

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

REGARDING BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of Finland represented by the Ministry of Defence and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of Defence, hereinafter referred to as the Participants;

Respecting the long-standing security and defence policy cooperation that exists between Finland and Norway and wishing to continue and further develop the relation as allies in the field of defence;

Mindful of Finland and Norway's rights and obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty;

Believing that greater bilateral defence- and military co-operation will reinforce those rights and obligations;

Recognizing the shared interests, values, and responsibilities of Finland and Norway, arising from their proximity and geographical position in the northern hemisphere, and the potential advantages this confers;

Noting that the ability to act jointly as allies also raises the threshold against incidents and armed attacks;

Continuing to develop our bilateral defence cooperation to encompass operational planning in support of deterrence and defence of the North Atlantic Alliance;

Aiming to increase operational effect and to optimise the use, sustainability and development of the Participants' defence capabilities;

Considering the Framework Arrangement between the Ministry of Defence of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of Norway Concerning Defence Cooperation, dated 29 June 2021;

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 at London 19 June 1951 and its applicability to this MOU;

Considering Sopimus Suomen hallituksen ja Norjan hallituksen välillä tavaroiden ja palveujen vaihdon ylläpitämistä sota- ja kriisitilanteissa / Avtale mellom Kongeriket Norges regjering og Republikken Finlands regjering om opprettholdelse av vare- og tjenestebyttet i krigs- og krisesituasjoner, dated 5 November 2020;

Considering the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of Finland on Cooperation in the Field of Research, Development, Production, Procurement and Life-Cycle Support of Defence related Equipment and Industrial Cooperation, dated 21 July 2015;

Considering 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 (NORDEFECO), dated 5 November 2009;

Considering 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, dated 22 November 2022;

Have resolved to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding (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. The MoU identifies the aim and scope of the cooperation and provides a non-exhaustive list of areas of cooperation.
2. The defence cooperation between the Participants aims at:
 - a) strengthening the defence of both countries, regional security, and the deterrence and defence of the North Atlantic Alliance,
 - b) maintaining peace and security,
 - c) achieving increased operational effect through combined use of resources, increased interoperability, and increased capability to act jointly,
 - d) enhancing dialogue on common security interests and challenges.
3. The defence cooperation includes all levels of the Participants defence, the policy and military levels including the strategic, operational and tactical level.
4. Additional agreements or arrangements under the auspices of this MoU may be concluded between the Participants or between any subordinate authorities duly authorised by the respective Participant.

Section 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. The areas of cooperation include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Defence and security policy dialogue.
 - b. Operational cooperation including joint operations, planning and interoperability.
 - c. Territorial surveillance and protection of territorial integrity.
 - d. Military mobility.
 - e. Host nation support.
 - f. Force Protection.
 - g. Capability development.
 - h. Defence materiel and industrial co-operation including joint procurements, maintenance and life cycle management.
 - i. Military security of supply, logistics, storage and pre-positioning.
 - j. Strategic surveillance, situational awareness and information sharing.
 - k. Military intelligence sharing.
 - l. Space-based defence capabilities.
 - m. Special Operations Forces cooperation.
 - n. Cyber defence and countering hybrid threats.
 - o. Training, exercises and education.
 - p. Human resources and military education, exchanges and attachments of personnel.
 - q. Defence science, technology, innovation and research.
 - r. Strategic communication.
 - s. Military crisis management.
 - t. Total Defence.

Participants also seek to deepen cooperation through identifying new areas of cooperation.

2. Defence cooperation activities under this MOU will be subject to separate national decisions when needed.

Section 3

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. This MOU will not impose any financial commitments between its Participants. Each Participant will pay for any costs it incurs in its own interest, related to this MOU.
2. The hosting Participant will provide support to the personnel of the sending Participant and in the organization of the cooperative activities taking place in the territory of the hosting Participant. The Participants will jointly determine the extent and type of host nation support that may be provided by the hosting Participant to the sending Participant on a case-by-case basis prior to any cooperative activity taking place.
3. The Participants will apply NATO payment standards and procedures to the cooperative activities carried out under this MOU.

Section 4

CLAIMS

The Participants will address any claim(s) that may arise under this MOU, or subordinate arrangements, in accordance with the provisions of the NATO SOFA.

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 7th May 2010 (GSA) apply to classified information provided or generated under this MoU or subordinate agreements or arrangements. Specific rules concerning security of information provided or generated under this MoU may be laid down in subordinate arrangements.

Section 7

STATUS OF MOU

1. This MOU is not legally binding.
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 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 8

DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

The Participants will resolve any difference in the interpretation or application of this MOU through consultations and will not refer any difference to a court, tribunal or any other third party.

Section 9

COMING INTO EFFECT, AMENDMENT, DURATION, REVIEW, TERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL

1. This MOU will come into effect on the date of its signature by the Participants.
2. This MOU will remain in effect unless terminated or withdrawn from in accordance with sub-paragraphs 9.6 and 9.7 of this Section.
3. The Participants will jointly review this MOU from time to time to ensure its provisions are being implemented effectively.
4. The Defence Forces of Finland and Norway will report on the cooperation annually to the Ministries of Defence.
5. The Participants may amend this MOU at any time upon their mutual written consent.
6. The Participants may terminate this MOU, at any time, effective immediately upon their mutual written consent.
7. Either Participant may withdraw from this MOU upon submission of six (6) months' prior written notice to the other Participant.

8. The Participants understand that any subordinate arrangements established under this MOU as outlined in sub-paragraph 1.4 of this MOU, will automatically terminate in the event this MOU is terminated or withdrawn from. Separate instruments established which make reference to this MOU will remain in effect in accordance with their respective provisions.
9. This Memorandum of Understanding replaces the Framework Arrangement between the Ministry of Defence of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of Norway concerning Defence Cooperation signed on 29 June 2021.

Signed,

Date:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

Antti Häkkänen
Minister of Defence

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

Bjørn Arild Gram
Minister of Defence