

Strategic perspectives presently relate primarily to the changing conditions for the security of the Nordic countries in the East-West context. The means available for the Nordic countries to respond are of various kinds. In a long-term perspective their security goals are often defined as making the environment, regional or global, more "peace prone", by helping to dissolve tensions, to increase the respect for international law and to create more social and economic equality in the international system as a whole.

In current policy these aims are translated into United Nations-related activities, arms control and disarmament policies, participation in the North-South dialogue, and development aid.

In domestic political debates and diplomatic activities, these questions often play a far greater role than the political and military responses to short-range threats and challenges such as alliances or neutrality, aid and armaments.

... As in the past, present efforts to bring the Nordic countries closer together have always been counterbalanced by the strong pull of extra-Nordic forces and by the strategic necessity imposed on the different Nordic countries by both their geopolitical situation and their historical traditions. Each country has had, and still retains, its own profile in these respects.