

Japan's Nordic Diplomacy Initiative

1 Summary

- Five Nordic countries form a highly interconnected region, through common social system and values, such as human rights and democracy, substantial social welfare, world-leading gender equality and digitalization.
- Japan and the Nordic countries are partners, sharing values and principles, and upholding an open international order based on the rule of law. In the face of increasing division and confrontation in the international community, it is highly significant to intensify cooperation where the Nordic countries have unique strength and voice (e.g. gender equality including WPS, Arctic and Ocean).
- It is valuable to strengthen dialogue/cooperation in economy (e.g. green transition, digitalization, quantum technology, AI) and security (including economic security).
- Japanese investments are active in areas where Nordic countries are competitive (e.g. green transition). Security dialogue and defense equipment cooperation are developing, with Japan's Self-Defense Forces procuring defense equipment from the Nordic countries.

2 Four Areas of Action

(1) The Arctic and Ocean

- Free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, with the legal framework based on UNCLOS, is indispensable in the Arctic.
- Deepen cooperation on the basis of Japan's contribution to sustainable development of the Arctic, especially in scientific research.

(3) Strengthening economic relations, including Green, Digital and Science & Technology

- Deepen public and private cooperation in areas with growth potential, such as green transition, digitalization and science and technology.

(2) Gender Equality including WPS

- Japan promotes WPS as a key foreign policy.
- Deepen knowledge sharing and cooperation with the Nordic countries, which are leaders in gender equality.

(4) Security and Defense Cooperation

- The security of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific are inseparable.
- Tailored approach to developing security and defense cooperation (e.g. dialogue, defense equipment cooperation).
- Share the recognition that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force are unacceptable.