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Parliamentary Resolution
on a national security policy for Iceland

The Althingi hereby resolves to entrust the Government with adhering to the following national security policy so as to ensure Iceland's independence, sovereignty, democratic governance and territorial integrity; the security of its citizens; defence of the country; and the protection of its governmental system and the critical infrastructure of its society.

The policy is based on the proposals from the Parliamentary committee on the formulation of a national security policy for Iceland, which the Althingi commissioned the Minister for Foreign Affairs to establish under Parliamentary Resolution No. 46/139 of 16 September 2011.

The Government's national security policy is based on the commitments set out in the United Nations Charter, and is guided by the fundamental values of the Icelandic nation, democracy and respect for the rule of law, international law, humanitarianism and the protection of human rights, equal rights for all, and sustainable development, disarmament and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The fundamental premise of the policy is Iceland's position as a nation with no military that ensures its security and defence through active co-operation with other states and within international organisations.

The policy extends to global, societal, and military risks and consists of an active foreign policy, civil security, and defence co-operation with other states.

The national security policy includes the following points of emphasis, which carry equal weight:

1. to ensure Iceland's broad security interests through active international collaboration on the basis of international law, with peaceful resolution of disputes, disarmament, respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law, gender equality and the fight against inequality, hunger and poverty as its guiding principles. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the Government in those areas covered by the national security policy, and for public authorities to take an active part in Nordic, European and international co-operation, each within their area of competence;

2. to give particular consideration to Iceland's environmental and security interests within the country's maritime waters and in the Arctic in international collaboration and domestic preparedness;

3. that membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization shall continue to be a key pillar in Iceland's defence and the principal forum of Western collaboration in which Iceland participates on a civil basis in order to promote its own security and that of other NATO member states;

4. that the 1951 Defence Agreement between Iceland and the United States of America shall continue to guarantee the defence of Iceland and that work will continue to develop collaboration on the basis of the agreement, taking account of military threats and also other risk factors in which mutual defence and security interests play a substantial role;

5. to deepen and develop still further Nordic co-operation on security and defence and other neighbour-state collaboration on local interests and participation in international co-operation in this field;

6. to ensure that Iceland has the defence structures, equipment, capacity and expertise needed to meet the challenges it faces in the field of security and defence and to fulfil its international obligations;

7. to promote the protection and uninterrupted operation of critical infrastructure and the strengthening of the society's resilience to threats of any kind. To emphasise ensuring efficient and co-ordinated preparedness and measures to address the consequences of any kind of threat to the lives and health of people, environment, assets and infrastructure. To take into account threats connected with climate change, natural disasters, food security, health security and epidemics;

8. to mitigate the disruption of living conditions and habitation caused by climate change, inter alia by reducing carbon emissions, energy conversion, green investment and active participation in international co-operation in response to climate change;

9. to enhance digital sovereignty and increase cyber- and information security in all areas of society through coordinated actions, continuing development of Iceland's own capacity in this area and collaboration with other states;

10. to ensure that government policy takes into account other threats that require its full attention, such as terrorism, organised crime and threats against the constitution, governmental administration and telecommunications, including telecommunication connections to other countries, energy security and financial and economic security;

11. that Iceland and its territorial waters be declared a nuclear weapon-free zone, taking account of international obligations, with a view to contributing to disarmament and peace;

12. that a national security council, established on the basis of specific legislation, should assess the situation and outlook in the field of national security on a regular basis, monitor the implementation of the national security policy, reflecting the broad vision expressed in the policy, and have a review of the policy made at least every five years.

Approved by the Althingi on 13 April 2016

Amended by the Althingi on 28 February 2023