

Translated from Spanish

Report of the Republic of Colombia on progress in implementing the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/60

May 2019

The Republic of Colombia has always considered terrorism to be an unjustifiable phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations, which are a threat to international peace and security. All terrorist acts run counter to the fundamental freedoms of society, weaken human rights and affect sustainable development.

In a globalized world, terrorism should not be understood as a separate phenomenon from other current trends. Indeed, effectively combating terrorism and transnational organized crime requires a comprehensive approach that places special emphasis on targeting financing tools and the illegal groups that perpetrate these crimes. Effective regulation of the international financial system and illicit financial flows is critical to reducing the capabilities of international terrorists.

In addition to all national efforts and commitments in this area, the effective implementation of international instruments, with constructive use of their cooperation frameworks, is essential. International instruments also strengthen the regulatory regime, making it possible to address the enabling conditions for terrorism and prevent and combat it at all levels.

Bilateral instruments have also enabled national authorities to strengthen their frameworks, build capacity and implement best practices, which have been replicated throughout the country and have contributed to action taken against organizations that threaten peace.

Implementation in Colombia of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

For Colombia, the fight against terrorism is part of a multidimensional approach to security aimed at strengthening State legitimacy and the democratic system. The defence and security policy for legality, entrepreneurship and equity, in which there is no place for any justification of terrorism and crime, was adopted in February 2019. It takes into account, inter alia, changes in security scenarios, the existence of traditional threats and the persistence of threats related to terrorism and transnational crime.

It should be noted that, with the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace reached with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army, the stabilization and consolidation of peaceful coexistence, and the territorial stabilization process currently under way in the country, we are at a critical juncture in the fight against the threat to international and national security posed by terrorist acts.

In both bilateral and multilateral settings, Colombia has emphasized the clear links between transnational organized crime and terrorism in various forms. Of particular importance to Colombia is the participation of organized armed groups like the Ejército de Liberación Nacional in various

illicit activities such as drug trafficking, illicit extraction of minerals, kidnapping or murder of civilians, destruction of infrastructure, use of explosives against the population, and other acts of terrorism.

In addition, in accordance with the 2018–2022 national development plan, “Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad,” adopted by the Congress of Colombia under Act No. 1955 of 25 May 2019, the National Security Council, with the support of the Financial Intelligence Unit, as the technical secretariat of the Centre for Coordination against the Financing of Transnational Criminal and Terrorist Organizations, will coordinate the design and implementation of a strategy and public policy to strengthen the State’s prevention, prosecution and punishment capacities to tackle illicit financial flows, as well as its capacity to disrupt illicit economic activities.

The strategy aims to strengthen the instruments and mechanisms of the anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorist financing system by improving national coordination and cooperation, communication channels, and the exchange of strategic information among participants in that system on the basis of trust. It also aims to identify the vulnerabilities, threats and risks posed by money-laundering and terrorist financing at the national and departmental levels by generating outputs that serve as tools to support prevention and detection by the public and private sectors and as inputs for updating or developing risk matrices.

With regard to the implementation of coordinated measures by the national police under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence, the following points should be noted:

1. Colombia is currently the only country in Latin America that has an agreement on operational and strategic cooperation with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), enabling the country to cooperate on information exchange, training and the development of operational processes.
2. In accordance with that cooperation agreement, Colombia coordinates with the European Counter-Terrorism Centre on exchanging appropriate information with States members of the European Union and strategic partners on Europol counter-terrorism operations.
3. Information is shared when checks are carried out in connection with terrorist activities within the European Union. Statistics, methods and trends in international terrorism are also shared.
4. Through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application, information is exchanged securely between Europol and Colombia using advanced encryption technology.

In addition, since 2018, Colombia has had a strategy for the prevention of violent radicalization, the product of coordinated work by 17 State institutions. The strategy focuses on preventing the spread of fundamentalist doctrines that promote intolerance and justify the use of violence to impose belief systems that run counter to the Constitution and the law. The strategy supports the country’s commitments to implement the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism established under General Assembly resolution 70/254 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/180.

With regard to multilateral commitments made in the area of counter-terrorism, we wish to share the progress achieved in developing national laws related to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism:

- **Act No. 1941 of 18 December 2018 on national security, which extends, amends and supplements Act No. 418 of 1997:** Its article 4 provides for the establishment of the Centre for Coordination against the Financing of Transnational Criminal and Terrorist Organizations.
- **Act No. 1943 of 28 December 2018, which, among other provisions, enacts financing regulations to rebalance the general budget:** It establishes, under the category of “crimes against public administration,” a new criminal offence subcategory, “money-laundering,” related to fraud and tax evasion.
- **Decision 0-1529 of 18 December 2018 of the Office of the Attorney General:** Establishes the Elite Counter-Terrorism Group within the Specialized Directorate against Criminal Organizations.

With regard to statistical information held by the national police on terrorist acts perpetrated in the country between January 2018 and April 2019, we wish to report:

- The Ejército de Liberación Nacional carried out 483 armed attacks (381 in 2018 and 112 in 2019).
 - Against law enforcement personnel: 210 attacks
 - Against the civilian population: 136 attacks
 - Against strategic sectors: 147 attacks
- Residual organized armed groups carried out 281 armed attacks (223 in 2018 and 58 in 2019).
 - Against law enforcement personnel: 129 attacks
 - Against the civilian population: 58 attacks
 - Against strategic sectors: 92 attacks

With regard to criminal prosecutions and sentencing in connection with the offences provided for in article 3 of the Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance, during the period from 20 July to 31 December 2018, a citizen of Colombia was extradited to the Plurinational State of Bolivia on 24 July 2018 for the offences of kidnapping and organized crime.

Universal counter-terrorism instruments ratified by Colombia

Name	Place of adoption	Date	Act of ratification	Constitutional Court Judgment	Organization	In force
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings	New York	15 December 1997	Act No. 804 of 2003	Judgment No. C-1055 of 2003	United Nations	Yes
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism	New York	9 December 1999	Act No. 808 of 2003	Judgment No. C-037 of 2004	United Nations	Yes
Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection	Montreal	1 March 1991	Act No. 1077 of 2006	Judgment No. C-121 of 2008	International Civil Aviation Organization	Yes
Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance	Washington	2 February 1971	Act No. 195 of 1995	Judgment No. C-186 of 1996	Organization of American States	Yes
Inter-American Convention against Terrorism	Bridgetown	3 June 2002	Act No. 1108 of 2006	Judgment No. C-537 of 2008	Organization of American States	Yes
Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft	Tokyo	14 September 1963	Act No. 14 of 1972		International Civil Aviation Organization	Yes
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft	The Hague	16 December 1970	Act No. 14 of 1972		International Civil Aviation Organization	Yes
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation	Montreal	23 September 1971	Act No. 4 of 1974		International Civil Aviation Organization	Yes
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents	New York	14 December 1973	Act No. 169 of 1994	Judgment No. C-396 of 1995	United Nations	Yes
International Convention against the Taking of Hostages	New York	17 December 1979	Act No. 837 of 2003	Judgment No. C-405 of 2004	United Nations	Yes
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material	Vienna	03 March 1980	Act No. 728 of 2001	Judgment No. C-673 of 2002	International Atomic Energy Agency	Yes
Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material	Vienna	08 July 2005	Act No. 1572 of 2012	Judgment No. C-692 of 2013	International Atomic Energy Agency	Yes
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil	Montreal	24 February 1988	Act No. 764 of 2002	Judgment No. C-354 of 2003	International Civil Aviation Organization	Yes

Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation						
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