



Current agendas and options

NORDIC-BALTIC SUPPORT TO MILITARY AND SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING?


Support to Military and Security Capacity Building is expanding as a way to strengthen the resilience of states and enhance their ability to manage conflict and insecurity constructively. It offers new openings for Nordic and Baltic engagements and partnerships.

Support to Military and Security Capacity Building (MSCB) is growing into a more integrated part of the repertoire of regional and international military engagement. The MSCB concept covers a wide palette of direct and indirect defence and security related support functions offered to states, regional organisations and international organisations. They

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support to MSCB can promote Nordic and Baltic key political priorities, such as the protections of civilians, human rights, and gender.
- Nordic and Baltic countries can use MSCB to deepen their defense cooperation.
- If Nordic and Baltic states wish to pursue support to MSCB, they could build on existing initiatives, develop specialized niche contributions, and focus on a limited number of countries and organizations.

Several motives point to the relevance of considering joint Nordic-Baltic support for MSCB



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span security sector reform related activities as well as more direct military support functions. They can include a range of capacity development offerings as well as more direct force contributions.

The European Union, the United Nations, NATO and the African Union all plan to strengthen existing capabilities or to develop new capabilities to support MSCB. Similarly, the Nordic and the Baltic countries consider how best to strengthen their bilateral and joint engagements in MSCB. They are presently working towards identifying concrete MSCB capacities to offer to the UN, EU, NATO, AU and/or partner countries.

In that regard, several motives point to the relevance of considering joint Nordic-Baltic support for MSCB:

- The Nordic and Baltic states share many values, thematic foci and key priorities, including human rights, gender and the protection of civilians.
- The Nordic and Baltic states collectively represent an actual regional power. The region is the second-largest contributor of foreign aid and assistance in the world.
- “Nordic” remains a respectable brand not least in international organisations, representing integrity, a willingness to engage and take the lead as well as a past free of significant colonial baggage.
- The Nordic-Baltic region demonstrates a strong track record in development, post-conflict reconstruction, crisis-management and peace-keeping, which offers considerable MSCB-relevant “in-house” expertise.

- The Nordic defence collaboration has been ad-hoc and formed by geopolitical differences and different commitments in the context of NATO and the EU. If the Nordic and Baltic countries wish to deepen their defence collaboration, support to MSCB offers an area of cooperation that is politically less sensitive than “harder” military issues.

Current entry points

Present entry points for exploring joint support for MSCB include:

- 1: The review of UN Peace Operations that was commenced in October 2014;
- 2: The Nordic-funded UN high-level panel on technology and innovation in peacekeeping, which finalizes its recommendations ultimo 2014;
- 3: NATO’s Military Capacity Building Initiative (MCBI) that NATO launched at the Wales Summit in 2014, which explores new roles for NATO and allied nations in supporting MSCB;
- 4: The recent emphasis of the US government on ‘global burden-sharing’ and the announcement of a US re-engagement in peacekeeping, which is likely to become more concrete in 2015 and;
- 5: The African Union’s 21st Heads of State summit 2013, which agreed to fast-track the process of ensuring full operational capability for the African Standby Force;
- 6: In recent years the EU has also taken important steps towards more coherent external capacity

development initiatives, not least in its response to conflict and crisis situations. The EU's recent military training missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Mali and the maritime security mission around the Horn of Africa indicate a growing EU interest for participating in support to MSCB.

These processes all offer windows of opportunities for the Nordic and Baltic states for exploring MSCB engagements, including roles as agenda-setters. Possible joint Nordic-Baltic MSCB capacities and initiatives should be demand-driven and developed through dialogue with partner organisations and countries while also corresponding with the national priorities of the contributing governments to ensure sustainability and political support. Contributions should focus on areas where the Nordic and Baltic countries have a comparative advantage, and should, to the extent possible, leverage existing projects.

Opportunities through UN Peace Operations

Specific joint Nordic-Baltic support to UN Peace Operations could be planned and developed proactively and offered to the UN and its partners at three levels:

- 1: Support to host nations including: Specialised support to security and defence sector reform; Targeted financial assistance; Experts and government-provided personnel for force management; Military justice; Electoral support; Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, Refugee and IDP management, Border management; and Negotiation, mediation and reconciliation.
- 2: Support to Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) including: Pre-deployment training of existing or prospective TCCs for the specific context to which the TCCs will deploy; and the provision of military and logistical hardware and equipment. It could be considered whether a Nordic-Baltic support initiative could "adopt" a TCC and provide training and support to troops and leadership ahead of and throughout the deployment.
- 3: Support to UN headquarters and Sector headquarters including: Technical support – from IED detection to information management; Planning support including aligning operations centres (Joint Mission Analysis Centre, Logistics Operations Centre, Joint Operations Centre etc.); Pre-deploy-



Soldiers from AMISON, 2014. ©AP Photo / Amison, Tobin Jones

ment training of senior management teams for specific missions; Special forces particularly for extraction of individuals; Commanders and staff officers; Operational units such as motorized and mechanized infantry; Reconnaissance capabilities; Combat engineers; Logistics units including signal and communication units and; Force multipliers such as airlift capacity, attack helicopters, special forces, and surveillance assets.

Opportunities through regional actors

African countries and institutions have taken a significant leap forward when it comes to launching peace operations across the continent. The African peace and security architecture now spans rapidly deployable military capacities, sustained peacekeeping presences (with more than 50,000 personnel deployed to date) and a range of civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms. Nordic and Baltic countries would be able to make significant MSCB contributions within fields such as strategic planning, Concept of Operations (ConOps) development, inventory management, financial management for peace missions undertaken by emerging and recently emerged regional and sub-regional actors. At the HQ level, the Nordic countries could assist sub-regional organisations developing key documents such as SOPs for processes, strategic planning document templates and, critically, doctrine development.

Opportunities for Supporting NATO-led Operations

NATO's Defence Capacity Building Initiative (DCBI) was launched at the Wales summit in September 2014 and is entirely based on the contributions of allied and partner nations. The DCBI seeks to establish a pool of NATO experts who can deploy as advisory teams in coordination with other actors. NATO wishes to coordinate DCBI closely with the UN, EU and OSCE. Support has been offered to Georgia, Jordan, and Moldova; and pledged also to Libya when circumstances allow and to Iraq if and when the Iraqi government requests it. Examples of requested support include procurement, cyber security, special forces capacity development, military police, information protection and border security. The NATO DCBI offers an opportunity for Nordic and Baltic states to have a hand in an ambitious NATO initiative at its beginning.

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