

SERBIA: CONTRIBUTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REFER TO RESOLUTION 79/42 *MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORISTS
FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION*

Weapons of mass destruction pose a transnational security threat due to the development of relevant technologies and information availability. The most significant trends that affected international security and WMD proliferation in the past included the global and regional geo-political rivalries, a large number of armed conflicts around the world, the chronic crisis of the arms control system and the activities of various non-state actors and terrorist groups.

As a global security challenge, terrorism poses a threat to security, democratic values and the rights and freedoms of citizens at the global level. The threat of terrorism does not recognize borders and the responses to the threat posed by it should be established at both at the national international levels.

One of such responses should be the establishment of efficient national export systems to be based on national legislations aligned with international standards and rules, control lists harmonized with the lists of the international export control regime, cooperation at the national and international levels, outreach activities to the industry and other stakeholders and a sanctions system. Sharing of information among share stakeholders based on the exchange of end use/r documentation, exchange of national experiences and practices on end use/r control and measures to address diversion, sharing of national points of contacts to assist with authentication and verification of end use/r documentation and post-delivery cooperation should efficiently prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The Serbian Armed Forces do not possess the weapons of mass destruction, do not develop the relevant capacities and do not plan to use them. However, they do follow the development of this type of weapons and take measures to ensure protection from their use.

Likewise, under Article 6 of the *Law on Military Security Agency and Military Intelligence Agency*, the Military Security Agency detects, follows and prevents internal and international terrorism, extremism and other forms of organized violence.

In addition to the existing legislative framework for the implementation of the measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, Serbia has established the *National Coordinating Body* for the implementation of the *Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the 2021/2025 Period* and the *National Coordinating Body* against money laundering, financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Under the *Strategy*, Serbia has committed itself to contributing to international peace and stability by showing solidarity with, and actively participating in, the international fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and in multinational humanitarian and peace operations under the United Nations and European Union auspices. Furthermore, the *Strategy* provides for Serbia's commitment to possessing and developing no weapons of mass destruction and its undertaking to prevent their proliferation, in line with its *2019 Defence Strategy*. Also, it is stated in Serbia's *2019 National Security Strategy* that the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction potentially poses the greatest threat to global and European security and, by extension, a real threat to Serbia's security.

In addition to countering various forms of organized crime and corruption, the greatest threats and risks to its security, Serbia has also instituted as one of its priorities the fight against the crime that includes, and is aimed at, radioactive and nuclear materials and facilities in which they are used.

Under the *Strategy of Integrated Border Management for the 2022-2027 Period*, the activities related to the suppression of cross-border crime (which includes radioactive and nuclear materials) also belong among Serbia's strategic goals. Improved control of the state border and the institutional cooperation among Serbia's Ministry of the Interior, Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and the Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate are stipulated in Article 202 of the *Law on Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security* which provides for the obligation of the Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior to detect and prevent illegal transfer of radioactive and nuclear materials over Serbia's border crossings.

The competent units of the Ministry of the Interior and the Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate take actions aimed at providing a strengthened national framework for the prevention and countering of acts of terrorism and other criminal offences that include or are aimed at radioactive and nuclear materials, related facilities and activities.

Acquisition and possession of the weapons of mass destruction by terrorists is incriminated by Article 391, paragraph 1, item 5 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with which the Ministry of the Interior is entrusted with the task of detecting and preventing these activities.