



the country is well aware of the areas and concrete goals of the Committee's future activities, including measures taken to implement recent Security Council resolutions.

In September 2018, Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic met the Committee's Executive Director Michele Koninx in New York who reiterated the afore-mentioned assessments of Serbia's achievements also on this occasion. At the same time, an announcement was made that a delegation of the Committee's Sanctions Monitoring Team was to visit Serbia in 2019.

In the quest for solutions to the current challenges, Serbia relies on its own resources, but it is also very active in promoting

assessments, whereby it consolidated and brought in line its efforts to combat terrorism with international standards.

In February 2020, Serbia adopted, as third in a row, the Strategy against money-laundering and terrorism-financing for the 2020-2024 period and its implementation Action Plan for the 2020-2022 period.

In February 2017, Serbia adopted the Strategy for integrated border management for the 2017-2020 period and its implementation Action Plan for the same period in December 2019 for the year 2019. The Action plan was revised to reflect past and future activities aimed at implementing the Strategy more effectively. The revision was made necessary also by the establishment of a coordination mechanism to recommend and monitor the new activities provided for by the Strategy.

In August 2017, Serbia adopted the Strategy to prevent and suppress human trafficking, especially the trafficking in women and children, and protect the victims for the 2017-2022 period with its implementation Action Plan. The Strategy was drafted in line with the current policies devised by the international community to eradicate human trafficking and stop migrations.

In October 2017, Serbia adopted the National Strategy to prevent and combat terrorism for the 2017

Significant efforts have been made **on the normative plan**, too, not only to implement the documents on strategy and doctrine, but also to harmonize domestic laws with international standards and, in the final analysis, to combat terrorism more effectively.

In accordance with relevant United Nations recommendations, primarily UNSCR 2178 (2014) and the Amendments of Serbia's Criminal Code of October 2014, two new criminal offences have been provided for: Participation in war or an armed conflict in a foreign country (Art. 386a) and the Organization of the participation in war or an armed conflict in a foreign country (Art. 386b), whereby the travel of Serbian nationals to the territories of other countries and their participation in armed conflicts, as well as an act of organizing these persons to travel to foreign battlefields have been incriminated and sanctioned.

The Amendments of the Criminal Code of November 2016, in force since December 2019, incriminate and sanction preparatory actions for the commission of the criminal act of terrorism, while the Amendments of the Criminal Code of mid-2019 amend significantly the criminal offence of terrorism and the criminal offences linked with it. To that end, the following Articles have been amended in respect of the punishment they prescribe: 391 (para. 4) - criminal offence of terrorism; 391v (para. 3) - criminal offence of the use of a lethal device; 391g (para.3) - criminal offence of the destruction of, or damage to, a nuclear installation; and 392 (para. 3) - criminal offence of a threat to a person under international protection. The Amendments provide for the sentencing of the perpetrator of the criminal offences from the above Articles to life imprisonment if, in the commission of the offences, one or more persons have been intentionally deprived of life<sup>2</sup>. (). Art. 391b - criminal offence of recruitment and training for the commission of terrorist acts has also been amended, so that, in line with a significant part of modern-day criminal legislations, the very act of travel abroad has become punishable if taken for the motives and intent specified in this provision. Also, para. 1 of Art. 392 - criminal offence of

The 2017 and 2018 Amendments to the Law on property use limitations aimed at preventing terrorism address in greater detail the questions related to the UNSC List of Designated Persons and the procedure of designation, as well as the questions related to other international organizations of which Serbia is a member. The 2019 Amendments of the Law expand, among others, its application to the criminal offence of terrorism-financing. Its other provisions make the application of the Law, including the fight of terrorism, more effective, ensuring thus its additional harmonization with international standards.

The Law on the export and import of arms and military equipment adopted in October 2014 and the Law on the export and import of dual-use goods adopted in 2013 and amended in October 2019 provided for the establishment of a system of effective monitoring and control of the trade in arms, military equipment and dual-use goods whereby persons included in terrorism have been prevented from obtaining possession of means to carry out terrorist attacks.

By the Law on arms and ammunition, adopted in 2015 and last amended in March 2020, additional efforts have been made to prevent persons linked with terrorism from obtaining possession of means to carry out terrorist acts. In line with the Strategy on the control of small arms and light weapons provisions have been made to harmonize by-

Recognizing the importance of horizontal and vertical inter-linkage and efficient inter-sector cooperation, the Bureau for the coordination of the work of security services in Serbia as the executive body of the National Security Council established in January 2015 an inter-sector team called the Standing Mixed Working Group for Countering Terrorism and Extremism. One of its primary tasks as the roof body in Serbia in this area is to ensure, at the strategic-tactical level, quality and rapid inter-linkage and coordination in the work of competent government agencies and, by extension, their greater efficiency in combating terrorism. After the establishment of the National Coordination Body for the Prevention and Combat of Terrorism in April 2019, the Standing Mixed Working Group was integrated in the Body. In mid-2019, the National Coordination Body established an inter-sector Working Group to draft a Plan to proceed in cases of return of foreign terrorist fighters and the members of their families to the territory of Serbia. It made a Draft Plan which was submitted to the National Coordination Body for consideration. Upon being adopted in the form of government conclusions, the document will become binding on all relevant agencies.

Also, Serbia established the Standing Coordination Group to Monitor the Implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Money-Laundering and Terrorism-Financing and the Commission for the Coordination of the Activities and the Improvement of Cooperation within the Judiciary and Internal Affairs in Questions of General Interest, including, among others, the fight against terrorism, confiscation of property, money-laundering and terrorism-financing and other related issues. The Commission adopted an Action Plan for the realization of its activities aimed at harmonizing and improving inter-agency cooperation.

By its decision of 12 July 2018, the Government established the Coordination Body for the Prevention of Money-Laundering and Terrorism-Financing. It was established as a permanent body under the Law on preventing money-laundering and terrorism-

agencies have taken a number of measures **on the operational plan** aimed, among others, at increasing the security of the country's external borders and making it more difficult for foreign terrorist fighters to enter or transit Serbia, as well as at monitoring and preventing travel to conflict areas. This segment provides for the following measures: implementation of the prescribed

## **Foreign terrorist fighters**

All countries exposed to terrorist threats and faced with the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters encounter, as a consequence, specific challenges. Serbia is no exception in that regard. One of the significant challenges it is faced with is evinced by the fact that it is located in a very specific environment saturated with powerful centres (associations, religious facilities and even small settlements) which disseminate the aggressive ideology of the "Islamic State" and carry out recruitment of, and dispatch, foreign terrorist fighters to crisis areas. The territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija presents a challenge, too. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is much in evidence in that territory and, for reasons already explained, Serbia's authorities have no factual and executive control over this part of its territory.

Serbia is committed to countering the phenomn TJET(rr2 792 reW\*nBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 108.02 557.02



persons, which decision was upheld by the judgment of the Special Division for Organized Crime of the Appellate Court in Belgrade of 18 January 2019. Three persons were sentenced to 11 years in prison each, one to 10 years, two to 9 years and 6 month each and one to 7 years and 6 months.

Serbia stands ready to continue its cooperation with the United Nations in this important area and, in that context, it supports the efforts invested in adopting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.