

Joint statement on Nordic cooperation in security and defence

The five Nordic Prime Ministers met in Oslo 15 August 2022 and agreed as follows:

We share fundamental values and security interests and aim for the Nordic region to be the most sustainable and integrated region in the world by 2030. We have a responsibility to protect our open and democratic societies, built on a high level of trust.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed European security. The Nordic countries share an objective to retain stability and enhance security in our region. We will continue to deepen our dialogue on security policy developments. While the Nordic countries do not pose a threat to anyone, we must act together to safeguard our sovereignty, freedom and shared values.

Finland's and Sweden's accessions to NATO will make NATO stronger and Europe safer. With regard to security and defence, the Nordic countries already cooperate closely within the NORDEFECO framework as well as through other bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. With Finland and Sweden in NATO, all of the Nordic countries will be committed to assist each other under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. This represents a significant deepening of our defence cooperation and a strengthened defence of the Nordic region, the Baltic Sea Region, NATO's northern flank and the Alliance as a whole. Finland and Sweden are EU member states and their accession to NATO combined with the recent Danish vote to abolish the opt-out on EU's security and defence cooperation, will constitute a possibility for enhancing cooperation between NATO and the EU.

Nordic defence cooperation will be adjusted to the new security order. Recently, at their meeting in Kirkenes, the Nordic ministers of defence tasked their ministries to begin this work.

The Nordic countries possess significant, modern and highly capable armed forces. Through joint training, integrated planning and the ability to conduct operations seamlessly, the effectiveness of our defence can be greatly enhanced. Our strategic focus areas represent an important asset for our common security.

Against this background, we will further develop the cooperation on security and defence between our countries, building on existing structures, but realising fully the potential derived from us becoming Allies in NATO. To this end, we have the ambition to:

- Explore the opportunities for enhanced political cooperation with regard to security and enhanced resilience in our region.
- Contribute actively to the development and strengthening of NATO as a military and political alliance.
- Strengthen joint exercises and training in close coordination with NATO and Allies.
- Pursue synergies and interoperability in harmonising national and NATO defence plans.
- Enhance the resilience of our societies in peace, crisis and conflict through shared situational awareness, cooperation in total defence, security of supply and resilience against malign activities, including cyber-attacks and hybrid threats. The work to strengthen our resilience of our societies takes place in different fora and at different levels, including within the NORDEFECO – Haga cooperation.

- Further strengthen means for classified communication between relevant Ministries and between institutions in the Nordic countries.
- Continue to promote shared values and interests, such as a rules-based international order, in relevant multilateral fora including the United Nations and the European Union.
