

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA: CONTRIBUTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REFER TO RESOLUTION 79/26 ENTITLED *CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS*

Serbia implements all the provisions of international agreements in the field of arms control consistently.

At the regional level:

Proceeding from the Vienna Document 2011, Chapter X *Regional Measures*, the Government of Serbia signed with the Government of Hungary a Bilateral Agreement on confidence- and security-building measures amending the Document.

On the same basis, the Ministry of Defence of Serbia signed with the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria a Protocol on confidence- and security-strengthening measures amending the Vienna Document 2011.

Proceeding from the Vienna Document 2011, Chapter X *Regional Measures*, and in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V of Annex B-1 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Verification Centre of the Department for International Military Cooperation of the Sector for Defence Policy of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia and the Bundeswehr Verification Centre sign every two years a Letter of Intent in the field of arms control.

Proceeding from the Vienna Document 2011, Chapter X *Regional Measures*, and in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V of Annex B-1 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Verification Centre of the Department for International Military Cooperation of the Sector for Defence Policy of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia carries out additional activities in the field of arms control in cooperation with the Verification Centre of France.

At the subregional level:

Proceeding from the provisions of the Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V of Annex B-1 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Agreement on Subregional Arms Control) and in accordance with the Inspection Protocol, Section II of the Agreement and its Annual Inspection Plan, Serbia accepts inspection visits by the Contracting Parties to its territory as provided for by the Agreement, as well as arms reduction inspection visits. At the same time, Serbia realizes via the Verification Centre of the Department for International Military Cooperation of the Sector for Defence Policy of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia inspection visits with the other Contracting Parties as provided for by the Agreement.

The Serbian Armed Forces take part in the organization and realization of conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels in its own territory and in the territories of the States of the region. The organization and realization take place under the Vienna

Document BD-2011 of 30 November 2011 and the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control of 14 June 1996 based on Article IV of Annex 1-B of the Dayton/Paris General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Conventional arms controls are realized under annual plans following special notices, not included in annual plans. Members of the Serbian Armed Forces take part in arms control escort teams in Serbia and inspection teams abroad. No violations of the Protocols and arms control Agreements in force were noted in the work of inspection teams abroad in which the members of the Serbian Armed Forces took part. By participating in arms control activities at the regional and subregional levels, the Serbian Armed Forces contribute to transparency in arms control and help promote peace and stability in the region and the world.

As part of the fight against the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans, the Berlin Process developed the *Roadmap* for that purpose until 2024 which was endorsed at the Western Balkan Summit held in London on 9 July 2018. Its *Strategy* for small arms and light weapons control for the 2019-2024 period contained the basic mechanisms to combat the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives for civilian use in the Western Balkans. It also provided, as one of its goals, for the strengthening of cooperation at the international, regional and national levels.

At the EU – Western Balkans Ministerial Forum, held in Budva, on 28 and 29 October 2024, all Western Balkan partners endorsed the *Roadmap* for sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2030. Accordingly, the Ministry of the Interior established a Working Group to develop a new public policy document that will take the form of a *Programme* for the control of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives with an accompanying *Action Plan* to be aligned with the revised *Roadmap* for the Western Balkans by 2030.