

## THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION  
SIXTH COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM 110: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

*Check against delivery*

### STATEMENT

by

Mr. Boris Holovka

Minister Counsellor

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations

8 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your appointment and to wish you every success in your work, in which you can count on the full support of my delegation. Also, let me point out that, as a candidate country for membership in the European Union, my delegation subscribes to the statement made yesterday by the representative of the European Union. I shall, therefore, focus on some points from the national perspective.

Let me first of all say that the Government of Serbia has always unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Serbia is a party to 14 out of 18 international counter-terrorism instruments and is doing its utmost to fully implement relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and, in particular, Resolution 1373 (2001).

To that end and in line with the mandate of the CTC, Serbia hosted a delegation of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) from 18 to 21 March 2013. This visit provided an opportunity to discuss our national, regional and international efforts and ways of enhancing them, as well as provision of technical assistance in building national capacity. At the same time, it accorded us the opportunity to present an overview of national political and operational activities and to express our position that the main regional security threats derive from violent extremism and other forms of organized crime. The Government demonstrated its commitment to work with the United Nations to surmount the challenges involved in countering global terrorist threat effectively, to which end it is in the process of preparing a comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategy that will be supported by an implementation action plan. These attempts will further benefit our efforts at augmenting capacities as we are moving closer to the start of EU accession negotiations.

More specifically, attention was given to the national legislative framework and modalities of international legal cooperation. We have pointed out that the amendments made to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure provided for alignment of our laws with international standards and basic principles of human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as well as for the ratification of international instruments for combating terrorism. Also, the legal definition of terrorism has been made more clear and precise. The members of the Committee were further briefed on criminal inquiry and investigative procedures, methods used in countering the flow of weapons to terrorists, cooperation between the relevant organs tasked with border management and control of migrations, as well as on the inter-agency coordination in countering terrorist acts. The representatives of security agencies placed an emphasis on preventive measures and operational procedures in the process of uncovering individuals or groups linked to terrorist organizations.

With regard to the exchange of police information among the Balkan countries and beyond, the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in Belgrade is an active participant in different INTERPOL anti-crime activities in the region, particularly as regards projects focusing on terrorism and terrorism-related issues. Serbia is also increasing its cooperation with a variety of organizations and bodies, both multilaterally and bilaterally, in sharing information on movements of criminal and terrorist suspects. Serbia has more than sixty bilateral agreements with individual countries for law enforcement cooperation.

As regards the issue of counter-financing of terrorism, ways of uncovering financing of terrorist activities and procedures and mechanisms of tracking illegitimate transactions, including those of the non-profit organizations, as well as the effectiveness and role of the national financial intelligence unit (FIU), were discussed. In advancing this matter, Serbia has undertaken a national risk assessment study on terrorist financing threats and risks based on World Bank methodology, within the framework of a joint EU and Council of Europe-led MOLI project, whose final report is to be issued shortly. Also, a draft law on freezing of assets is in its final stage of preparation.

As regards the provision of technical assistance, we have pointed to the areas where UN assistance would be of particular relevance in building national capacity – training of prosecutors and judges in counter-terrorism prosecutions with a particular emphasis on the respect for international human rights law and due process, forming of a permanent training facility, as well as providing training that would advance the methods of international cooperation. We have also noted with satisfaction a positive appraisal of our expertise and experience in a number of areas - witness protection, for instance, whereby we would stand ready to provide assistance to the states in our region.

Let me reiterate once again, Mr. Chairman, Serbia's full support to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to all the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. When it comes to fighting terrorism, the guidelines contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy are of paramount importance for us. Especially the part that refers to measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation.

Finally, before concluding, let me express our hope that the Working Group that will reconvene during the sixty-ninth GA session will succeed in finalizing the text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, bringing the long-lasting negotiating process to a successful conclusion. We will do our utmost to actively support this goal.

Thank you.