



The Copenhagen Declaration

- declaration on the strengthening of the Nordic civil protection cooperation in the light of climate change and increasingly extreme weather February 2020, Copenhagen.

The directors general for the national-level civil protection agencies in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden met today in Copenhagen and agreed to continue efforts to strengthen the Nordic civil protection cooperation. This is necessitated as a consequence of climate change, and will have a special focus on management of extreme weather incidents, such as forest and wildland-fires and flooding.

The deliberations followed up on the meeting between the Nordic ministers responsible for civil protection in Oslo in October 2019. The directors general issued the following declaration:

“The Nordic ministers with responsibility for civil protection agreed on a meeting in Oslo in October 2019, that we should intensify cooperation regarding forest and wildland-fires. The Ministers adopted new development goals towards 2021 for the Nordic civil protection cooperation. An ambitious political direction towards a strengthening of the Nordic civil protection cooperation has thus been adopted. Simultaneously, the Nordic Council adopted a new strategy for cooperation on societal security, which also sets the stage for an increase in cooperation regarding management of risks such as extreme weather and natural disasters.

On this background, we will strengthen the positive Nordic cooperation on civil protection, and renew our commitment to act together in solidarity against the consequences of climate change.

It is clear that climate change in the coming years will lead to more extreme and unpredictable weather, with serious and challenging weather-related incidents that will affect our work to protect Nordic societies and citizens directly. It may be extreme drought and increased risk of fire in the summer as we saw in 2018, or floods from increased precipitation. It may also be powerful floods caused by storms, hurricanes or storm surges. In addition, an increase in the oceans’ water levels is expected.

This demands of us that we in unity within the civil protection area will increase our resilience towards extreme weather-related incidents. Most incidents will be managed nationally, but extreme weather-related incidents may call for us to assist each other and act together. Hereby, we wish to expand the already flexible and well-functioning Nordic civil protection cooperation.

We will work towards more compatible equipment, share tactics and procedures, more systematically share knowledge about metrological and civil protection risk forecasting, develop common procedures for coordination and logistical support of incoming Nordic assistance, and investigate the option for joint exercises. This work will be driven forward in existing Nordic working-groups and to a relevant extent, within the framework of the regional cooperation under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Furthermore, we will take steps to further coordinate our operational capacities to respond to large, unpredicted natural disasters outside of the Nordic region in frame of EU, UN and others.”

Henning Thiesen (DK)

Kimmo Kohvakka (FI)

Hjálmar Björgvinsson (IS)

Per K. Brekke (NO)

Dan Eliasson (SE)