

No. 21766

**DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND,
NORWAY and SWEDEN**

**Agreement concerning Nordic assistance co-operation. Con-
cluded at Copenhagen on 5 March 1981**

*Authentic texts: Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish.
Registered by Denmark on 28 March 1983.*

**DANEMARK, FINLANDE, ISLANDE,
NORVÈGE et SUÈDE**

**Accord relatif à la coopération entre les pays nordiques en
matière d'aide. Conclu à Copenhague le 5 mars 1981**

*Textes authentiques : danois, finnois, islandais, norvégien et suédois.
Enregistré par le Danemark le 28 mars 1983.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ CONCERNING NORDIC ASSISTANCE CO-OPERATION

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have co-operated for many years in the field of development assistance, both with respect to the harmonization of assistance and in the form of joint Nordic assistance projects. These Governments now wish to strengthen and to develop their co-operation for the promotion of economic and social progress in the developing countries, both within the framework of international organizations and in bilateral relations with individual countries. With a view in particular to promoting joint Nordic assistance projects, the Governments have agreed as follows:

Article I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The administration of such joint Nordic assistance projects in the developing countries as the Governments decide to undertake under this Agreement shall be the responsibility of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Advisory Committee on Assistance Matters and the Government Officials' Committee on Assistance Matters and, as regards current administration, the responsibility of assistance agencies in the Nordic countries.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement the term joint Nordic assistance projects shall mean programmes covering several countries, country programmes, programme and sectoral support and individual projects.

Article II. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. The Council of Ministers shall consider and submit proposals to the Governments concerning joint Nordic assistance projects.

2. The Council of Ministers shall establish the budgetary framework for joint Nordic projects and decide major questions of principle concerning the expansion, extension and revision of projects.

3. The Council of Ministers shall keep the Nordic Council informed of the budgets and guidelines for joint Nordic assistance projects.

4. The Council of Ministers shall take its decisions in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and rules governing State expenditure of the individual countries.

Article III. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Advisory Committee on Assistance Matters shall assist the Council of Ministers in its consideration of proposals for new joint Nordic assistance

¹ Applied provisionally from 5 March 1981, the date of signature, and came into force definitively on 1 June 1982, the date of the last of the notifications by which the Parties informed the Danish Government through the diplomatic channel that they had approved the Agreement, as provided by their constitutional rules, in accordance with article X (1) (the Government of Denmark indicated that it was to receive the notifications):

State	Date of the notification	State	Date of the notification
Iceland	12 March 1981	Finland	24 May 1982
Sweden	3 June 1981	Denmark	1 June 1982
Norway	3 July 1981		

projects and the extension or modification of such projects in accordance with article II, paragraphs 1 and 2, of this Agreement.

2. Terms of reference for the Committee shall be laid down by the Council of Ministers.

Article IV. THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE

1. The Government Officials' Committee on Assistance Matters shall be the preparatory body for matters considered by the Council of Ministers under article II of this Agreement.

2. The Government Officials' Committee shall consider reports, accounts, auditors' reports and evaluation reports from the administering assistance agencies (cf. article V, paragraph 1). On that basis, the Committee shall take the necessary decisions and issue instructions to the administering assistance agencies concerning the conduct of assistance projects in accordance with agreements with the beneficiary countries and within the framework of established budgets.

3. The rules of procedure for the Government Officials' Committee shall be established by the Council of Ministers.

Article V. ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

1. The administration of individual joint Nordic assistance projects shall as a rule be the responsibility of the national assistance agencies (the administering assistance agency) designated by the Council of Ministers.

2. The administering assistance agency shall perform its tasks in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and of the agreements concluded in accordance with article VI, having regard to the decisions and instructions communicated by the Government Officials' Committee within its sphere of competence.

3. The Government Officials' Committee may decide that the administering agencies shall establish task forces to assist them in the consideration of questions connected with the conduct of assistance projects.

Article VI. AGREEMENTS

1. Where assistance to a beneficiary country is to be based on a joint Nordic country programme, the necessary administrative regulations for the purpose shall be embodied in an outline or procedural agreement between the participating Nordic Governments on the one hand and the Government of the beneficiary country on the other hand. Negotiations concerning such an agreement shall be conducted by the administering assistance agency on the basis of the instructions of the Council of Ministers.

2. The nature and scope of joint Nordic assistance programmes shall be governed by periodic agreements, which shall be concluded by the administering assistance agency with the Government of the beneficiary country in accordance with the decisions of the Government Officials' Committee and within the budgetary framework established by the Council of Ministers.

3. On the basis of outline or procedural agreements and periodic agreements, one or more sectoral support or project agreements may be concluded with the Government of the beneficiary country, to the extent required by joint Nordic support for sectoral programmes or projects in the beneficiary country.

Sectoral support or project agreements shall be concluded by the administering assistance agency and notified to the Government Officials' Committee.

4. Where the joint Nordic assistance to a beneficiary country consists solely of support for individual sectoral programmes or projects, the legal contractual basis for such assistance may be confined to sectoral support agreements or project agreements containing all the provisions necessary for assistance to such countries. Such sectoral support or project agreement shall be concluded by the administering assistance agency in accordance with the decisions of the Government Officials' Committee and within the budgetary framework established by the Council of Ministers.

5. Joint Nordic assistance projects involving support for programmes covering several countries shall be governed by agreements with those countries. Such agreements shall be concluded by the administering assistance agency and paragraphs 1 to 4 of this article shall apply as appropriate.

6. Agreements of the kind referred to in this article shall, where necessary, contain stipulations concerning annual appropriations in the participating Nordic countries. Otherwise such agreements shall, as far as possible and appropriate, follow the pattern normally applied by the administering assistance agency.

Article VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The apportionment among the participating countries of the costs of joint Nordic assistance projects shall be established in advance by a decision of the Council of Ministers in each individual case.

2. Costs that can be identified, such as the administering assistance agency's special costs in connection with its administrative functions, shall be covered by the participating countries in accordance with the established apportionment of costs for the assistance project in question.

3. The participating countries shall make available the contributions determined by the Council of Ministers under this article and in accordance with the annual decisions concerning budgets for the projects. Contributions shall be in the form of a grant and unconditional. The sums shall be transferred to the administering assistance agency at the beginning of the budget year of the contributing country.

Article VIII. PERSONNEL

The recruitment of personnel assigned to joint Nordic assistance projects shall be the responsibility of the administering assistance agency, which shall also appoint the personnel. Recruitment in the Nordic countries shall be carried out in co-operation with the assistance agency. Salaries and other emoluments and other conditions of employment shall, as far as possible, correspond to the administering assistance agency's own rules, but every effort shall be made to ensure maximum uniformity in the conditions of employment within the field of Nordic assistance.

Article IX. ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

1. The administering assistance agency shall each year render accounts, which shall be audited by the State auditing authority of the country concerned.

2. The administering assistance agencies shall compile annual reports on the conduct of projects, to be submitted to the Government Officials' Committee at a time to be determined by the Committee to facilitate preparation of the overall annual report, to be submitted by the Committee to Council of Ministers. The administering assistance agency shall, in addition, report as necessary to the Government Officials' Committee on major matters of principle and political questions affecting the implementation of the projects.

3. The agreements with the beneficiary countries shall as a rule contain provisions concerning the evaluation of projects.

Article X. ENTRY INTO FORCE, TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

1. This Agreement shall enter into force provisionally upon signature and shall definitively take effect when its approval in accordance with the constitutional rules of the Parties has been duly notified through the diplomatic channel. At the same time the Agreement of 18 July 1968 between Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden concerning the administration of joint Nordic assistance projects in developing countries¹ and the Additional Protocols of 3 December 1971¹ and 25 May 1973¹ shall cease to have effect.

2. The Council of Ministers shall decide the extent to which this Agreement shall apply to agreements with the beneficiary countries concluded in connection with the Agreement of 18 July 1968.

3. The Agreement may be denounced by any of the Parties in writing upon six months' notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Copenhagen, on 5 March 1981, in the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish languages, all the texts being equally authentic, in one copy, which shall be deposited with the Government of Denmark.

Certified copies shall be transmitted by the Government of Denmark to the Governments of the other Contracting Parties.

LISE ØSTERGAARD
PIRKKO TYÖLÄJÄRVI
FRÍÐJÓN ÞÓRÐARSON
ROLF HANSEN
KARIN SÖDER

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 955, p. 320.