

Stockholm Treaty

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Preamble

The following document is endorsed by all partner, observer, member and founding states of the Nordic Council and serves as the governing agreement for the organisation and any subsequent agreements in order to ensure the auditability and accountability of the council providing the foundation of the Nordic Council Secretariat, Presidium and Chambers.

All ratifying states do so desiring to promote and strengthen the close ties existing within the Nordic Council whilst promoting the continued respect to matters of culture, and of legal and social philosophy with the view to extend and continue the scale of cooperation between all member states. Signatory states endeavour to maintain and develop all legal, cultural, social and economic ties between one another as well as those within transport, communications and environmental protection.

This document, written in 1997, is an amended version of the original Stockholm Treaty formed in 1995.

Article 1 Introductory Provisions

"founding state" shall refer to the established states as defined in Art.3(1).
"member state" shall refer to the established states as defined in Art.3(2).
"observer state" shall refer to the established states as defined in Art.3(3).
"partner state" shall refer to the established states as defined in Art.3(4).
"former state" shall refer to the established states as defined in Art.3(5).
"signatory state" shall refer to all established states defined in Art.3.
"member" shall refer to an individual government of any signatory state.
"the council" shall refer to all established states defined in Art.3 and establishment defined in Art.2.
"chambers" shall refer to the Nordic Council Chambers as defined in Art.2(3).
"standing committee" shall refer to any established committee as defined in Art.2(4).

Article 2 Establishment

- (1) Nordic Council Secretariat;
is the office of the incumbent Secretary General of the Nordic Council, the position is responsible for the lead of the council with powers to make decisions in the best interests of all signatory states. The Secretary General is one of the founding states.
- (2) Nordic Council Presidium;
is the office of the incumbent President of the Nordic Council, the position is responsible for the governance of the council with powers to manage the operation of the chambers. The incumbent President serves as the chair of the chambers and remains the highest authority presiding over all debates, determining which signatory states may speak and what matters are selected for consideration. The presidency is held for a period of two years and rotates between all member states by means of election in the Nordic Council Chambers - in circumstances of a tie the Secretary General retains the deciding vote.
- (3) Nordic Council Chambers;
is the official body for intergovernmental cooperation under a centralised house. The Nordic Council Chambers have the overall responsibility for continued cooperation and responsibility for the development of the Nordic Council's realm.
- (4) Standing Committees;
is the reference to six governing committees each given their own remit of focus, namely:
 - (a) Nordic Council Sovereign Commission
 - (b) Committee for Administrative Affairs
 - (c) Committee for Trade and Economic Affairs
 - (d) Committee for Health and Social Affairs
 - (e) Committee for Defence and Intelligence
 - (f) Committee for Disaster Relief and Response

Article 3 Integration

- (1) Founding State;
is the recognition of the Kingdom of Sweden, Kingdom of Norway and Kingdom of Denmark as the original founding states developing the Nordic Council into an international organisation. Founding states are the only states capable of assuming a role within the Nordic Council Secretariat and retain a veto power within the chambers.
- (2) Member State;
is the recognition of any state holding full membership within the council - which in order to do so



requires the ratification of all founding states. Any member state has the right to representation within the chambers and retains unrestricted access to all agreements and treaties signed for and on behalf of or within the council. Member states have the capability to elect an individual for a role within the Nordic Council Presidium election process.

- (3) Partner State;
is the recognition of any state holding full membership within the council but not an inhabitant of the Nordic region - this role also requires the ratification of all founding states. Any member state has the right to representation within the chambers and retains unrestricted access to all agreements and treaties signed for and on behalf of or within the council. Member states have the capability to elect an individual for a role within the Nordic Council Presidium election process.
- (4) Observer State;
is the recognition of any state invited to cooperate with the council without the obligations or facilities appended to full member state status. An observer state has a lesser representation within the chambers and access to agreements and treaties require the authorisation of the Secretary General.
- (5) Former State;
is with reference to any state which has formally held a founding, member or observer state status within the council but has since had their obligations, rights and entitlements revoked. Revocation of these privileges may be as a result in domestic governmental change, order of the Nordic Council Secretariat or exit from the council.

Article 4 Fundamentals

The council shall continue to remain subject to the scrutiny of the communities in-which they serve and will endeavour to maintain and develop further cooperation between the signatory states and partnering parties. The council will develop common interest with other international organisations and conferences in order to continue to promote core values worldwide.

Article 5 Legal Cooperation

- (1) In the drafting of all laws, regulations and the ratification of all treaties, agreements and arrangements the signatory states must afford their responsibility to upholding the fundamental human rights of each member's citizens. All signatory states shall be treated equally.
 - (a) An exemption may be afforded to this clause in the event that a proposition to the council is made in contravention with a constitutionally stipulated necessity, obligation to another international organisation or any reason deemed necessary for particular reasons as determined by the Secretariat.
- (2) In the arrangements of immigration all signatory states should endeavour to facilitate the acquisition of citizenship of one member to another.
- (3) In the execution of law the council will ensure that the fundamental human rights of all persons are upheld in the necessary judicial processes with the aim of attaining the greatest possible uniformity in the field of civil and criminal law.
- (4) In the interest of cross-border intercooperation signatory states should seek to establish uniform rules relation to criminal offences and the penalties for such offences.
 - (a) This clause does not necessarily dictate a change in domestic law but rather the appropriate conversion to the member in-which the offence occurred.
- (5) In the pursuit of lawful conviction the signatory states should, as much as possible, facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any offence committed in another signatory state.



- (6) With the framework to ensure fairness the signatory states commission the governance of legal cooperation with a standing committee and the oversight of the appropriate commission where necessary.

Article 6 Social Cooperation

(1)

Amendments