

The Foreign Ministers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden issued the following statement on embassy co-operation:

The Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs discussed the co-operation of Nordic Embassies and the Nordic co-operation in the world. The Ministers noted that the Foreign Ministries and their representations abroad already work closely together and that much has already been achieved in relation to the implementation of the proposals of the Stoltenberg Report of 2009. We aim at better use of resources, synergies and better Nordic visibility. We also welcome the efforts in this regard of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Co-location

The Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs welcome the good and well-developed co-operation already in place in relation to several co-locations between two or more Nordic states. We are also open to increased co-operation with other states and organisations. Nordic co-locations allow for greater flexibility in the diplomatic presence, better use of resources and increased depth in the co-operation. We aim to establish clear principles for the further development of the co-operation. We would like to see more Nordic co-locations, and we look positively at continuing the work to clarify the conditions for Nordic Cultural and Commercial Houses.

Reporting

The Nordic Foreign Ministers agree that the Nordic representations around the world shall aim to share their reports and submit each other's reports to the Foreign Ministries more systematically. Sharing will still take place only when it is possible with due regard to security and the confidentiality of information, and this assessment will continue to be made locally at the representations.

Use of Ambassadors

We all have limited resources, but together the Nordic states reach out far. In addition to, and without altering, the formal diplomatic system of side accreditations, we wish to look at the possibility of increasing our use of each other's embassies in limited cases of well-defined character – ad hoc upon request from a Nordic Foreign Ministry not represented at the given location, and when this is deemed possible and appropriate, in the assessment of the Ambassador requested.

Mutual representation in the area of visa and residence

Within the framework of the European visa co-operation, close co-operation already takes place in the area of visa. Some countries also co-operate in the area of residence permits. A number of so-called Representation Agreements have already been adopted, and the Nordic countries are thus creating tangible results of Nordic co-operation. We will continue to develop this co-operation, and adjust it in accordance with the increased use of external service providers.