



**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

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, Arctic Challenge Exercise and Trident Juncture.

Scope

This trilateral Statement of Intent outlines the common ambition of the Participants to be able and ready to conduct operations if so decided. We will make the necessary preparations to enhance our defence capability, interoperability, readiness and ability to provide military support among the Participants. This will serve as a deterrent against aggression.

Finland and Sweden's aspirations to become members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will, after the completion of the accession process, transform our trilateral defence relationship into an arrangement between NATO Allies. This will provide further opportunities for even deeper defence cooperation.

A central aim of this cooperation is to enhance and strengthen operations planning among the Participants in areas of common concern, especially the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden (North Calotte and expand to other areas as required). We will improve the interoperability among our armed forces to enable common military action.

Any military action will be subject to separate national political decision-making processes. Denmark and Iceland are to be informed on a regular basis as the cooperation proceeds. The trilateral cooperation will align with work in NORDEFECO, as well as the trilateral cooperation among Denmark, Norway and Sweden on enhanced operations planning in Southern Scandinavia.

The cooperation is guided by a trilateral Policy Steering Group with representatives from the Ministries of Defence. The Armed Forces have formed a trilateral Military Coordination Group, which reports to the Policy Steering Group annually.

Actions (not limited to),

1. Conduct scenario-based discussions and exercises based on requirements from current national operations planning and common security concerns in the region.
2. Discuss relevant national operations plans between Finland, Norway and Sweden in areas of common concern.
3. Conduct common operations planning in areas of mutual interest, especially in the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden.
4. Prepare to be able to conduct combined or coordinated military operations.

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.

This trilateral Statement of Intent replaces the Trilateral Statement of intent signed on 23 September 2020 by the Ministers of Defence of Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Signed at _____, this _____th day of _____, 2022, in triplicate.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE
KINGDOM OF NORWAY

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE
KINGDOM OF SWEDEN
