

Korea-Nordic Forum 2026

AGENDA



Date
November 11th



Time
10:00-16:00



ERSTAGATAN 1K,
116 28 STOCKHOLM



Institute for Security &
Development Policy

KOREA **KF**
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한국국제교류재단

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker(s)
10.00-10.30	Registration	
10.30-10.50	Inaugural Session - Director's Welcome Remarks - Special Introductory Remark	Dr. Niklas Swanström, Executive Director ISDP H.E. Lee Hyung-jong, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Sweden
10.50-12.00	Social Resilience Welfare Policies & Demographic Shocks	Prof. Weon So-Yoon, Chung-Ang University Prof. Arnstein Aassve, University Bocconi Dr. Ryu Sunwoo, University of Bristol Moderator: Ms. Josephine Ørgaard Rasmussen, ISDP
12.00-13.00	Lunch break *Lunch will not be provided at the Forum	
13.00-14.00	Economic Resilience Mitigating US and Chinese Influence	Prof. Lee Seungjoo, Chung-Ang University Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, University of Turku Dr. Mia Landauer, ISDP Moderator: Prof. Patrik Ström, Stockholm School of Economics
14.00-14.40	Fika	
14.40-15.40	Defense Resilience Defense Industry & Best Practices	Rep. Kim Yong-tae, member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly, People Power Party Mr. Robert Limmergård, Swedish Security and Defence Industry Association Mr. Björn Palmertz, Lund University Moderator: Maj. Gen. (ret) Mats Engman, ISDP
15.40-16.00	Concluding Remarks	Dr. Niklas Swanström, Executive Director ISDP

Panel Details



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Social Resilience: Welfare Policies & Demographic Shocks

This session examines the strategic importance of enhancing social resilience—a society's capacity to navigate and absorb profound demographic shocks—as a critical pillar for both domestic stability and long-term national security. Elevating social resilience to a core strategic objective allows nations to transition from reactive crisis management to proactive structural adaptation. The urgency of this dialogue is underscored by the unprecedented crisis of declining birthrates, which directly threatens the fiscal sustainability of healthcare, pensions, and public infrastructure globally. By evaluating the structural strengths, systemic shortcomings, and unique cultural nuances of the distinct welfare models of the Nordic countries and South Korea, this session establishes a vital framework for best practices sharing and mutual learning. Ultimately, the session aims to bridge the gap between academic research and actionable policy, offering a clear roadmap for cross-regional collaboration in the face of demographic challenges.

Economic Resilience: Mitigating U.S. and Chinese Influence

China's systemic dominance over critical raw materials, paired with unpredictable U.S. tariff policies, creates a highly volatile global market. This shifting landscape lays bare deep vulnerabilities in Nordic and South Korean high-tech sectors, green transition technologies, and vital industrial supply chains. To mitigate the unpredictability born from Chinese monopoly and U.S. decoupling and economic coercion, the Nordic nations and South Korea as middle powers must seek alternative, reliable avenues of economic alignment. This session aims to identify immediate, tangible opportunities for deepening trade and economic cooperation between the Nordic region and South Korea. By focusing on mutual economic security, the dialogue will explore how these highly innovative regions can build a robust counterweight to external economic shocks. Ultimately, the session seeks to establish an actionable blueprint for Nordic-South Korean partnership, transforming shared geopolitical risks into a cooperative advantage that strengthens long-term economic resilience.

Defense Resilience: Defense Industry & Best Practices

The security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific is now deeply intertwined, driven by the DPRK's active role in the war against Ukraine and a rise in asymmetric, gray-zone threats targeting advanced democracies. As highly digitized middle powers, South Korea and the Nordic nations share a distinct vulnerability to these attacks, creating a powerful strategic imperative to join forces across critical defense fronts. In light of these shifting security dynamics, this session aims to explore concrete opportunities for enhanced Nordic-ROK defense cooperation. Discussions will center on achieving a strategic convergence of complementary strengths, pairing the Nordics' cutting-edge cyber defense capabilities and "Total Defense" societal models with South Korea's advanced defense-industrial base, tech innovation, and intelligence insights. Through the integration of collaborative defense frameworks, this dialogue seeks to formulate actionable strategies that could mitigate mutual threats and fortify resilience.