

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF DENMARK**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF FINLAND**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ICELAND**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF NORWAY**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF SWEDEN**

**ON**

**NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION**

The Ministry of Defence of Denmark, the Ministry of Defence of Finland, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, the Ministry of Defence of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of Sweden, hereinafter referred to as "the Participants";

*Respecting* the shared fundamental values and long-standing defence cooperation that exists between the Participants;

*Determined* to further develop that cooperation as Allies within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

*Committed* to defending the Nordic region and strengthening the deterrence and defence of NATO;

*Recognising* that all forms of defence cooperation between the Participants strengthen national, Nordic and Allied defence;

*Acknowledging* the rights and obligations that follow from the Participants' membership in NATO;

*Recognising* any obligation that may follow from the Participants' membership in the European Union (EU) and/or the European Economic Area (EEA);

*Having regard* to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces (NATO SOFA) done in London on 19 June 1951 and its applicability to this MoU;

*Recalling* the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on the Establishment of an Easy Access Framework Applicable in Peacetime, signed in Copenhagen on 9 November 2016;

*Acknowledging* the Agreement between the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden concerning Cooperation in the Defence Materiel Area done in Arvidsjaur on 10 March 2015;

*Noting* the provisions of the General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden done in Oslo on 7 May 2010;

Have reached the following understanding:

## **SECTION 1**

### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides the framework for Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO) between the Participants.
2. Nordic Defence Cooperation aims at:
  - a. strengthening the deterrence and defence of the Nordic region, including through readiness to conduct combined joint military operations, thus complementing and contributing to the collective defence of NATO,
  - b. promoting a common understanding of defence related strategic and policy issues of common interest,
  - c. fostering cooperation in the field of defence.
3. The objectives of Nordic Defence Cooperation are further laid out in the Vision for Nordic Defence Cooperation, subject to periodic review and renewal.

## **SECTION 2**

### **SCOPE**

1. On the basis of this MoU, the Participants are committed to further strengthening Nordic Defence Cooperation, which complements and contributes to European and transatlantic security and collective defence.
2. Additional subordinate agreements or arrangements relating to areas and/or activities can be concluded under the auspices of this MoU as deemed necessary between the Participants. In case of inconsistency between the MoU and any subordinate agreement or arrangement concluded under the auspices of this MoU, the text of the MoU will prevail.
3. This MoU or any subordinate agreements or arrangements will not preclude other bi- or multilateral agreements or arrangements between some of the Participants.
4. The working procedures for Nordic Defence Cooperation will be laid down in a separate Terms of Reference as decided by the Political Steering Committee.
5. Nothing in this MoU will imply any obligation for the Participants to commit themselves to participating in certain activities or projects. Unless otherwise agreed, each Participant retains the right to withdraw at any stage from activities and projects conducted under the auspices of this MoU.

### **SECTION 3 ORGANISATION**

The Nordic Defence Cooperation has an annually rotating chairship. At the highest political level are the Ministers of Defence. At the ministry level, Nordic Defence Cooperation will be steered by the Political Steering Committee. At the highest military level/equivalent level are the Chiefs of Defence. At the military level, the Military Coordination Committee will manage the Armed Forces' cooperation.

#### **The Political Steering Committee**

1. The Political Steering Committee (PSC) will steer and monitor activities under the auspices of this MoU.
2. The functions of the PSC include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Identify and decide on defence related strategic and policy issues of common interest,
  - b. Ensure coherence of the Nordic Defence Cooperation,
  - c. Provide guidance to and task the Military Coordination Committee to prepare, recommend and implement decisions.
3. The PSC consists of representatives from the Ministries of Defence or other relevant bodies of the Participants on policy, capabilities and armaments. The PSC is supported by the PSC Secretariat (PSC S), which functions as the executive staff of the PSC and is composed of representatives of the respective Ministries of Defence or other relevant bodies of the Participants.

#### **The Military Coordination Committee**

4. The Military Coordination Committee (MCC) will lead and coordinate the cooperation of the Armed Forces.
5. The functions of the MCC include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. As the representative of respective Chief of Defence, ensure the coordination, management and implementation of the military level cooperation,
  - b. Establish required structures and processes for the cooperation on military level,
  - c. Identify and forward policy related matters to the PSC,
  - d. Provide military advice, implement tasks and inform about progress to the PSC.
6. The MCC will consist of national representatives from the military-strategic level or other relevant bodies of the Participants. The MCC is supported by the Coordination Staff, which functions as the executive body of the MCC. The Coordination Staff is composed

of representatives of the respective Defence Commands or other relevant bodies of the Participants.

#### **SECTION 4 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

Unless otherwise agreed, each Participant will cover their own expenses derived from activities and projects conducted under the auspices of this MoU.

#### **SECTION 5 SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

Any classified information and material that may be exchanged or generated in connection with this MoU will be used, transmitted, stored, handled and safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of the General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden done in Oslo on 7 May 2010, or any successor agreement or arrangement.

#### **SECTION 6 STATUS OF FORCES**

The Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces (NATO SOFA), done in London on 19 June 1951, will apply and regulate the status of forces of a Participant while conducting activities under the auspices of this MoU on the territory of another Participant.

#### **SECTION 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHERS THAN THE PARTICIPANTS**

Nordic Defence Cooperation may involve cooperation with other NATO Allies, partners and actors other than the Participants to this MoU. Where appropriate, Nordic Defence Cooperation activities will be coordinated with such actors.

#### **SECTION 8 STATUS OF MOU**

1. This MoU is not legally binding, nor does it generate obligations under international law.
2. This MoU is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. This MoU is not intended to conflict with national legislation of the Participants. In case of conflict, international law or national legislation will prevail. The Participants will notify each other in the event of any conflict arising.

## **SECTION 9 AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

This MoU may be amended and supplemented at any time by mutual written consent by the Participants. Amendments and supplements will come into effect upon the date of the latest signature and will be numbered consecutively.

## **SECTION 10 DISPUTES**

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved through negotiations between the Participants at the lowest level possible and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or other third party for settlement.

## **SECTION 11 FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. This MoU will come into effect 30 days after its signature.
2. On the date of coming into effect, this MoU will replace the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Nordic Defence Cooperation, signed in Helsinki on 4 November 2009.
3. Agreements and arrangements that have been concluded under the auspices of the MoU mentioned in section 11.2 will stay in effect.
4. On the date of coming into effect of this MoU, it will also replace the following documents:
  - a. The Statement of Intent on Enhanced Operational Cooperation among the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Sweden signed at Karlberg on 24 September 2021,
  - b. The Statement of Intent on Enhanced Operational Cooperation among the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Sweden signed in Oslo on 22 November 2022.

5. This MoU will remain in effect for an indefinite period of time.
6. Each Participant may withdraw from this MoU by giving at least 12 months written notice to the other Participants. Alternatively, the Participants may by mutual written consent terminate this MoU at any time.
7. If the MoU is terminated, or if any of the Participants withdraw from the MoU, the Participants will initiate negotiations to settle all outstanding issues in accordance with this MoU.

Signed in Rovaniemi, on 6 May 2025, in five originals, drawn up in the English language, one for each Participant.

For the Ministry of Defence of Denmark

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Troels Lund Poulsen  
Minister of Defence

For the Ministry of Defence of Finland

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Antti Häkkänen  
Minister of Defence

For the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

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Martin Eyjólfsson  
Permanent Secretary of State

For the Ministry of Defence of Norway

.....

Tore O. Sandvik  
Minister of Defence

For the Ministry of Defence of Sweden

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Pål Jonson  
Minister for Defence