**PRESS RELEASE**

Today, 22 May 2023, under the current chairmanship of Poland, the Ministers of Defence of the Northern Group or representatives (consisting of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) met in Legionowo, near Warsaw.

The participants have discussed on the perception of threats and challenges to the security of the North-Eastern Europe. All parties have agreed that Moscow’s war of aggression against Ukraine has seriously transformed security environment. Russia’s aggressive posture constitutes a direct threat to the security, stability and the prosperity of the whole Euro-Atlantic area. Northern Group members share a common view that providing further military assistance to Ukraine in its struggle against Russia’s illegal and brutal aggression is crucial.

The participants have acknowledged the importance of the NATO Vilnius Summit. Representatives have shared their national positions and expectations regarding the upcoming meeting, including the implementation of decisions adopted during the Madrid Summit in 2022. Northern Group states believe that the Vilnius Summit should enhance regional security through further strengthening of Allied deterrence and defence posture, facing current and future threat posed by Russia.