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## Information

### **provided in the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994**

#### **Fight Against Terrorism**

On October 4, 2018, The Government of Armenia approved the package of bills on Amending the Criminal Code of the RA and Amending the Criminal Procedure Code of the RA and submitted them to the National Assembly.

In the field of the fight against terrorism, the draft Law on Amending the Criminal Code envisages, among other things, the incorporation of Item 1 into the Article 226, thus providing for criminalization of public calls for terrorism, financing of terrorism and international terrorism as well as overtly justifying or propagating such acts. The newly drafted Criminal Code contains also a number of other provisions regulating various aspects of countering terrorism and related issues, in order to ensure Armenia's full compliance also with the requirements of recently adopted UNSC counterterrorism resolutions.

Armenia developed and adopted its National Strategy on the Fight against Terrorism in 2012. In line with the provisions of the strategy, the Program for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Strategy on the Fight against Terrorism, covering the period from 2012 to 2017 was developed and successfully implemented. The process of elaboration of a similar program for the period 2018-2023 was initiated under the general coordination of the National Security Service (NSS) of the RA with the involvement of all the relevant ministries, state bodies and other agencies of the RA. The draft Program aims at ensuring comprehensive, holistic approach to counterterrorism measures including the strengthening and refining of domestic legislation, protection of critical infrastructure, public awareness raising etc.

Large number of practical steps and measures are already being or scheduled to ensure the implementation of appropriate provisions of UNSCR 2396. Particularly, in accordance and compliance with OP 2 of the UNSCR 2396, a number of activities are currently carried out to improve, upgrade and expand the capacities of the law enforcement agencies. The process of implementation of the draft Program is currently in progress.

The General Department of Civil Aviation has initiated the process of amending the Aviation Law of the Republic of Armenia to fulfil the requirement concerning the submission of advance passenger information by airlines. Furthermore, in order to provide for the full compliance with security standards established by the ICAO, a set of practical steps and arrangements<sup>2</sup> are envisaged in the recently issued draft governmental protocol decision on approving the renewed Program of

technological capacities to remotely input updates on designations into financial institutions' databases through an algorithm installed within their IT systems to ensure that any matches with UN designations are automatically detected. Paragraph 2 of the Article 28 of the AML/CFT Law stipulates that the FMC is authorized to propose, either on its own initiative or at the request of competent foreign authorities, persons or entities for designation under UNSCR 1373. Currently there are no designations under National Lists.

The Central Bank of Armenia has adopted several normative acts (embracing the, so called, Listing Rules, Freezing Guidance as well as Delisting and Unfreezing Rules) in order to facilitate effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions.

In 2017 Armenia conducted an analytical update to the 2014 National Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risks, covering the period from 2014 to 2016<sup>3</sup>. The results of the assessment suggest that the likelihood of individual terrorists or terrorism organizations operating in the Republic of Armenia is very low, while the effective preventive mechanisms as well as permanent and large scale operational intelligence render the misuse of financial and non-financial systems for terrorism financing purposes practically impossible. The findings of national assessment are also reaffirmed in the 5th round mutual evaluation report (MLR) of Armenia's Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Measures issued by the Council of Europe

radicalization of societies. The Daesh-style executions and other contemptible atrocities are already not limited just to the Middle East. In this regard, it should be noted with concern that in several countries ethnicity- or religion-based intolerance, xenophobia, hatred are encouraged and instigated by state authorities with the aim of disguising chronic lack of democracy, systematic breach of human rights and fundamental political liberties, suppression and even compelled assimilation of national minorities.

Any attempt to justify and glorify the inspirers and perpetrators of such hate crimes, as well as incitement of violence, bellicose rhetoric or state-sponsored terrorism, especially in conflict environment, should be decisively and unequivocally condemned by international community.

In this respect, Armenia remains fully committed to the fight against terrorism and, in this regard, pursues cooperation with the UN specialized bodies (UN CTED, UNOCT, UNODC), the Antiterrorism Center of the CIS, relevant structural units of the CSTO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the NATO as well as in bilateral format.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) conducted a follow-up visit to Armenia from 11 to 13 July 2018 in order to study and assess Armenia's compliance with and implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1373 and subsequent counter-terrorism resolutions (1624, 2178, 2396) with due attention to national legislation. National security authorities and law-enforcement bodies reaffirmed Armenia's unequivocal commitment to contribute to the fight against terrorism and its financing in all its forms and manifestations; to ensure further improvement of the domestic legislation in accordance with the relevant counterterrorism resolutions of the UNSC and CTED recommendations. The CTED Delegation noticed significant progress achieved since the Delegation's initial visit from 24 to 28 of September 2007, as well as welcomed continuous efforts of the Armenian Government aimed at carrying out a comprehensive approach to address terrorism-related challenges including also through continued multidimensional cooperation with the UN and relevant regional organizations on this matter.

Steady cooperation is carried out by the National Security Service, the Police and the General Prosecutor's Office of the RA within the framework of and in accordance with the CIS Program of cooperation for 2017-2019 on countering terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism. Meanwhile, the State Revenue Committee of the RA is a member of the Committee of Heads of Law Enforcement Units of the Council of Chiefs of the CIS Customs Service

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Armenian high rank officials and delegations actively participate in UN-convened events (for instance, the First High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in New York on 28-29 June 2018), OSCE-wide conferences organized by the OSCE Chairmanship, annually held consultations among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Participating States of the CIS, as well as meetings in inter-parliamentary format (such as the “Conference on Countering International Terrorism” organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the States-Parties to the CIS in Saint-Pétersbourg on 18 April, 2019) and events organized by partner countries (for example, the high-level Conferences hosted by Tajikistan in 2018 and 2019 which becomes a remarkable venue to discuss, take stock of the international endeavors and cooperation in countering terrorism and its financing).