

## **STATEMENT BY NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS 5.11.2018 ON THE TREATY ON INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE (INF)**

Since the end of the Cold War, progress in nuclear arms control and disarmament has contributed significantly to global and European security, not least for us in the Nordic region.

Today, the nuclear arms control framework, successfully established over the past 30 years, is in jeopardy. In recent years, the future of the INF Treaty has been under strain due to serious concerns, which we share, regarding Russia's compliance with the Treaty. These outstanding issues need to be addressed in a constructive and exhaustive manner, making full use of relevant provisions of the INF Treaty. We regret the recent announcement by the United States that it intends to withdraw from the INF Treaty.

No arms-control arrangement can be effective if it is only respected by one side. We call on Russia to answer and clarify the serious allegations that it has violated the INF Treaty. We also ask the United States to consider the impact of its decision. The INF Treaty is a landmark agreement in the spirit of common security. It paved the way for the dismantlement of a whole category of weapons on the European continent, including some of the most destabilising ones.

The trend of less cooperation on disarmament issues and lack of any progress in nuclear disarmament must be reversed and new ways forward must be explored. It is a joint responsibility for all nuclear weapon states to do everything to avoid a nuclear arms race.

We will work with other leaders, in Europe and globally, to preserve the substance of the INF Treaty

*This statement was adopted by the Social Democratic party leaders Mette Frederiksen (Denmark), Logi Einarsson (Iceland), Antti Rinne (Finland), Jonas Gahr Støre (Norway) and Stefan Löfven (Sweden) in conjunction with the national party leader meeting of SAMAK, the Cooperation Committee of the Nordic Labour Movement, in Stockholm on November 5 2018.*