

**Declaration of Intent**

**between**

**The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**and**

**The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway**

**on**

**the further Enhancement of Bilateral Defence Cooperation**

## **The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway**

*Considering* the changing security and defence environment of Europe and the evolving geopolitical context,

*Committed* to continue and further enhance our close bilateral defence cooperation as strategic partners,

*Noting* that NATO is and remains the cornerstone of our security,

*Resolved* to strengthen European military capabilities and European Defence cooperation which will enable us to take more responsibility for our own security, whilst also strengthening NATO,

*Convinced* that European Allies and partners need to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of their defence efforts by developing new approaches to bilateral and multinational defence cooperation,

*Recognising* the need to enhance cooperation in capability development in order to achieve more cost efficient, more available and more usable capabilities for our two countries and for the Alliance,

*Resolved* to expand and further the existing military cooperation between the armed forces of the Netherlands and Norway,

*Aiming* to reach a higher level of military cooperation in order to ensure a higher degree of interoperability,

*Having* identified a number of areas for closer defence cooperation that will benefit our two countries,

*Wish* to further enhance the bilateral defence cooperation between the Netherlands and Norway in order to best secure the common interests of both countries in defence-related areas,

*Declare* that this Declaration of Intent will serve as a general guideline to the Ministries of Defence and the armed forces, by listing, non-exhaustively, the fields in which the enhancement of cooperation between both countries is foreseen.

## **Section 1 Structure of cooperation**

The bilateral cooperation between the Netherlands and Norway is coordinated and discussed in the following meetings.

### Strategic Talks

- Composition: NLD Director of International Affairs and the NOR Director of International Security Policy and Operations, joined by the NLD Director of International Military Cooperation and the Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations from the NOR Defence Staff. Additional participants may be added as appropriate.
- Meetings: The Strategic Talks will be held twice a year, in a flexible working format and hosted on a rotational basis.
- These talks provide the direction for and review of the progress on all work strands.
- The secretariat of the Strategic Talks is composed of the NLD and NOR bilateral policy desk officers.

### National Armaments Directors Meeting

- Composition: NLD and NOR National Armaments Directors.
- Meetings: The National Armaments Directors Meeting takes place at least once a year.

### Armed forces meetings

- Staff talks NLD and NOR staffs of Defence.
- Staff talks NLD and NOR staffs of the Navy, Army (within the Army Cooperation Initiative) and Air Force.
- Cross-domain staff talks of the NLD Marine Corps and NOR Army.
- Meetings: The different Staff Talks take place between once a year and every two years.

### Strategic Mutual Assistance in Research and Technology (SMART)

- Composition: NLD and NOR Directors of Research & Development and the Defence Research Establishment (FFI).
- Meetings: the SMART meeting takes place at least once a year.

In addition, the Netherlands and Norway also discuss and coordinate their cooperation in other relevant multilateral meetings, including but not limited to relevant meetings within the framework of NATO, and the Allied Training Conference (GBR, DEU, NLD, NOR and USA) which takes place at least once a year.

Synergy and coordination between the formats mentioned in this section is crucial. Therefore, all meeting reports will be shared with the secretariat of the Strategic Talks so that progress on the bilateral cooperation can be discussed and reviewed on the strategic level.

## **Section 2 Fields for enhancement of the bilateral cooperation**

The intent of the enhanced Defence cooperation between the Netherlands and Norway is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their Policy and Defence Staffs and armed forces. Fields in which defence cooperation might be enhanced may be those listed below. However, this list is by no means exhaustive.

Fields in which it is desirable to strengthen and/or pursue further cooperation include:

- a. Training and exercises, including but not limited to the NLD joint arctic and mountain training in Northern Norway, the bi-annual exercises Cold Response and Joint Viking, to enhance interoperability and to contribute to credible deterrence by NATO;
- b. Cooperation in missions and operations, in the framework of NATO, the UN ad hoc coalitions and rotation mechanisms;
- c. Cooperation within and/or with NATO, the UN, the EU, other international organisations and smaller multilateral frameworks, such as the Northern Group, the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and the European Intervention Initiative (EII), including consultations with the objective of defining common positions and acting together whenever possible;
- d. Navy, Army (through the Army Cooperation Initiative) and Air Force cooperation, and Space and Cyber;
- e. Improving our interoperability through common capability development;
- f. Research and development in military science and technology, including developing and expanding the Strategic Mutual Assistance in Research and Technology (SMART);
- g. Defence materiel cooperation, through formulating proposals for further bilateral cooperation and collaboration, exchanging information on Defence Materiel and Life Cycle Management and facilitating cooperation between NLD and NOR, including respective industries;
- h. Cooperation on countering hybrid threats, including but not limited to cyber defence cooperation, cooperation on improving our position in the information domain, cooperation on managing emerging and disruptive technologies and foreign direct investments;
- i. Cooperation regarding "pool and share" of training facilities, especially in regard to common use of simulators;
- j. Development of cooperation on any other possible new fields of common interest, including but not limited to a continuation of exchange of information and dialogue on the subjects of personnel, skills, innovation and the total defence concept.

## **Section 3 Execution**

This Declaration of Intent will be subject for discussion at the bi-annual Strategic Talks between the two Ministries of Defence. The armed forces of both countries will actively look for areas of common interest for research and capability development and support to operations in their regular Staff Talks. This could include testing and evaluation, equipment acquisition and maintenance, training and education as well as participation in exercises and operations.

#### Section 4 Further arrangements

This updated Declaration of Intent will replace the Letter of Intent of 2002 *on the enhancement of Bilateral Defence Co-operation*; the Declarations of Intent of 2003 and 2011 *on the Enhancement of Bilateral Defence Co-operation*; and the Amendment of 2015 to the Declaration of Intent of 2011.

An overview with information on ongoing and planned defence cooperation made in the framework of this updated Declaration of Intent will be listed in an annex. The annex is a living and non-exhaustive document, which can be updated when necessary. Updates to the annex will be agreed upon in writing during the Strategic Talks. The secretariat will provide Terms of Reference outlining reporting requirements.

Further arrangements on specific fields of bilateral cooperation as mentioned in Section 2, (which will refer to this Declaration of Intent) can be agreed upon between the Participants.

This Declaration may be amended at any time by mutual written consent by the Participants. Amendments will come into effect upon the date of the latest signature.

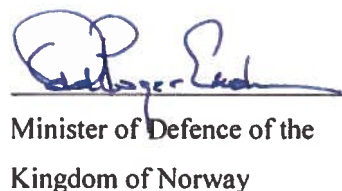
This Declaration will remain in effect for an indefinite period of time.

#### Section 5 Signature

Signed on 5/11'21, in two originals, drawn up in the English language, one for each Participant.



Minister of Defence of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands



Minister of Defence of the  
Kingdom of Norway