

Parliamentary resolution
on a national security policy for Iceland.

The Althingi hereby resolves to commission the government to adopt the following national security policy so as to ensure Iceland's independence, the sovereignty and integrity of its borders, the security of its citizens and the protection of its system of government and the fundamental structures of society.

The policy is to be based on the proposals of 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 Icelandic government's national security policy is to be based on the obligations set out in the United Nations Charter, its guiding principles being the fundamental values of the nation, democracy and respect for law as the basis of the state, international law, humanitarian considerations and the protection of human rights, universal equality and sustainable development, disarmament and the peaceful solution of disputes. A fundamental premise of the policy should be Iceland's position as an island nation with a small population that has neither the capacity nor the desire to maintain an army and ensures its security and defence through active collaboration with other nations and within the framework of international organisations.

The policy is to address global, social and military risks and be manifested in an active foreign policy, public security and collaboration with other states on defence.

The national security policy is to embrace the following points of emphasis, which shall be accorded equal weighting:

1. To secure Iceland's broad security interests through active international collaboration on the basis of international law, with the peaceful resolution of disputes, disarmament, respect for human rights and a state based on the rule of law, gender equality and the struggle against inequality, hunger and poverty as its guiding principles.
2. That particular attention be given to Iceland's environmental and security interests in the Arctic in international collaboration and domestic preparedness.
3. That membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance 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 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 cooperation on security and defence and other neighbour-state collaboration on local interests and participation in international cooperation in this field.
6. To ensure that Iceland has the defence structures, equipment, capacity and expert knowledge needed to meet the challenges it faces in the field of security and defence and to fulfil its international obligations.

7. That official policy on civil protection and security, as formulated by the Civil Protection and Security Council, form part of Iceland's national security policy and that it take account of the threats connected with climate change, natural disasters, food security, health security and epidemics.

8. To enhance cybersecurity through continuing development of Iceland's own capacity in this area and in collaboration with other states.

9. That official policy take account of other threats that call for full attention, such as terrorism, organised crime and threats to the nation's financial and economic security.

10. That Iceland and its economic zone be declared a nuclear-free zone, taking account of international obligations, with a view to contributing to disarmament and peace.

11. That special legislation be enacted establishing a national security council to assess the situation and the outlook in the field of security and defence on a regular basis, monitor the implementation of the national security policy, reflect 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.