

# A View from Scandinavia

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Possibilities for co-operation to reduce nuclear (and  
conventional) dangers

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# Finland, Sweden and NATO

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- FI: Application for membership on 17 May 2022
- SE: Application for membership on 16 May 2022
- FI: became a member on 4 April 2023
- FI: Quick decision, no time for evaluation, significant “cultural” change
- SE: 22.3.2023 Parliament approves accession
- Pending ratifications: Turkey (F-16s) and Hungary





# Long tradition of disarmament 1

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- Shell (2000): ‘The world’s safety ultimately depends not on the number of nations that want to build nuclear weapons but cannot, but on the number that can but do not’ (e.g. Nordic countries)



# Long tradition of disarmament 2

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- NO and SE forego nuclear option, FI and DA never considered
- Invest a lot of capital to convince others do the same
- International behavior, multilateralism, NPT
- NO & DE NATO 1949, SE neutrality, FI something in-between (+ EU development of security political dimensions)



# To discuss or not to discuss 1

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- NO & SE: open discussion on NWs in public, policy priorities for disarmament and non-proliferation
- DE: policy-making closed and exclusive
- FI: tradition of no-debate, commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation

# To discuss or not to discuss? 2

- FI and SE NATO membership – no real discussions
- going against ”official truth”?
- no reservations to membership (yes 184 of 199)
- NW policy reserved for exclusive policy-making elite

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# Reservations to NATO NW policy

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- NO & DE (+ Iceland and Spain) – no stationing of nukes in peacetime (DE Greenland tacit approval)
- NO airspace: no transport of NW during peacetime + restrictions on foreign bases
- 1980s NO support for Nordic Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Kekkonen plan 1963)
- LA – prohibition of WMD in its territory by the Constitution
- Many NATO members opt out of the yearly nuclear exercises (Steadfast Noon) as a matter of principle (e.g. NO never took part)

# Nuclear Weapons Monitoring Group Finland

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- Set up in January 2023
- Pugwash Finland, Peace Union of Finland, ICAN Finland, Physicians for Social Responsibility Finland and Technology for Life as organizers
- Members: academia, former parliamentarians, military, SIPRI
- To: provide expert advice on nuclear weapons and related risks to Finland in the context of NATO membership and analyze how Finland, as NATO member, addresses questions related to nuclear weapons



# FINLAND AND NATO

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- FI long-term aim has been to promote nuclear disarmament and to use its position and expertise to contribute to nuclear arms control, non-proliferation and the goal of a world without nuclear weapons
- In particular, bring tactical nuclear weapons under the scope of arms control
- FORMIN: to reduce the role of nuclear weapons as the basis of security worldwide
- Responsible NATO member in the NPG?

# NW and Finland

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**Finnish Nuclear Energy Act:** the import of nuclear explosives as well as their manufacture, possession and detonation in Finland are prohibited. Paris Peace Treaty (Art. 17, Art 13 with Bulgaria)/did Finland reject this article in 1990s?

The introduction of nuclear weapons into Finland is prohibited by law. Deploying them on Finnish soil or sea is not militarily expedient even in times of crisis.

## WG recommendations:

Any agreement on NATO operations or weapons depots, if any, should include the bans on NW and any other weapons systems prohibited

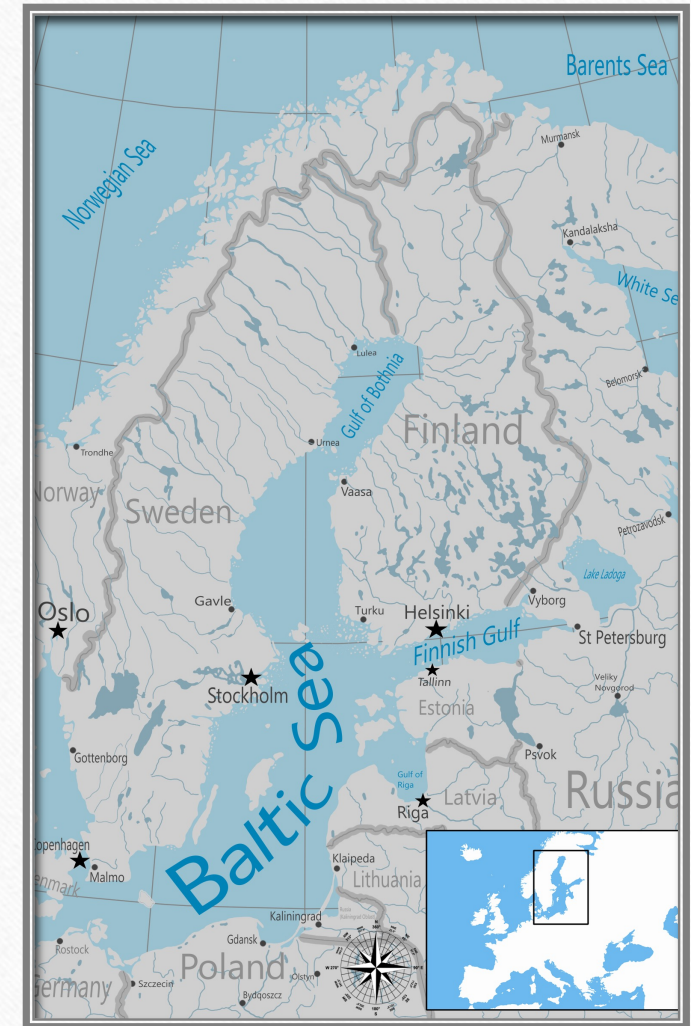
Eventual deployment of foreign troops and NATO operations under FI own decision-making authority and emphasize the defensive nature

Finland should neither participate in nuclear strike exercises nor allow such exercises in Finnish airspace. These aspects must be taken into account in the negotiations that started in the autumn of 2022 for the Supplementary Defence Cooperation Agreement (SDCA)



## Alleviating tensions

- Kola Peninsula, the Baltic
- Freedom of movement in accordance with international maritime law
- The strategic position and integrity of the islands in the Baltic Sea
- The respect for the demilitarised status of the Åland islands
- The security of Kaliningrad
- Security of Supply, sea routes, underwater communications cables and gas pipelines





## Aaland Islands demilitarization

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Demilitarized since 1856

Neutralised since 1921 (Council of the  
League of Nations)

Neutralization is a legal status

Also customary law

Peace Treaties 1940 and 1947





# Recommendations of WG

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- No changes to the nuclear energy act
- Nordic active role in NATO – promote discourse on risks of NW, role of NW in military doctrines, NATO NFU policy
- Take into account strategic balance of NWs. Example of NO
- FI cautions with NATO nuclear exercise and participation. Conventional military capability enough to repel attacks
- Open door to TPNW, assistance to victims and environment
- Respect of Aalands Islands model – example further?

# Recommendations 1

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Example of Oman:

- -sustainable environment of peace and security for future generations
- -toolkit for peace: no boycotts and exclusions, water sharing experience
- All parties operate from integrity and good intention
- Sayyid Badr: We are counting on the ability of European leaders to find solution to a European war. Posture "you are with us or against us will not solve the problem" (Muscat Daily 2022)





# Recommendations 2

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- Common interests as a basis for co-operation
- Traditionals (openness, signaling, alleviate tensions, risk reduction, fact-based analysis etc.)
- What of illicit trade in firearms?
- EU Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) UKR report May 2023
- UNODC Firearms Programme May 2023
- Ergo – synergies from working together? Politically delicate, yes, but...

## Recommendations 3 – Active Role of Pugwash

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Keep channels of dialogue open

Recognize spoilers of dialogue

Make recommendations for policy-makers – example of Syria from Pugwash oral history project

Enhance activity for European solution to UKR



# THANK YOU!

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<https://sites.google.com/view/ydinaseseuranta/ryhm%C3%A4n-raportit/eng-finland-and-the-challenges-of-nuclear-weapons-policy>