

**NORDEFCO**

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NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION

**THE NORDEFCO MCC  
ACTION PLAN  
2019-2022**

2019-01-29

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The overall aim of the Action Plan 2019-22 is to provide guidance and objectives for NORDEFECO military level activities, in consideration of NORDEFECO’s new vision 2025. It further aims at laying the foundation for timely and efficient follow up of military level activities between the Nordic nations, including giving the different cooperation areas (COPAs) a basis to follow up on each other’s activities in order to establish areas in need for coordination and/or synchronization.

The Action Plan has a four year perspective. Firstly the Action Plan presents military activities to be performed in 2019 in detail. Secondly the Action Plan presents military activities planned to be performed in 2020, concretely enough to form the basis for inclusion in the countries national activity and budgetary planning processes. Thirdly the Action Plan present anticipated activities for 2021 and 2022 based on continuation of ongoing activities as well as predictable new activities.

**2. GUIDANCE**

The vision for the Nordic defence cooperation was adopted at the Nordic Defence Ministerial in Oslo on the 13th of November 2018. Vision 2025 builds on the MOU on Nordic Defence cooperation from 2009 and the Vision 2020, which Ministers of Defence issued in 2013.

The 2009 Memorandum of Understanding on Nordic Defence Cooperation still forms a framework for Nordic defence cooperation. The 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 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***

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, military security of supply and civil-military cooperation.
- Improved regional and common situational awareness in peace, crisis and conflict, in all relevant domains, through real-time information- and data sharing.
- Enhanced NORDEFECO 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 dangers posed by hybrid threats and growing cyber 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 mutual measures to support 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 proposed 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.

## **2.1. Policy level guidance**

During the Swedish NORDEFECO chairmanship 2019, we will initiate the work to implement the NORDEFECO VISION 2025, both by consolidating and further developing ongoing cooperation and Action Plans and by new initiatives. We will discuss how to further develop the Nordic defence cooperation in peace, crisis and conflict. We will continue the efforts to strengthen NORDEFECO as a platform for security policy dialogue and will add value to other regional security cooperation forums with the aim to develop regional security together in a more effective way. We will enhance cooperation and dialogue with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We will also continue to develop NORDEFECO as a platform for cooperation in international operations. We will further monitor and continue work on previous armaments initiatives such as Nordic Combat Uniform and Logistical Preparedness.

## **2.2. Policy level priorities 2019**

- Highlight and promote Nordic defence cooperation during NORDEFECO's 10th anniversary (2009-2019).
- Enhance the Nordic-Transatlantic relationship.
- Develop knowledge, share experiences and explore possibilities for cooperation within the area of Total Defence.
- Enhance NORDEFECO as a platform for crisis consultation between the Nordic MoDs and explore mechanisms for that purpose.
- Plan, conduct and continue to develop the Arctic Challenge Exercise into a recurring high intensive Air Combat Flag Level Exercise, as decided by the Ministers on the 9th of November 2016.
- Implement the NORECAS MoU and explore the platform Black Carrier Network for broader cooperation.
- Continued implementation and development of cooperation within the framework of the MoU for Easy Access.
- Based on lessons learned from the Nordic Combat Uniform project, finalize Nordic Procurement Guidelines and facilitate dissemination of the guidelines in the Nordic countries.
- Investigate how monitoring and facilitation of armaments cooperation may be enhanced.
- Discuss and if possible coordinate Nordic armaments and defence industry cooperation regarding the European Defence Industrial Development Programme and the European Defence Fund.

## **2.3. Military strategic guidance**

The overall objective of NORDEFECO on the military level is pragmatic cooperation in order to achieve better cost-effectiveness and quality, and thereby creating enhanced

operational capability for the nations, focusing on producing tangible results in the entire conflict spectrum.

NORDEFECO cooperation is decided by the individual nations and the activities should be included in national plans, orders and budgets. Each activity should include identification of operational gain and/or cost savings. Lessons identified in projects should be transformed into lessons learned for the future.

The objective is to integrate NORDEFECO activities into national line organisations.

Accepting national differences in ambitions and plans, some projects are better suited for a bilateral or trilateral context. Nations not participating in a specific project are invited to take part at a later stage.

#### **2.4. Operational cooperation**

A goal of the NORDEFECO military cooperation is to enable operational coordination in relevant scenarios in peace, crisis and conflict. This is facilitated inter alia by a shared situational awareness, combined planning, military mobility and cooperation in logistical preparedness and security of supply.

The Nordic countries strive to increase their ability to deploy together into international crisis management operations. In this regard, early consultation, planning and exchange of information are essential for common contributions leading to operational gains and/or cost-efficient solutions.

#### **2.5. Cooperation on capability development**

In order to identify potential cooperation areas the NORDEFECO countries should strive for a coordinated and transparent capability development. To achieve operational benefits and exploit the economic potential, transparency in capability planning and procurement plans is essential.

Capability development includes combined exercises and training with the aim of strengthening the participants' armed forces as well as a developed cooperation in the area of total defence and civil- military cooperation. To improve and validate the ability to operate together, concepts, ideas and other activities should be further developed through tailored participation and contributions to exercises.

Further, the Nordic nations should strive to increase national flexibility in common procurement processes since common projects typically require changes in timelines and use of resources. The line organizations should come to expect and accept that timelines and resources should be altered, and not consider this a burden on the organization. Key decision makers should come to expect this from their organizations, and plan for it correspondingly.

Hence, national procurement processes and governance models should be adapted to allow for more flexible resource allocation and timeline changes, making common procurement projects a more natural and integrated part of national processes and models.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Based upon this guidance, COPAs develop and update annexes A-C and Communications Network develop and update annex D. Additional tasks may be introduced throughout the year, inter alia following decisions at political level.

#### **ANNEXES:**

A: Detailed task-list for the year 2019

B: Tasks and goals for the year 2020

C: Tasks and goals for the year 2021 and 2022

D: Communication Plan 2019