

Translated from Russian

Information from the Russian Federation in connection with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

The Russian Federation is taking a comprehensive approach to combating international terrorism. It has been steadily improving its legislative framework and law enforcement practices and strengthening its counter-terrorism cooperation with interested States and international and regional organizations. The clear impetus behind these efforts is to ensure compliance with the norms and principles of international law and the implementation of the relevant international conventions and agreements, Security Council resolutions and General Assembly recommendations.

Together with Federal Law No. 114-FZ of 25 July 2002 on countering extremist activities and Federal Law No. 35-FZ of 6 March 2006 on counter-terrorism, the concept for countering terrorism in the Russian Federation and the national strategy for countering extremism until 2025, an updated version of which was approved by Presidential Decree No. 344 of 29 May 2020, form the basic legal framework for countering terrorism and extremism in the Russian Federation.

In line with the national security strategy, the activities of terrorist organizations are classified as major threats to national and public security. This reinforces the importance of effective measures to counter such organizations, including the investigation of crimes relating to terrorist activity by the competent authorities. One of the top priorities of the investigating authorities is countering the financing of international terrorist organizations.

The Russian Federation has criminalized the full range of terrorism-related activities in line with the norms of international law.

Law enforcement authorities are working tirelessly to promptly identify persons engaged in terrorist activity.

Preventive measures conducted on a routine basis have enabled effective counter-terrorism cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the regions and the establishment of a set of procedures for responding quickly to negative developments. Inter-agency cooperation has played a role in the successful detection and suppression of criminal activity by law enforcement authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Joint administrative and management policies are being put in place to improve the detection, suppression and investigation of terrorism-related crimes and to ensure appropriate engagement with civil society organizations and the media, including to raise awareness within the general population of the measures being taken to counter such criminal activity.

Hundreds of Russian citizens and citizens of other countries are prosecuted every year in the Russian Federation in connection with planned travel abroad for the purpose of participating in terrorist activity. An even greater number of new criminal proceedings involve existing persons who have already joined terrorist organizations abroad, including in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan.

In 2019, the investigative authorities of the Investigative Committee instituted criminal proceedings and conducted investigations in 11 cases involving crimes under article 205 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (also known as the “Terrorism Act”).

Particular attention is being devoted to detecting, suppressing and investigating crimes involving the financing of terrorism. Activities involving terrorist financing detected during the reporting period most often involved extortion of funds from business entities and other persons accompanied by threats of death or injury.

The Russian Federation is actively cooperating with foreign law enforcement agencies in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes and the prosecution of persons complicit in such activity. Such cooperation includes providing legal assistance in terrorism-related criminal cases as well as submitting requests to the competent authorities of foreign States for the extradition of persons sought in connection with criminal proceedings or the enforcement of a sentence.

At present, the Office of the Procurator-General is reviewing seven requests for extradition received from foreign States. In 2019, 46 requests for the extradition of persons accused of committing crimes relating to terrorist activity were submitted to the competent authorities of foreign States. Nine Russian requests for extradition have been granted, while nine other requests have been rejected. Of the total number of requests submitted in 2019, five involved terrorist financing. Of these, two requests were granted.

The Russian authorities also submitted 63 requests for legal assistance in 2019. The competent authorities of foreign States have executed 41 such requests. Over the same period of time, the Office of the Procurator-General received 41 requests for legal assistance and, including request received

previously, executed a total of 45 such requests.
