

Oslo Conclusions 2024

Haga Ministerial meeting, 28 November 2024

Today, the Nordic ministers and state secretaries responsible for civil preparedness and resilience, together with their representatives, convened in Oslo within the framework of the Haga cooperation. The meeting marks the end of the Norwegian chairmanship.

The Haga cooperation has since 2009 aimed at building a stronger civil protection cooperation in the Nordic region, with a capacity to prevent, prepare for, manage, recover and learn from severe hazards and crisis. Building on our common Nordic experiences and previous efforts, we emphasize the need to continue strengthening Nordic coordination and political guidance within the area of civil preparedness, protection, and resilience in a whole-of-society perspective, including the Nordic civil-military cooperation. This in the acknowledgement of the deteriorated security situation, extreme weather conditions, and increasing number of different and unforeseen means of hybrid influence.

After the membership of Finland and Sweden in NATO, all the Nordic countries are now NATO allies. Under the Norwegian chairmanship, the Nordic countries have strengthened the Nordic perspective on civil-military cooperation and coordination of plans. Together in NATO, the Nordic countries can benefit from their long tradition of civil-military cooperation, further developing a cross-sectoral whole-of-society approach across the Nordic borders.

Civil society and military activities are interlinked and demand broad participation from civil and military authorities on all levels as well as functioning public-private partnerships and active participation of the third sector. While based on our national structures, the Haga - NORDEFECO dialogue gives a natural opportunity to take the Nordic civil-military cooperation further. Through cooperation and coordination with NORDEFECO we aim at identifying shared challenges and shortcomings. This emulates the way NATO works across the civil-military divide.

These efforts should provide tangible added value to each country's security. The cooperation should be mutually supportive and enhance resilience and preparedness both on the military and the civilian side in different kinds of crises.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine also provides new perspectives for the international Nordic civil protection support missions, donations, and other support

initiatives. The Nordic countries must continue supporting Ukraine as long as it takes, where aligned Nordic contributions can add value to regional resilience.

The Nordic ministers responsible for the Haga cooperation;

1. **Emphasize the need** to strengthen Nordic coordination and planning, mutual learning and political guidance within the area of civil preparedness, protection and resilience.
2. **Welcome** a strengthened Nordic civil-military cooperation in both peacetime emergencies and in case of hybrid scenarios or military aggression, and with the aim to identify relevant stakeholders and activities to contribute to establishing cross-border preparedness.
3. **Agree** to actively enhance Nordic cooperation in line with the new NATO Host Nation Support concept, to improve civil society's ability to support both national and allied forces and civil protection operations in the Nordic countries.
4. **Strengthen** the Haga - NORDEFECO cooperation and coordination through concrete activities in 2025 and 2026, including Nordic contributions to Host Nation Support, collaboration on shared scenarios, and joint planning for civil-military exercises.
5. **Explore** a joint Nordic planning effort to protect the civil population from armed conflict, discussing deconfliction, planning for evacuation, shelters, and military support.

We want to develop our Nordic region further through a common understanding of the need and nature of civil-military cooperation, including identification of interdependencies, keeping in mind the different scenarios and geographical variations, and supporting the civil-military perspective on national/regional implementation of relevant policies. Together we are stronger and safer.