

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF FINLAND

AND

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ICELAND

REGARDING BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION

Introduction

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

Respecting the long-standing defence policy cooperation that exists between the Participants and wishing to continue and further develop the relation in the field of defence as Allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Acknowledging Finland's and Iceland's rights and obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty;

Convinced that greater bilateral defence cooperation will reinforce those rights and obligations;

Wishing to develop and strengthen our bilateral defence cooperation and explore further areas of cooperation in support of NATO's deterrence and defence;

Considering the strengthened role of Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO);

Recognising the shared security challenges faced by Finland and Iceland as Nordic and Arctic states;

Considering the General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, done in Oslo 7 May 2010 (GSA);

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

Considering the 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 signed in Rovaniemi on 6 May 2025;

Have resolved to conclude this MoU to establish the basis for further bilateral defence cooperation.

Section 1

AIM AND SCOPE

1. This MoU provides the framework for the bilateral defence cooperation between the Participants.
2. This MoU identifies the aim and scope of the cooperation and provides a non-exhaustive list of possible areas of cooperation.
3. The defence cooperation between the Participants aims at:
 - a. Strengthening the Participants' defence and contributing to regional security,
 - b. Contributing to the deterrence and defence efforts of NATO, supported by NORDEFCO and the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF),
 - c. Enhancing dialogue on common defence related issues,
 - d. Seeking new areas of cooperation on defence capabilities, technology and solutions,
 - e. Sharing information and knowledge, vital for the aims and scope of this MoU.

Section 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. The areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Defence policy dialogue.
 - b. Host Nation Support.
 - c. Military mobility.
 - d. Strategic surveillance, situational awareness and information sharing.
 - e. Communications and information systems, including space-based defence capabilities.
 - f. Air surveillance and air defence.
 - g. Countering hybrid threats in the field of defence.
 - h. Cybersecurity in defence and cyber defence.
 - i. Training, exercises and education.
 - j. Personnel exchange.
 - k. Strategic communication.
 - l. Defence research and development.
 - m. Cooperation within NATO as well as with other regional and international organisations and initiatives on defence, including NORDEFCO and JEF.
2. Participants also seek to deepen cooperation through identifying new areas of cooperation relevant to this MoU.
3. Defence cooperation activities under this MoU will be subject to separate national decisions when needed.

Section 3

ROLES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

1. The Participants aim to develop ways to strengthen the cooperation between them.
2. The Participants will conduct meetings between their respective officials on defence to jointly review the implementation of this MoU.

Section 4

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

This MoU will not create any financial commitments between its Participants. Unless otherwise agreed each Participant will cover its own expenses derived from activities and projects conducted under this MoU.

Section 5

STATUS OF PERSONNEL

The Participants will jointly determine the status of their personnel participating in any cooperative activity under this MoU in accordance with the NATO SOFA.

Section 6

SECURITY OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The General Security Agreement on the Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, dated 7 May 2010 (GSA) apply to classified information provided or generated under this MoU.

Section 7

DISPUTES

Any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved only by consultation between the Participants and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

Section 8

STATUS OF MOU

1. This MoU is not legally binding, and it is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. This MoU is not intended to conflict with national legislation of the Participants or with international law. In case of conflict, national legislation or international law will prevail. The Participants will notify each other in the event of any conflict arising.

Section 9

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This MoU will come into effect on the date of its signature by the Participants.
2. The Participants may amend this MoU at any time upon their mutual written consent.
3. The Participants may terminate this MoU, at any time, effective immediately upon their mutual written consent.
4. This MoU may be terminated by either Participant giving six months' written notice to the other.

Signed in Helsinki on 7 October 2025,

For the Ministry of Defence of Finland:

Antti Häkkänen
Minister of Defence

For the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland:

Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir
Minister for Foreign Affairs