



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

SEVENTY- FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

SIXTH COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 109

STATEMENT

by

Ms. Sandra Pejic

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia

to the United Nations

New York, 9 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Before I proceed to make my statement, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Bureau. I assure you of the full support of my delegation.

The Republic of Serbia has aligned itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union. I shall, therefore, make some additional comments from our national perspective.

At the outset, let me underline our strong condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism. Unfortunately, this year again we have been witnesses of many terrorist acts around the world and the destructive impact they can have on victims and their communities. Among them are the horrific terrorist attack against the Muslim community in Christchurch on March 15 and the Easter attacks in Sri Lanka on April 21.

Serbia is firmly committed to responding to present-day security challenges. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism and radicalism belongs among its priority goals. In cooperation with partners all over the world, my country is ready to make a full contribution to the suppression of these threats at national, regional and global levels. Terrorism and violent extremism are global phenomena and, in order to counter them, we need continued and widespread cooperation among Member States. This is why we consider the United Nations to be the proper forum for active engagement in this field.

Serbia will continue to support the work of the Secretary General, CTED and the UN Office of Counterterrorism. We are fully committed to implementing all Security Council resolutions addressing international terrorism. I'd like to reconfirm our full support for the holistic and preventative approach of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as the Global CounterTerrorism Strategy. We support the work related to the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and encourage all Member States to make the necessary efforts to reach a consensual outcome.

Mr Chairman,

The phenomenon of returning foreign terrorist fighters is a challenge that requires active measures and regional cooperation. Many such measures have been taken, including in the area of operational activity, either independently or in cooperation with partners, especially in the Western Balkans and South-East Europe. Serbia's Criminal Code provides for incrimination of Serbian citizens' participation in armed conflicts abroad, including the organization thereof.

Our National Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism for 2017-2021 emphasizes the importance of prevention and establishes the following priority goals: 1) prevention of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism; 2) protection, identification and elimination of terrorist threats; 3) prosecution of terrorist with full respect for human rights and rule of law; 4) the response to a terrorist attack.

Denying terrorists groups access to financial resources is a of the utmost importance to successfully counter terrorism. Our Law on the Freezing of Assets with the Aim of Preventing Terrorism provides for precise and effective regulation of the questions relative to the List of persons designated by the Security Council and other international organizations, as well as for the designation procedure. The Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism is adjusted to be in line with the standards of the European Union and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

We have consistently fulfilled our international obligations regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions on arms embargoes, including bans of non-State actors, terrorist organizations and individuals linked to them. We stand ready to continue our cooperation with the United Nations and remain committed to supporting a strong, sustained, and coordinated global response to terrorism

Thank you.