

*Translated from Spanish*

**2019 report on measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Office of the Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation**

**Directorate of International Bodies and Conferences**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

The Republic of Panama condemns all acts of terrorism, regardless of their manifestation or motivation, and by whomsoever committed. It reaffirms its steadfast commitment to continuing to combat terrorism in cooperation with the international community, in strict accordance with the standards and principles of human rights, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the rule of law. It emphasizes the importance that States must attach to the mission of identifying, penetrating and destroying through a sustained and organized strategy the formal and informal channels used for the financing of terrorism, in order to minimize the activities of terrorist groups.

The Republic of Panama continues to consolidate efforts to prevent terrorism and the financing of terrorism, by investing resources to improve its capacities. To that end, it has focused on protecting its land, maritime and air borders and its financial and logistical system, in order to prevent, deter, detect and suppress terrorist networks.

The Republic of Panama has ratified 18 regional and universal counter-terrorism instruments.

Panama has included, in its national list for combating terrorism and the financing of terrorism, 28 persons (25 natural persons and 3 legal persons). Those persons have been designated as a result of cooperation requests from third States, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Panama has also included persons on the basis of recommendations made by the Committee for the Prevention of Terrorism and the Financing of Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Department of the National Security Council.

Panama, together with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of OAS, continues to implement the OAS programme of legislative technical assistance in the application of financial

sanctions to combat terrorism, through which it receives support and advice related to the adaptation and comprehensive review of its domestic regulations in order to improve the application of sanctions in response to the new challenge of global terrorism, by enhancing the knowledge of the police and intelligence agencies, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the judiciary, public bodies subject to reporting requirements, supervisory bodies, financial and non-financial entities subject to reporting requirements, and practitioners.

#### Measures to prevent and combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism

Panama continues to enforce preventive freezing, the travel ban, the arms embargo and other measures adopted by the United Nations Security Council through updates to the Consolidated Sanctions List.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, Panama has criminalized the financing of terrorism on the basis of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which it ratified on 3 July 2002; to ensure that its regulations are comprehensive and not limited, and that they encompass multiple precepts, Panama took into account the treaties on particular types of terrorist activities – types that are set out in the various conventions – and on offences that are considered terrorist acts. These offences are established in article 293 of the Criminal Code, which contains the penalties for persons who commit an act of terrorism as described in the United Nations conventions ratified by Panama. It follows that compliance with all conventions ratified by Panama is mandatory.

Panama has adapted its domestic law to increase the penalties for the financing of terrorism, which are set out in articles 294, 294-A, 295 and 295-A of the Criminal Code.

Panama also continues to implement Act No. 23 of 2015, on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Act includes rules on preventive freezing, which are also developed by two executive decrees that regulate such freezing.

Panama continues to implement measures for the preventive freezing of the assets and services of persons included in the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and in the national list. Likewise, it continues to provide ongoing training to financial and public security officials to alert them to terrorist risks and threats. To date, no assets have been frozen in Panama as a result of terrorism.

The Committee for the Prevention of Terrorism and the Financing of Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Department of the National Security Council continue to coordinate, and to advise the President of the Republic on, the analysis and sharing of information on individuals and companies that are linked to or may be acting on behalf of persons associated with terrorism.

The number of international alerts and the amount of intelligence cooperation have increased. The databases related to persons who may be associated with terrorism and the financing of terrorism have been expanded so that appropriate preventive action can be taken.

Panama has taken specific measures in the area of migration to prevent the entry into and transit through the country of the persons included in the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and in other States' national lists, which are available in various databases.

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