy rests on three pillars:

- I. **Increasing security and fostering political dialogue with countries in the Indo-Pacific** by developing regional capabilities, sharing and adopting expertise in the areas of defence cooperation, resilience building, cybersecurity, fight against hybrid threats and others.
- II. **Developing economic cooperation with countries in the region in a mutually beneficial manner to achieve the objectives of strategic diversification.** Building and enhancing economic partnerships in the areas of trade, investment, science, technologies, and innovation, with a particular focus on, life sciences and biotechnologies, diversification of supply chains, and resisting economic coercion.
- III. **Soft power – establishing networks through people-to-people contacts; exchanges in the areas of science, culture, education as well as women and youth empowerment; promoting tourism, and showcasing Lithuania in the Indo-Pacific as a democratic and progressive country and attracting experts to Lithuania.** This also encompasses promotion of democratic values and principles, protection of human rights, dignity and freedoms, sustainable development for the improvement of social, environmental, and other standards.

The Strategy rests on three pillars:

- ✘ Increasing security and fostering political dialogue with countries in the Indo-Pacific
- ✘ Developing economic cooperation with countries in the region in a mutually beneficial manner to achieve the objectives of strategic diversification
- ✘ Soft power – establishing networks through people-to-people contacts

SECURITY POLICY – resilience building

9. China has become a global economic and military power that has consolidated ever-intensifying autocratic control methods domestically and is exercising an increasingly aggressive foreign policy aimed at projecting its power externally, thus, exerting significant influence in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. China is prepared to utilise the economic, political, diplomatic, and other types of coercion to achieve its goals. Its attitude toward human rights, the rules-based international order, and the operation of international organisations poses a significant challenge to free and open democratic societies. Beijing's warming relationship with Moscow, illustrated by China's stance regarding Russia's aggression against Ukraine, is fuelling tensions between China and democratic states.
10. The ever-changing regional strategic landscape prompts the reinforcement of existing, and the establishment of new security initiatives, such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, and AUKUS – a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The security situation in the region is further aggravated by tensions in the Taiwan Strait, the DPRK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles development programme, territorial and maritime



disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea as well as China's military activity there, China-India and India-Pakistan disputes, the multiple crises in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other challenges. The aim of international law is to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all despite the size of the country, socio-economic characteristics, or governance framework. **Lithuania will aim for the primacy of international law to remain the cornerstone of peace and stability in the region.**

11. // SECURITY CHALLENGES POSED BY ANTI-SYSTEMIC AND REVISIONIST STATES IN BOTH THE INDO-PACIFIC AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SPACE ARE INTERCONNECTED

The changes in one security landscape has an impact on the other. Lithuania, along with its NATO and EU allies and likeminded partners in the Indo-Pacific, perceives global and regional security challenges similarly, and is open to joint solutions.

12. Our goal in the area of security and defence is to contribute to advancing the defence capabilities of likeminded countries in the region and to building resilience with regard to conventional and unconventional threats. We will aim to strengthen cooperation with partners in the Indo-Pacific by making practical connections between the military and security forces. Taking into account our partners' interests, we are prepared to share expertise relating to defence and societal resistance, to develop military diplomacy initiatives and, in this way, enhance the visibility of the Lithuanian national defence system in the region. We will continue to facilitate dialogue and to exchange information through multilateral formats and regular bilateral consultations in order to strengthen mutual resilience and to abate rising tensions. We will also utilise existing formats, such as the Regional Centre for Cybersecurity or the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, and embrace new initiatives.

13. Given Lithuania's size, its geographical distance, and economic capacity, the implementation of the Strategy will depend upon our interaction with partners and active participation in EU decision-making processes. We support an open, rules-based regional security structure, including safe maritime transit routes. Lithuania will contribute to the strengthening of NATO's partnerships with Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. We will support efforts for a united response to common security threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, radiation risk, cyberattacks, and threats posed by climate change. We will participate in international missions and operations along with our NATO and EU partners. It is especially important for us to cooperate with the countries in the region within the framework of the United Nations (UN) and its specialised agencies.

14. **One of Lithuania's main goals is to promote resilience-building by various domestic and international measures.** Lithuanian experience demonstrates that there is still a lack of instruments and institutions aimed at an effective response to illegal and politically motivated economic pressure. **Lithuania is committed to continue its active participation in EU decision-making regarding these issues,** especially by bolstering and implementing the European Economic Security Strategy and the EU internal market instruments, such as the Critical Raw Materials Act, the European Chips Act, the Net-Zero Industry Act, and the Anti-Coercion instrument. These initiatives contribute significantly to the effort by the international community to overcome challenges related to harmful dependencies in the Indo-Pacific. Along with the EU, and likeminded partners, we will foster international trade based on fair competition in order to strengthen the World Trade Organization (WTO) and employ the expertise of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).



- 15. The principles of Lithuania's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific stem from the core values of our country, society, and the European Union – democracy, freedom, rule of law, and respect for human rights.** Lithuania has established itself as a hub for freedom and democracy in our region and we will continue to remain open to groups and individuals that embrace these underpinning values, regardless of their geographical origin and status. We will seek to be responsive - within our capabilities - to the needs of human rights defenders and pro-democracy advocates in the Indo-Pacific, engaging and encouraging cooperation in different formats. We will facilitate dialogue with partners based on mutual respect and understanding, acknowledging the region's diversity, unique historical experience and cultural heritage of each state and society. Lithuania will consistently support democratic political processes and the development of inclusive and sustainable societies.
- 16. Lithuanian experience shows that respect for human rights and freedoms is not only compatible with the goals of economic development, but that it also significantly contributes to their attainment. We will therefore seek to promote the attractiveness of this model to countries that are still choosing their trajectories of progress. We will actively contribute to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and aim to garner support for EU initiatives in the region.** We will support the principles of democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms in regional formats, primarily ASEAN. Lithuania positions itself as a partner that rallies democracies together, and that is disposed to employ its unifying effort and potential in the Indo-Pacific.
- 17.** Lithuania not only has a history of painful occupation but also the experience of restoring the state, of liberation, civil society and resilience building. This has led to Lithuania being able to rally and unite societies as well as form international coalitions. Unsuccessful attempts by China to exert economic and diplomatic pressure on Lithuania proves that a country can withstand economic blackmail if it has built up societal resilience and has reliable partners. Lithuanian experience in its relations with China allows us to share lessons learned in resisting pressure with the countries in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Lithuania can contribute to helping resist economic, political, and diplomatic coercion, and hybrid attacks by aggressor states against societies and institutions of its partner countries.
- 18. Lithuania, like other EU Member States, adheres to the One China Policy and emphasises that status quo in the Taiwan Strait cannot be altered by military or coercive means. Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is one of the most pressing geopolitical issues in international politics and a necessary pre-condition for security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.** Escalation of the situation would inevitably and fundamentally affect regional and international security as well as have considerable negative consequences on the global economy. We support dialogue as a means to de-escalate tensions and disagreements, whilst seeking to attain more unity among likeminded countries on issues concerning the situation in the Taiwan Strait. Lithuania is seeking to enhance practical cooperation with Taiwan, a likeminded democracy, and an important economic and technological partner in the region. **The development of economic relations with Taiwan is one of Lithuania's strategic priorities and a part of its economic diversification policy.**
- 19. Military support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine or using force or coercion to change the *status quo* in the Taiwan Strait are red lines** - the violation of which would prompt a legitimate response from countries that believe in the preservation of the rules-based international order.
- 20.** Lithuania sees propaganda, disinformation, and the spread of hostile narratives as serious threats to security. It is crucial to work with Indo-Pacific societies in order to curtail the spread of Russian disinformation bolstered by China and China's informational pressure against Taiwan. The spread of Russian and Chinese narratives and antagonism against Western states proves that it is essential to enhance the joint effort in fighting against



disinformation. In order to achieve this, it is essential to build coalitions of likeminded states, to share the Lithuanian expertise and experience of resilience building as well as to adopt best practices from the Indo-Pacific countries. **Lithuania will make every effort to increase the number of operations and initiatives relating to resisting hostile narratives in the region.**

- 21.** The actions of non-democratic states in cyberspace threaten everyone without exception. We will strengthen cooperation with likeminded partners in the Indo-Pacific in the area of cybersecurity. We will continue to develop bilateral and multilateral dialogue on cybersecurity (especially by participating in EU and NATO initiatives), to facilitate the exchange of information and experts, and to strengthen practical cooperation, including joint participation in exercises.
- 22.** The development of new technologies not only creates new economic opportunities but security challenges too. Emerging disruptive technologies allow for hostile action against a geographically distant adversary. **In response to an ever-increasing impact of emerging disruptive technologies on the rules-based order and international security, Lithuania aims to enhance its expertise and engage more actively in discussions relating to the improvement of regulation on future security challenges, on risk-reduction strategies, and the creation and development of appropriate regulatory frameworks.** We aim to cooperate with Indo-Pacific countries in the defence industry, focusing particularly on the application and development of high technologies.
- 23.** Many of the Indo-Pacific countries are situated in zones of high volcanic activity; moreover, the region is especially susceptible to climate change and its consequences. This can precondition migration from coastal or island states and from the continent due to the lack of living space, food or drinking water. It is important to enhance societal resilience and sustainable, climate-conscious economic development and boost crisis preparedness. Enforcing the targets set in the EU's 2030 Climate & Energy Framework, Lithuania highlights the importance of linking climate action with green energy reform as well as the cooperation between private and public sectors in looking for inventive environmental solutions, ecological innovation, development of sustainable and competitive economic growth and job creation. **Our aim is to contribute to the efforts of the EU and the international community in solving food safety, epidemiological crises and other problems created by climate change and its consequences in the Indo-Pacific, by helping countries in the region to undergo the green transition and decrease their consumption of fossil fuels, and by helping them to change consumer behaviour in order to protect the environment and preserve regional natural resources.**

ECONOMIC COOPERATION – targeted action aimed at mutual benefit

- 24.** The Indo-Pacific is one of the fastest growing regions that houses almost two thirds of the world's population. The region contains 3 out of 5 largest economies in the world: China, Japan, and India. The Indo-Pacific produces over 60% of the world's GDP and a third of the world's economic production. It also generates almost half of the world's trade in goods and half of the world's maritime trade. **Therefore, the development of economic cooperation between Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific is a strategically important part of our economic and foreign policy.** Several of our Indo-Pacific partners have achieved a high level of scientific and technological development; hence, Lithuania's economic cooperation with the Indo-Pacific economies can **contribute to its faster transformation into a high value-added economy and offer more business development opportunities for its partner countries.**



25. **Cooperation with the countries in the region should follow the rule of law.** Only in this way, by acting according to prior agreement, will we be able to maintain sustainable economic relations, autonomous from one-sided and unpredictable decisions. **Closer bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation with countries in the region should be associated not only with short-to-medium-term economic benefits but also with the long-term geopolitical goal of diminishing autocratic influences in the region.** We will aim to foster cooperation with the countries in the Indo-Pacific that support the principles of an open economy and rules-based trade as well as those that are determined to preserve effective multilateralism and an order based on international law. **In this way, we will not only aim for sustainable economic growth but also for ensuring resilience against economic crises, supply chain disruptions, and economic coercion.**
26. The facilitation of economic cooperation can contribute to the transitional period justice and post-conflict society reconstruction processes. Lithuania could share its experience with effective reform and contribute in this way to the sustainable and transparent development of the region, its stability as well as its regional and global integration.

// WE WILL AIM THAT THE POSITIVE CHANGES BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH SHARING THE LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE OF TRANSITION IN THE AREAS OF ECONOMIC REFORM, GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY.

27. Taking the geopolitical realities and the aim of strategic diversification into account, **we will expand opportunities to open new markets that would decrease our dependence on dominant supply sources.** Lithuania aims to diversify its supply chains along with the countries in the region and to attract investment. **We will prioritise high value-added sectors, such as high-tech production, that meet our economic security goals and our partners' needs.**
28. **The region is especially large and diverse; therefore, cooperation will rest on Lithuanian societal and business needs, and expectations of countries in the region regarding trade, investment, economic, scientific, and technological cooperation.** In order to implement its aims effectively, Lithuania will develop cooperation with the region in the following formats: 1) EU cooperation and partnerships; 2) international and regional organisations (i.e. ASEAN, PIF, WTO, OECD, UNESCO); 3) bilateral relations; 4) joint projects with other countries in the Indo-Pacific.
29. Around 40% of EU's foreign trade travels through the South China Sea. We will support the conclusion of new and effective implementation of existing EU Free Trade Agreements with countries in the region. **We will aim that the improvement of the conditions for businesses would establish an engaging multilateral and bilateral legal framework.** Trade agreements and partnerships, such as the existing digital partnerships with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore, and active effort in obtaining export permits and certificates can significantly contribute to the development of economic relations with strategically significant countries in the Indo-Pacific and the growth of the Lithuanian economy.
30. Bilateral trade between Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific countries is growing continuously. We will promote export to the countries listed as priority markets for export and innovation by the Commission of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Economic Diplomacy Council, in 2022.



Those are **nine Indo-Pacific countries and economies, i.e. Japan, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and India.** We will also seek to establish new trade relationships with other countries in the Indo-Pacific in the long-term. The Economic Diplomacy Council has identified **Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, and the Republic of Korea as potential priority markets for attracting direct foreign investment to Lithuania.** Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan are also included in the list of **target markets for incoming tourism.** The list of **priority export markets for Lithuania's agricultural and food products** includes Japan and Taiwan, while the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam are highlighted as **significant and promising markets.** In this area, we will pay particular attention to **exporting organic and high value-added agricultural produce of Lithuanian origin and attracting investment to Lithuania.**

- 31.** Considering the development of priority areas in Lithuanian research, innovative and experimental growth, **we will bolster partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries and economies in the areas of new production processes, health, technology and biotechnology, information, and connectivity technology.** We will pay special attention to potential investors for high value-added advanced technology sectors, especially life sciences, semiconductors, and Fintech as well as electronics and vehicle-component production. **We will facilitate dialogue regarding these sectors with fast-growing economies that are part of ASEAN. We will also strengthen our relations with Taiwan in the areas of advanced technology, research, trade, tourism, promoting investment and beyond.**
- I.** The Lithuanian laser industry takes an important place globally in the sector of ultra-short scientific lasers; therefore, it is important to ensure the enhancement and development of the Lithuanian laser industry. Increasing the awareness of the Lithuanian laser industry in the Indo-Pacific markets is of particular importance. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Lithuania and partners in the region should help find concrete long-term solutions that would incentivise companies, educational institutions, and other organisations related to laser industry to cultivate mutually beneficial partnerships.
 - II.** In the field of life sciences, especially in the sectors of biotechnology and healthcare, it is essential to make Lithuania visible in the Indo-Pacific. This is a fast-growing sector in Lithuania, which offers opportunities to develop cooperation with the countries in the region.
 - III.** Lithuania has become a regional centre for international technology companies and an expert in telecommunications technologies. Financial technology, artificial intelligence and software engineering are driving forces of the Lithuanian technology sector, while Lithuania's telecommunications sector is known for fast internet and a high broadband penetration rate. For Lithuania, the Indo-Pacific offers many opportunities of sharing its experience and developing various cooperation projects.
 - IV.** New production processes, materials and technologies (e.g. photonics and laser technologies, semiconductor products, construction and composite materials, flexible systems of developing products and technologies) contribute to making Lithuania a country of innovation. Cooperation with the Indo-Pacific countries in this area will allow for more opportunities to expand and diversify our supply chains and look for new synergies.
- 32.** In extending its cooperation with the Indo-Pacific, Lithuania will endeavour to take note of social and economic expectations of the countries in the region in areas such as digitalisation, women and youth empowerment, circular economy, and others. Taking into account the existing resources and knowledge, **we will aim to cooperate with EU states and likeminded Indo-Pacific states that have more experience working with the countries in the region in implementing projects relating to good governance and empowerment of vulnerable groups.**



- I. Lithuania will aim to establish a special fund, and, by engaging associated Lithuanian business organisations as partners, it will implement projects intended to promote trade and economic cooperation with countries in the Indo-Pacific, which should contribute to sustainable economic development of the countries in the region.
 - II. We will assess specific needs of the states in the Indo-Pacific and aim to meet their expectations by implementing life-quality improvement projects and poverty-reduction programmes. We intend to do so together with likeminded states, and we will participate more actively in EU-led initiatives and projects.
 - III. Aspiring to long-term effect, Lithuania will direct and invest its resources into three main areas: 1) strengthening of good governance practices by promoting and implementing e-governance projects; 2) strengthening of civil society by enabling people from vulnerable groups to participate more actively in economic activity; 3) promoting a free and rules-based foreign trade policy and participating in trade-assistance projects.
 - IV. We will assess needs of the countries in the region and Lithuanian competences in order to contribute to projects that foster green energy, circular economy, technologies and solutions aimed at reducing emissions and the impact of climate change. Expert assistance will be offered to partners that already operate in the region.
 - V. Lithuania will involve business and non-governmental organisations, governmental and municipal institutions, academic, cultural and art establishments into the development and implementation of its development cooperation projects. This will not only improve the effectiveness of development cooperation projects in general and encourage people-to-people relations between Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific, but it will also allow for a larger part of Lithuanian society to feel benefits of engagement in the Indo-Pacific.
 - VI. We will also seek to carry out development cooperation projects in the EU Eastern Partnership countries along with our partners in the Indo-Pacific.
- 33. Lithuania will aim to operate more actively in the area of energy security and to contribute to the development of alternative energy resources.** Lithuania has experienced outside pressure on its energy supply; therefore, we can share our experience of diversification of energy resources and of increasing energy efficiency with other states. In order to implement **the goals of the 2030 EU Climate Change & Energy Framework** and the European Energy Security Strategy, Lithuania will seek to strengthen the EU external energy policy: i.e. to enhance dialogue with the most important energy suppliers and consumers in the Indo-Pacific. **By improving mutual energy security and energy independence, Lithuania aims to share its best practices with partner countries in the region. This will help to decrease dependence on fossil fuels and boost green transition efforts. The following are several possible areas of cooperation: new liquified natural gas terminals, renewable energy resources, and development of projects for sustainable fuels (e.g. hydrogen, bio methane) production. Such projects can support partner countries in becoming energy independent and in reaching their targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**
- 34. Maritime security is especially important for the Indo-Pacific and its economic well-being as well as the whole of the EU. Lithuania will seek to contribute to shipping security, freedom of navigation, and to strengthen cooperation with countries in the region on blue economy, especially in the areas of sustainable tourism, port operations, and decreasing ocean pollution.** Klaipėda Sea Port is one of the few ports in Northeastern Europe that does not freeze over and is the second EU port in the Baltic region in terms of tonnage size. Lithuania has one of the most developed transport and logistics systems in the region, with operational sea, rail, and road transport connections. **As connectivity becomes an increasingly important matter in the Indo-Pacific, Lithuania will offer entry into the EU markets for countries in the region that respect a rules-based order and the rule of law.**



35. Lithuania is in a competitive position in terms of its geographical location, tourism resources and services. Unfortunately, due to a lack of knowledge about it in the Indo-Pacific, there is still a lot of unfulfilled potential regarding incoming tourism from the region. **We aim to showcase Lithuania as an attractive state for tourism. The promotion of incoming tourism would also contribute to better knowledge of Lithuania in the Indo-Pacific.**

SOFT POWER AND NETWORKING – connecting people and sharing experiences – networking in the region

36. Despite certain divisive and polarising tendencies, we live in an era of globalisation and have more opportunities for connectivity than ever before. For Lithuania to cooperate more closely with the Indo-Pacific countries, it is essential to grasp such opportunities by deepening the mutual understanding of each other's cultures. Because of its scope, the Indo-Pacific is especially diverse, manifold, and rich in its cultural and historical traditions. **A comprehensive understanding of the region and its introduction to the Lithuanian public are preconditions for the successful network building and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.**
37. Our country's and society's interest in the countries of the Indo-Pacific is continuously growing. Demonstrating its openness and readiness to foster relations in the region, Lithuania has recently opened new embassies in Australia, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Singapore as well as a trade office in Taiwan. Cooperation is steadily growing in political, economic, educational, scientific, and cultural domains. Lithuania intends to continue on this trajectory by further developing relations with the countries in the region. **Further expansion and reinforcement of diplomatic missions in the Indo-Pacific are currently under consideration, which will go hand in hand with closer economic cooperation and cultural as well as scientific ties between societies.**
38. **// LITHUANIA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW ITS VISIBILITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC, THUS CONSOLIDATING AND HIGHLIGHTING THE PRIORITY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT.**

We are eager to showcase Lithuania as an open and advanced country by employing new or already existing tools for fostering people-to-people relations in the region. It is especially important to expand the circle of similar and likeminded states as currently the long-standing principles of international order are cracking apart or are contravened by regimes that are antagonistic toward Lithuania. Against this backdrop, civil society plays one of the most important roles in the fight against hostile narratives.

39. Collaboration and deeper understanding of the region will be developed by encouraging studies in Lithuania with the help of Centres for Asian Studies. We will promote activities of Lithuanian higher education institutions and support their efforts in looking for other ways to advance knowledge of the Indo-Pacific. **Strategic development of studies of the Indo-Pacific can contribute to the development of multifaceted relationships as graduates equipped with specialised knowledge could engage in research, business, tourism, cultural exchange, and other spheres.** The development of Asian Studies in Lithuania could prompt the countries in the Indo-Pacific to establish their own institutions dedicated to studies about Lithuania or the Baltics that could become centres of Lithuania's soft power in the region. Opportunities



for Lithuanian students and those from the Indo-Pacific to complete a part or the entirety of their studies as well as internships and traineeships in host countries would contribute to the consolidation of people-to-people relations, the cultivation of cross-cultural competences for the youth in Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific as well as better mutual understanding.

- 40.** A significant number of students from the Indo-Pacific choose Lithuania for their higher education studies. **We are keen to further expand academic mobility and cooperation by encouraging the internationalism of Lithuanian higher education and improving the quality of studies. We are looking to focus the cooperation to areas that train specialists for high value-added sectors, such as ICT, lasers, Fintech, life sciences, satellite technology, and other emerging technologies.** We are aiming to continue employing a number of EU-led initiatives available to participants from third countries, such as Erasmus+ that encourages the mobility of students, researchers and lecturers, as well as Horizon Europe that facilitates research with academics from third states. We should also foster the bilateral and multilateral agreements that have been proven to be successful in achieving synergy and effective allocation of resources.
- 41.** We need to look for connections between Lithuania and the countries in the region. Experience to date shows that such links can mean linguistic and historical ties as well as people who used to work for Lithuania and countries in the Indo-Pacific. **We will design and implement our country-specific networking ideas and projects by employing new and strengthening existing soft power instruments and people-to-people contacts.** We must continue looking for bonds based on historical, linguistic, and personal ties and, once we find them, make them known. These ties are extremely significant in developing political and economic cooperation with countries in the region and in promoting people-to-people contacts.
- 42.** The input from the Lithuanian diaspora and experts on the Indo-Pacific is crucial in fostering people-to-people relations. **It is necessary to continue engaging, promoting, consolidating, and supporting Lithuanians residing in the region, including sizable Lithuanian communities in Australia and New Zealand, as well as to cherish the unifying Lithuanian identity,** human ties with Lithuania and activities that connect Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific. **Moreover, Lithuania is ready to support civil initiatives** that advance relations in the region and increase Lithuania's visibility and recognisability there. In a joint effort between the government and diaspora organisations, **we will seek to create an attractive and reliable expert-level medium for generating new ideas in Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific.**
- 43.** Establishing cooperation networks between cities, towns, non-governmental organisations, associations, and sports collectives is critical for developing people-to-people relations. **Understandably, cooperation with distant countries is more challenging as the process is time-consuming and expensive. Nevertheless, existing success stories should incentivise us to look for and develop new relationships.** Human relations development projects of this kind contribute significantly to Lithuania's visibility and often promote business partnerships. **The development of sports diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific is a promising area for such projects.** The ongoing effort in presenting Lithuania as a basketball state and stemming concrete cooperation projects can serve as a model for other sports.
- 44.** With a view to strengthening ties between societies and increasing Lithuania's visibility, it is important to engage more actively in the development cooperation projects in the Indo-Pacific. **Lithuania has a great deal to offer, especially to the developing countries in the Indo-Pacific, in the areas of technologies and innovation. Our experience can be applied in promoting democratic reforms, implementing digitalisation projects, reaching goals of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, contributing to climate change prevention measures, enhancing energy security as well as the green transition efforts in the region by involving governmental and municipal institutions, non-governmental organisations, academic, cultural and art establishments.** As we develop bilateral projects,



we need to conceptualise them in a broader context of EU regional activity and employ the available instruments like Global Gateway or Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. In this way, we will also contribute to the implementation of the EU Sustainable Development Goals and principals.

45. Cultural and creative industries is an advanced sector that has a high potential for export growth. It not only creates high value-added jobs but also has a big impact on today's societies and allows to get to know other regions and cultures. **We will aim to develop cooperation in this area and use cultural and creative industries to improve Lithuania's competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific as well as to produce high value-added goods and innovations.** We are open to regional, cultural, and creative industries since their demand will inevitably grow; so, will the involvement in and awareness of the region by Lithuanian society.
46. International cultural cooperation will generate equal conditions for interaction between Lithuania and the Indo-Pacific countries and organisations, offer opportunities to create joint forms of cultural expression, engage in and contribute to international processes of cultural development. We will aim to actively participate in EUNIC² clusters operating in the region. **It is important to cherish affinity based on tolerance and solidarity with different cultural communities, to pursue value-based exchanges, with more focus on respect for human rights, dignity, and freedoms, and to develop cross-cultural dialogue.**

Conclusion

// THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INDO-PACIFIC IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, POLITICS AND CULTURE HAS RISEN EXPONENTIALLY AND THIS TREND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE. LITHUANIA'S ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC IS CRUCIAL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER THAT PROTECTS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL STATES.

47. Cooperation with the Indo-Pacific economies is crucial for Lithuania to transition from an average income to a high value-added economy. Lithuanian creators, scientists, NGOs, financial and cultural institutions will have more opportunities to realise their potential globally if they build relationships with Indo-Pacific societies and creators. Lithuania will be able to act as a fully-fledged global player when we build our network in the Indo-Pacific.
48. Lithuania's Indo-Pacific Strategy is implemented in coordination and consultation with other governmental institutions, social and economic partners, municipalities, academic, art and cultural institutions, as well as NGOs. The Strategy will be regularly reviewed and updated to adapt it to ever-changing conditions. In order to implement the Strategy successfully, it will be followed by the Strategy Implementation Action Plan due to come out at the end of 2023.

²EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture.



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