145th legislative session 2015-2016.
Parliamentary document 1166 — Case no. 327. no. 26/145.

PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION

on a National Security Policy for Iceland

Parliament has resolved to entrust the Government with adhering to the following national security policy, which ensures Iceland's independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, the safety of its citizens, and the protection of its governmental system and social infrastructure.

The policy is based on proposals from the Parliamentary committee on the formulation of a national security policy for Iceland, which Parliament entrusted the Minister for Foreign Affairs with establishing on the basis of Parliamentary Resolution no. 45/139 of 16 September 2011.

The Government's national security policy is based on the commitments provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and is guided by the basic values of the Icelandic nation: democracy, respect for the rule of law and international law, humanitarianism and protection of human rights, equal rights for all, sustainable development, and disarmament and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The fundamental premise of the policy is Iceland's status as a sparsely populated island nation that has neither the resources nor the desire to maintain an army and provides for its security and defence through active cooperation, both with other countries and within international organisations.

The policy extends to global, societal, and military risks and entails active foreign affairs policy, civil security, and defence cooperation with other countries.

The national security policy includes the following points of emphasis, which carry equal weight:

1. To ensure the protection of Iceland's broad security interests through active international cooperation on the basis of international law and with peaceful resolution of conflicts, disarmament, respect for human rights and the rule of law, gender equality, and the fight against inequality, hunger, and poverty as guiding principles.
2. To give particular consideration to Iceland's environmental and security interests in the Arctic through international cooperation and domestic preparedness.
3. To ensure that Iceland's membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains a key pillar in its defence and the main forum for Western cooperation in which Iceland participates on civil premises, in order to strengthen its own security and that of other NATO members.

4. To ensure that the 1951 defence agreement between Iceland and the United States continues to provide for Iceland's defence, and that cooperation between the two countries continues to be developed on the basis of the agreement, which takes account of military threats and other risks where mutual defence and security interests are at stake.
5. To develop and strengthen still further the cooperation among the Nordic countries on security and defence, and other regional cooperation, and participation in international cooperation in this field.
6. To ensure that Iceland has the defence infrastructure, equipment, capacity, and expertise needed both to respond to the challenges facing the country in connection with security and defence and to honour its international commitments.
7. To ensure that the Government's policy on civil protection and security, which is formulated by the Protection and Civil Security Council, is an integral part of the national security policy, and that consideration is given therein to threats related to climate change, natural disasters, food safety and security, health safety issues, and epidemics.
8. To ensure increased cyber security through continued development of Iceland's internal capacity and cooperation with other countries.
9. To ensure that Government policies take into account other threats that require full attention, such as terrorism, organised crime, and threats to financial and economic security.
10. To ensure that Iceland and its territorial waters are declared free from nuclear weapons, subject to Iceland's international commitments, with the aim of promoting disarmament and peace on Iceland's part.
11. To ensure, by special legislation, the establishment of a National Security Council that will carry out regular assessments of the current situation and the outlook for security and defence issues, monitor compliance with the national security policy, reflect the broad vision of national security as presented in the policy, and review the policy at intervals of no more than five years.

Approved by the Parliament of Iceland on 13 April 2016.