

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland ("Finland") and the Government of the State of California of the United States of America ("California"), hereinafter referred to as "the Participants," declare as follows:

WHEREAS California is the world's fourth-largest economy and is home to globally leading clean technology, aerospace and defense, healthcare, and high-tech sectors;

WHEREAS Finland is a highly innovative economy with leading expertise in sustainability, digital infrastructure, and new and emerging technologies, supported by a strong research ecosystem and advanced industrial capabilities;

WHEREAS Finland and California share close economic and commercial ties, with two-way trade valued at \$569 million in 2025;

WHEREAS Finland has maintained a longstanding diplomatic presence in California through its Consulate General in Los Angeles and its Honorary Consulates in San Diego and San Francisco;

WHEREAS Finland and California share a strong commitment to advancing a sustainable and inclusive green economy;

WHEREAS the Participants recognize the critical importance of developing, adopting, and scaling clean technologies, as well as the essential role of partnerships in achieving ambitious climate objectives and sustainable economic growth;

WHEREAS Finland and California are committed to the sustainable and responsible advancement and deployment of advanced technologies, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence and quantum computing;

WHEREAS the Participants seek to build on shared values, existing collaboration, and complementary strengths, including their research, development, industrial, academic, innovation, and business ecosystems, to further enhance cooperation;

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

SECTION I

Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a flexible framework between the Participants in order to permit them to collaborate to strengthen their economic ties. In doing so, the Participants share the following common objectives:

- a) To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and policy insights through dialogues, delegations, trade promotion activities, projects, and partnerships;
- b) To encourage opportunities for private sector and government-to-government collaborations, as well as public-private partnerships within the targeted areas of cooperation outlined below
- c) To strengthen innovation ecosystems by supporting academic and research exchanges; and
- d) To promote mutually beneficial trade relations.

SECTION II

Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to cooperate to strengthen their economic ties through initiatives focused particularly on, but not limited to, the following areas of cooperation:

- a) Clean technology and sustainability;
- b) Aerospace and defense innovation;
- c) Health and life sciences;
- d) New and emerging technologies, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, quantum, and cybersecurity;
- e) Academic and research cooperation; and
- f) Sustainable forest bioeconomy, including advanced wood products, circular biomaterials, biomass utilization, and bioenergy.

SECTION III

Coordination

The Participants respectively designate the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to establish the creation of an action plan to implement the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding.

SECTION IV

Specific Activities

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding for the key sectors and initiatives identified in Section II may include:

- a) Supporting intergovernmental and international visits involving policymakers, regulators, academic institutions, investors, non-governmental organizations, and businesses, as well as business organizations to boost knowledge and collaboration;
- b) Exchanging ideas and knowledge on how to stimulate innovation, facilitate entrepreneurship, and promote economic development in the specified areas of cooperation;

- c) Sharing information and best practices regarding policies and programs, as well as capacity building, related to the areas of cooperation;
- d) Identifying opportunities for business engagement, including at mutually beneficial trade shows, forums, conferences, and symposia;
- e) Facilitating research between academic and governmental institutions, as well as potential third parties;
- f) Promoting partnerships and communication with local and regional jurisdictions; and
- g) Participating in other commitments and/or initiatives to promote the deepening of ties between Finland and California.

SECTION V

No Legal Obligations, Rights, or Remedies

This Memorandum of Understanding is a voluntary initiative. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and creates no legally cognizable or enforceable rights or remedies, legal or equitable, in any forum whatsoever. In addition, the commitments in this Memorandum of Understanding are not conditioned upon reciprocal actions by other Participants; each Participant retains full discretion over implementation of its commitments in light of the Participant's individual circumstances, laws, and policies; and each Participant is free to terminate the Memorandum.

SECTION VI

Availability of Personnel and Resources

This Memorandum of Understanding does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by either Participant. All costs that may arise from activities covered by, mentioned in, or pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be assumed by the Participant that incurs them, unless otherwise expressly stated in a future written arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. All activities carried out pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources of each Participant.

The personnel designated by a Participant for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will work under the orders and responsibility of that Participant and any other organization or institution to which the personnel already belongs, at all times maintaining any preexisting employment relationship only with that Participant and organization or institution, and not with any other Participant.

SECTION VII

Compliance with Applicable Laws

This Memorandum of Understanding will be construed consistent with all applicable laws, and activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to, and will be carried out in a manner consistent with, all otherwise-applicable laws.

SECTION VIII
Interpretation and Application

Any difference that may arise in relation to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the Participants, which will endeavor in good faith to resolve such differences.

SECTION IX
Final Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature, for a five-year period, unless renewed or extended by the Participants in the same manner that the Participants may otherwise modify this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Participants. Any modification will be made in writing and specify the date on which such modification is to become effective.

Any of the Participants may, at any time, terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to the other Participant(s). A Participant that intends to terminate this MOU will endeavor to provide notice of such termination to other Participants 60 days in advance.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not have an effect on the activities initiated while this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, unless a Participant expressly states otherwise.

Signed in New York City, New York on September 23, 2026, in two original copies in English.

**FOR THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
FINLAND**



Elina Valtonen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE
OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California