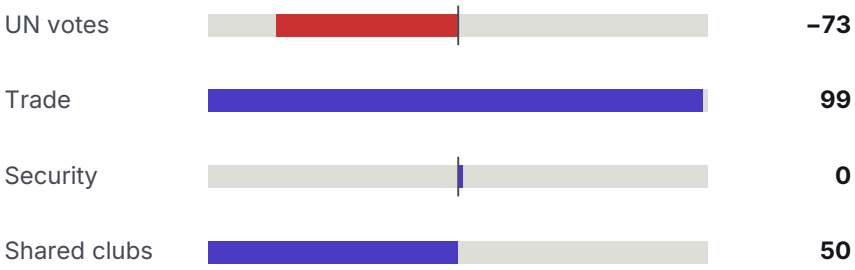
South Korea & China

+2

Neutral

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.



IN SHORT

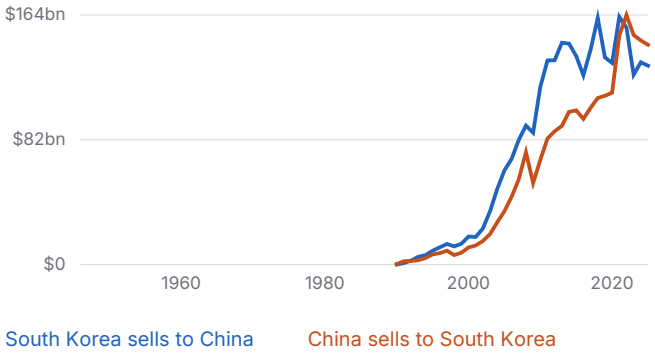
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in North Korea, South Korea, with China supporting another party, most recently in 1953.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 50% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($277 billion a year) is very important for South Korea, much less so for China.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, China names South Korea far more often than the reverse (87 sentences against 11).
- 757,000 people born in China live in South Korea (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

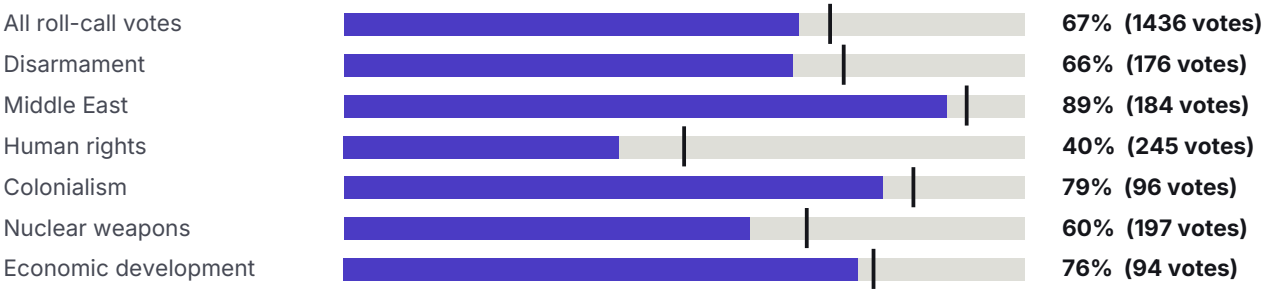


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (89% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (40%), against 67% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of South Korea and China was 50% in 2022–2024. For South Korea, China is the 8th most distant voting partner out of 191; for China, South Korea is the 45th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $277 billion a year in 2023–2025: 23.8% of all South Korea's trade and 5.6% of China's. China is South Korea's largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, South Korea has named China in 11 sentences of its General Debate speeches; China has named South Korea in 87.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (North Korea, South Korea, 1950–1953).
People	65,000 people born in South Korea live in China and 757,000 born in China live in South Korea (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 37 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	269 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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