

NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION VISION 2025

Political guidance

The 2009 Memorandum of Understanding on Nordic Defence Cooperation still forms the framework for Nordic defence cooperation. The following political guidance, adopted at the Nordic Defence Ministerial in Oslo on the 13th of November 2018, constitutes the basis for future development of Nordic defence cooperation:

We, the Nordic Defence Ministers, believe that closer defence cooperation between the Nordic countries strengthens our countries' military capabilities and promotes regional security and stability. The Nordic countries share fundamental values and security interests and there is a web of bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation amongst our countries. This contributes to the cohesion and resilience of our societies.

The security challenges in our region are becoming more complex and demanding, characterized by the buildup of military forces, as well as terrorism and increasing cyber and hybrid challenges. These challenges are likely to remain in the years to come. We therefore have to cooperate under all circumstances, and are committed to improving interoperability, deterrence and territorial defence in the Nordic region.

The Nordic Defence Cooperation supplements and adds to the value of wider cooperation in international fora such as the UN, NATO and the EU. Through our respective memberships in NATO and the EU, we will continue to mutually promote and support active partnerships for Nordic non-members. We will seek to maintain and strengthen the transatlantic partnership. Regular consultation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will continue on all levels, and we will further develop existing and seek to identify new areas for cooperation, including armament. We will also seek to add value, share best practices and contribute to other regional security cooperation forums and seek pragmatic cooperation with other states. To facilitate Nordic cooperation on armaments and other areas we aim to improve our ability to coordinate capability development plans at an early stage.

To this end, we adopt the following vision for enhancing Nordic defence cooperation:

The Nordic countries will improve our defence capability and cooperation in peace, crisis and conflict. We ensure a close Nordic political and military dialogue on security and defence. Acknowledging our different security affiliations, we pursue an agenda based on joint security perspectives, efficient and cost-effective cooperation to strengthen our national defences and the ability to act together.

Targets for 2025.

In order to operationalize the vision, we will strive towards the following targets:

By 2025 we have

- Minimal restrictions on movement and storage of military units and equipment, between and through the nations in support of national and multinational activities, operations and deployments.
- Increased cooperation in total defence, security of supply and civil-military cooperation. Systems and arrangements are in place for effective support to civilian needs across the borders in crisis and conflict.
- Improved regional and common situational awareness in peace, crisis and conflict, in all relevant domains, through real-time information- and data sharing.
- Enhanced NORDEFCO as a platform for crisis consultation and established mechanisms for that purpose.
- Improved our readiness and sustainability in order to improve our ability to act together.
- Coordinated relevant training and exercises between the Nordic countries, and we have improved interoperability.
- Enhanced our transatlantic relations by seeking closer cooperation in areas such as training, exercises and other activities, and improved cooperation with our European partners.
- Continued to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Improved our resilience in light of the growing cyber threat and the dangers posed by hybrid threats.
- Coordinated our international operations with a focus on national contributions, command and control and joint logistics, when possible.
- Enhanced our engagement in capacity building efforts to promote stability and security in conflict-areas.
- Established logistical cooperation where possible and desirable, with robust safeguards for national needs in crisis and conflict.
- Established a strategic dialogue to enhance capability development in order to meet the requirements needed to address the security environment.
- An active and flexible partner in the Nordic defence industry in developing capabilities and finding new solutions to armaments and total defence requirements, including through utilization of the possibilities inherent in the European Defence Fund as well as other relevant fora and instruments.
- Established options for common education and training to maximize effectiveness and availability in all Nordic development and procurement programs.
- Enhanced our armaments coordination and cooperation.

We will continue to explore and adopt new beneficial possibilities for cooperation, which may emerge.