



**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**

(hereafter referred to as “the Participants”)

## **Aim**

The Nordic Defence Cooperation vision for 2025 was adopted at the Nordic Defence Ministerial in Oslo on the 13th of November 2018. The vision states,

*“We 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.”*

In light of the security situation, cooperation and unity among likeminded nations is paramount. For this reason we are determined to take combined measures aiming at enhancing and improving our ability to conduct military operations. This work will build upon experiences gained from exercises such as Cold Response, Cross Border Training and Trident Juncture.

## **Scope**

This trilateral Statement of Intent outlines the common ambition of the Participants to be able and ready to conduct operations in crisis and conflict if so decided, noting that Norway plans to transfer command to NATO in crisis and war. In order to improve our interoperability and readiness to give military support between us we will undertake the necessary preparations, aiming at enhancing our defence capability and serve as a deterrent from aggression.

A possible outcome is operations planning for areas of common concern, for example the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden (North Calotte and expand to other areas as required) and improved interoperability between our armed forces that enable common military action if decided.

Any military action will be subject to separate national political decision making processes. This trilateral Statement of Intent does not entail any mutual defence obligations.

Denmark and Iceland are to be informed on a regular basis as the cooperation proceeds.

## **Actions (not limited to)**

1. Form a trilateral policy steering group with representatives from the Ministries of Defence.
2. Task the military authorities to form a trilateral strategic planning group.
3. Conduct discussions based on common security concerns in the region.
4. Discuss relevant national operations plans between Finland, Norway and Sweden in areas of common concern and with reciprocity in order to be able to coordinate national operations plans.
5. Conduct exercises and TTDs based on requirements from current planning and plans.
6. Explore the possibility to coordinate future national operations planning in areas of common concern.
7. Explore the possibility for common operations planning in certain areas.

This trilateral Statement of Intent is not a legally binding commitment under national or international law and does not substitute for or invalidate any existing defence agreements, arrangements or memoranda of understanding among the Participants.

**SIGNED** at \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September 2020, in triplicate.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
FINLAND**

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**FOR THE MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF  
NORWAY**

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