



Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri OSCE, UN i drugim međunarodnim org. u Beči
Стална мисија Босне и Херцеговине при ОЕБС, УН и другим међународним орг. у Бечу
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A

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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions of the Participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honor to provide herewith the Bosnia and Herzegovina's reply to the Questionnaire of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military aspects of Security. The response also includes information on Women, Peace and Security.

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of the opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations of all OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, April 15, 2024

To: OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)
All Delegations/Permanent Missions to the OSCE
VIENNA

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

I: SECTION INTER-STATE ELEMENTS

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub-regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) has made considerable progress in increasing its Counterterrorism (CT) capacities by approximating its legislation to the United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) standards. It is a party to a large number of international treaties, conventions, agreements, arrangements, and resolutions attempting to efficiently regulate the prevention and combating of terrorism, terrorist financing, and the prevention of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

BIH has also signed and ratified a series of UN Conventions and Protocols on the fight against terrorism and has committed itself to implementing various UN Security Council Resolutions. BIH supports full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council.

As a member of the Council of Europe, BIH is signatory to several conventions on the fight against terrorism. BIH actively participates in the Council of Europe's initiative on the fight against terrorism, in the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), and it has entered the Third Evaluation Round of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

BIH is strongly committed to cooperating with the EU to prevent and combat terrorism, and action is continuously being taken to approximate the relevant national legislation with the EU standards, to enhance institutional capabilities, and to coordinate operational activities with the EU Member States.

BIH makes considerable efforts in the prevention of, and combat against terrorism in the framework of regional and bilateral cooperation. BIH cooperates in the context of regional organizations such as Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation; the Migration, Asylum Regional Refugees Initiative (MARRI); the South East Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI), Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) as well as other regional organizations.

Socio-economic goals, such as reducing poverty and inequality, improving education and providing opportunities to the young generation are crucial in preventing terrorism. Eliminating the effects of prejudice and xenophobia in our societies and communities remains essential in countering the spread of violent extremist ideology.

The full list of agreements and arrangements, related to preventing and combating terrorism to which BIH is a party to, can be found in Annex I.

1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the agreements and arrangements mentioned above?

BIH's objective is to establish conditions providing a secure, peaceful and safe life for all citizens in BIH, free from violence and fear, as well as a creative and prosperous economic environment. In order to achieve this objective, the development of comprehensive, national measures for the prevention of all forms of terrorism remains a high priority for BIH.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CoM BIH), at its 20th session, held on August 23, 2023, adopted the Decision on the adoption of the Action plan for implementation Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the prevention and fight against terrorism for the period 2021-2026.

The CoM BIH, at its 26th session, held on October 10, 2023, adopted the Decision on the formation of the Coordination Body for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the prevention and fight against terrorism and the Action plans envisaged by it for the period 2021-2026.

The Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorist Activities was adopted in both houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 13/24. This law carried out:

- a) Harmonization with Directives and Regulations of the European Union in the area of prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorist activities;
- b) The results of the analysis and assessment of the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other strategic documents in the field of the fight against organized crime;
- c) Harmonization of the system of prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism with the standards and recommendations of the Working Group for Financial Measures Against Money Laundering - FATF, and the recommendations of MONEYVAL from the last round of evaluation.

BIH has established a legal framework, which is mostly in line with prescribed international standards. It continues on its path towards the EU by approximating its national legislation with both European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) instruments and standards. BIH has established wide-ranging and adequate standards in its Criminal Code, with regards to the prevention and combat against terrorism and terrorism-related activities, to counter this threat effectively.

In accordance with the Agreement on Mutual Assistance and Operational Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism, inter-agency cooperation regarding cooperation and coordination of activities in the fight against terrorism continues to excel at all levels. The Operational Group for Combating Terrorism, a permanent body of the signatory parties, continues its work, with regular meetings at its headquarters in the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA). The Parties to this Agreement are SIPA, the Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA), the Border Police (BP), the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB), as well as the police of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBIH), the Republika Srpska (RS), and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BD).

The Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina pays particular attention to the criminal offenses related to terrorism and the financing of terrorist activities. The ‘Law on Amending the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina’ prohibits and sanctions participation of citizens of BIH on foreign battlefields, and it supplemented BIH’s criminal law framework concerning the fight against terrorism, by opening additional possibilities for the police and judicial bodies to investigate and prosecute individuals and groups who decide to join foreign paramilitary or para-police formations. It also criminalizes those who encourage, support, finance or in any other way assist foreign terrorist fighters. Additionally, it refers to the activities of procuring or facilitating resources, removing obstacles, creating plans or passing agreements, which create favorable conditions for committing these criminal acts, as well as instigating, supporting, financing or assisting, in any other relevant way, individuals or groups in joining the aforementioned illegal formations. It implements the provisions of UNSCR 2178, underlining the threat of the foreign terrorist fighter and international flow of foreign terrorist fighters. BIH has continued to reaffirm its commitment to fight and prevent terrorism by co-sponsoring UNSCR 2178.

In addition to these Articles, the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina deals precisely with terrorism and there are a number of other Articles that are also significant to the fight against terrorism. These Articles deal with: the taking of hostages, endangering internationally protected persons, illicit trafficking in arms and military equipment, illicit procurement and disposal of nuclear material, piracy, hijacking an aircraft or a ship, endangering the safety of air traffic and maritime navigation, destruction of signal devices utilized for safety of air traffic, misuse of telecommunication signals, illicit trade, illicit manufacturing, etc. In addition to several related Articles, the listed Articles clearly indicate that general provisions of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina also provide for the criminalization of incitement, being an accessory or accomplice, and similar types of activities aforementioned, which can also be applied to other criminal offenses as well.

The Law on Travel Documents of Bosnia and Herzegovina regulates the type and form of travel documents of BIH, the authorities responsible for issuing said travel documents, the procedure for their issuance, the personalization of BIH travel documents and central registry. BIH has defined the legal framework for the introduction of the third generation of biometric passports through legislative amendments.

The Law on Identity Cards of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that the citizens of BIH can use their Identity Card (ID) for crossing state limits in certain circumstances and be subjected to the conditions laid down by international agreement between BIH and other countries. The protective elements that are included in the IDs are fully compliant with EU recommendations. The process of ID card issuance itself involves the implementation of recommendations and standards applied in the process of issuing passports. The technology of producing these electronic IDs, additionally reduces the risk of document falsification.

In 2023, individual action plans were adopted for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism 2021-2026, at the level of BIH, entities and district.

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

For the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BIH), the fight against terrorism presents a component of its mission, which stipulates participation in operations of collective

security, peace support operations, and self-defense. The defense policy of BIH specifies terrorism as one of the main challenges and risks for the safety of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The military doctrine of the AF BIH specifically highlights that the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity includes the fight against terrorism. Such doctrine implies that the AF BIH take measures of self-protection, cooperate with other security forces internally and externally (such as OSCE participating States, partners in the NATO Partnership for Peace program and NATO Members) in the processes of detection, investigation, and counter-terrorism measures. A Military-Intelligence Branch exists within the AF BIH and works on timely detection of terrorist activities, on military-controlled areas, as well as developing preventative measures. Within its structure, there is no designated counter-terrorism (CT) unit, but the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina can engage it by its order to conduct activities to combat terrorism.

The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MOS) is the main security institution at the state level. The MOS has seven constituent parts; the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina (DCPB); the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BP); the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA); the Forensic Examination and Expertise Agency; the Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM); the Police Support Agency and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. It is responsible for: the protection of international borders; the prevention of terrorism; the tracking and tracing of perpetrators of terrorist criminal offenses; the prevention of drug trafficking, human trafficking and the counterfeiting of domestic and foreign currencies; and other criminal offenses with an international or inter-entity element. Furthermore, MOS is also responsible for the protection of persons and facilities, collection and use of data relevant for the security of BIH, and organization and harmonization of activities of the ministries of interior of the entities and BD in accomplishing security tasks in the interest of BIH. MOS adopts protection and rescue plans and programs, implements BIH immigration and asylum policy and regulates procedures concerning movement and stay of foreigners in the country.

The Department for the Fight against Terrorism (DFAT) is part of the MOS, and it monitors the implementation of international conventions, and it is responsible for international cooperation. Furthermore, DFAT drafts new legal regulation on the fight against terrorism and supervises the timely and effective implementation of laws and regulations relating to the suppression of terrorism. It is in charge of the suppression of the activities of groups smuggling weapons for terrorist groups and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, financing terrorism or groups supporting it, in particular those suspected of being connected with other types of organized crime. In this respect, DFAT cooperates with the agencies within the MOS, other institutions, and relevant international organizations.

The Service for Foreigners' Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an administrative organization with operative independence within the MOS is mandated to solve migration issues, and it deals primarily with the supervision and control over the movement and stay of foreigners in BIH, while significantly contributing to all aspects of security of BIH, which is very demanding and complex. Within its operational and inspection functions, it provides operational information on all types of irregular migration and irregular migrants on an operational basis, supervises and controls the stay of aliens in the event of their misuse and illegal use of residence and in the event of their threat to public order or national security of the country from certain categories of aliens. Inter-agency cooperation and information-exchange is a precondition for the effective prevention and fight against terrorism, illegal migration, smuggling, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime. Bearing this in mind, the Service coordinates daily activities, and initiates and realizes daily official cooperation with other law enforcement

agencies in the territory of BiH, as well as Prosecutor's Offices, international and NGO organizations.

The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB) is an administrative organization within the MOS, with operational autonomy, whose work is regulated by the Law on Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on Agencies for Support to Police Structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the field of prevention and fight against terrorism, the DCPB communicates, cooperates and exchanges data among the police bodies, and other relevant bodies of BiH, and also with the relevant foreign and international bodies (INTERPOL, SELEC and EUROPOL until June 14, 2023). The DCPB applies the best European and other international practices relating to police matters in BiH, as well as organizing and performing the physical and technical protection of VIPs and facilities of BiH institutions and diplomatic and consular institutions. Also, the DCPB gathers, monitors, analyses, and uses data of relevance for the security of BiH. In the segment of international operational police cooperation, communication and cooperation has been achieved through the DCPB, as well as the exchange of data with the member states of Interpol, SELEC and law enforcement agencies in BiH. Regarding cooperation with EUROPOL, from June 14, 2023, EUROPOL's protected communication system SIENA exists as part of the National Joint Contact Point at the address Trg BiH 1.

The Section for Combating Terrorism and ABC Weapons Trafficking within Criminal Investigation Department of SIPA prevents, detects, and investigates terrorist crimes and crimes involving illegal trafficking of nuclear materials and chemical-biological weapons. It analyses the crime phenomena in this area, plans and executes police activities in solving the most complex cases, monitors, analyzes, coordinates, and actively participates in actions in the most complex cases handled by regional offices. It analyzes the conditions and circumstances of the occurrence of these types of crimes and proposes preventive measures, prepares necessary work plans, submits reports, information, and other analytical materials, fosters necessary internal cooperation, and collaborates with external entities as needed. It conducts instructional supervision and provides expert support in cases handled in regional offices, and performs other tasks in accordance with the law.

Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BP BiH) is the first law enforcement agency established at the state level. BP BiH was established on 1 June 2000, whereas full operationalization was completed on 30 September 2002, when control over the entire border of Bosnia and Herzegovina was taken. BP BiH is an administrative organization within the MOS, with operational independence, established to carry out police tasks related to the surveillance and control of crossing of the BiH border and other activities prescribed by law. In its work, BP BiH applies, above all, the basic laws: The Law about Border police, the Law on Border Control, the Law on Police Officials of BiH, the Law on Foreigners of BiH, the Law on Asylum of BiH, the Law on Civil Service in the Institutions of BiH, etc.

In order to combat terrorists' threats, the Intelligence-Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (OSA) is continuously dedicated to strengthening and development of capacities in order to efficiently combat terrorism and to adequately address all the threats to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Agency is continually improving its educational and personnel capacities necessary for the early identification, detection and suppression of all the factors which can lead to terrorism. The strengthening of the capacities is reflected in the segment of constant cooperation at the state and international level, and, inter alia, through the participation in the various international and domestic platforms for training and exchange of experience.

In order to achieve the preconditions for a successful fight against terrorism, the Task Force for the Fight against Terrorism, which operates under the leadership of the Office of Prosecutor of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the leading supporter of the cooperation between police agencies in BiH.

Under the Law on the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH and BiH police support agencies, the Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM) is the only institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible for:

- a) Developing, harmonizing and proposing curricula and training programmes to accommodate the needs of BiH law enforcement agencies and other security services and agencies;
- b) Organizing and carrying out education and professional development and specialized training programmes for members of BiH police agencies and other security services and agencies (basic, specialized, on-going and other forms of police training), including:
 - 1) Education of BiH police members at level I to obtain the rank of police officer;
 - 2) Education of BiH police members at level II to obtain the rank of junior inspector;
 - 3) Training courses for members of agencies that protect people and property;
 - 4) Training for members of detective agencies;
 - 5) Professional training (courses, seminars etc.);
- c) Development of research and publishing activities and contribution to the improvement and modernization of police work;
- d) Library operations;
- e) Relevant documentation and record keeping.

In 2023 while responding to the requests of BiH state-level police bodies and other security services for organization and implementation of various forms of professional development and training courses, the AEPTM drafted a number of curricula such as Basic Intelligence Analysis Training (training for middle management level), Physical and Technical Protection of Facilities and Persons, Countering Diversion and Countering IED (basic training), Direct VIP Protection (basic training) and implemented them. AEPTM carries out all of its duties and responsibilities foreseen by the law, except for training courses for members of detective agencies and agencies protecting people and property (the latter two not governed by the law at the state level) in the newly built complex of facilities in Mostar.

At the state level, as well as at the level of entities (FBiH and RS - in 2015 the RS Ministry of the Interior established the Administration for Countering Terrorism and Extremism which is organizationally divided into the Counterterrorism and Extremism Unit and the Prevention and Analytics Unit) and BD, the roles of the police agencies in BiH, with regard to the prevention and combating of terrorism, include:

- Exchange of information, coordination, and cooperation between all security agencies;
- Investigation of cases characterized as terrorism;
- Criminal-intelligence operations;
- Initiatives for amendments to the legislative framework due to the needs related to the fight against terrorism;
- Security assessments and analyses;
- Protection of witnesses and other persons who can provide valuable information about potential terrorist activities as well as their consequences;
- Initiative to simplify the procedures for the use of special investigative techniques when there is suspicion that a terrorist act might happen;
- Detection and prevention of terrorism, financing of the terrorism, taking hostages, illicit manufacture and trafficking of weapons and explosives, criminal organizations;

- Education of officers on the issues related to the fight against terrorism and financing of terrorism, with a special emphasis on new forms of terrorism;
- Protection of members of foreign offices in our country;
- Prevention through intelligence activities, including all levels of police structures, and particularly through community policing;
- Prevention of terrorism by acting directly with the aim of eliminating terrorist groups and detecting and breaking down organized terrorist networks;
- Monitoring of radical groups whose behavior can lead to any form of violence;
- Preventive measures through prevention of support and recruitment (to terrorist causes) in sensitive and isolated communities;
- Resolving hostage situations by releasing the hostages;
- Detection of environmental pollution caused by waste and poisonous materials.

The role of the police forces during the last year has remained unchanged. The Police collects information, analyses and if there is a case of committed criminal act without prejudice the prosecutor's office is informed and legal follow up actions are being taken under the supervision of the prosecutor's office in accordance to Criminal Procedure Code of BiH and FBiH, as well as all other legal regulations (Law on FBiH Police Officers, Law on FBiH Internal Affairs). Police Administration of FBiH's police officers, in accordance to the given laws and under the supervision of the prosecutor's office which is within the jurisdiction, take measures and actions in order to prevent and detect criminal offenses of terrorism, to find and apprehend suspects that are linked to terrorism and their apprehension by the competent authorities.

In 2002, RS Ministry of the Interior established the Administration for Police Training which changed name in 2023 to Administration for Police Education and which is organizationally divided into the Police Training- Police Academy Unit, High School for Internal Affairs, Department for General and Common Affairs and Department for Logistics and Boarding School Service. Administration for Police Education conducts the following activities:

- to organize, conduct and supervise education, vocational training and professional development of personnel to work with the Ministry and other police agencies;
- to prepare curricula for education and professional development programs;
- to prepare proposals of bylaws and individual decisions related to the competence and activities of the Administration;
- to provide boarding school conditions for accommodation and food for the students of the Higher School of the Interior and participants in all types of trainings conducted at the College of the Interior that meet the requirements for accommodation and food at the boarding school;
- to keep records and documentation on educational activities;
- to issue documents on the level of qualification upon graduation and professional training;
- to realize the necessary cooperation with institutions of higher education and other institutions in the field of scientific and business cooperation;
- to use the services provided by the University of Banja Luka, in accordance with the agreement on associated membership;
- to conduct scientific and research activities, as well as publishing;
- to conduct other activities related to education, vocational training and professional development of personnel to work at the Ministry or other police agencies;
- to conduct trainings for the members of physical and technical security.

1.4. Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g.

- Financing of terrorism

Countering money laundering and financing of terrorism is a complex issue, and therefore both national and international cooperation is necessary for the efficient suppression of the aforementioned phenomenon, with the goal to efficiently face the security risks which can result from such illegal activities, and to eliminate the possible threats to security and financial system. Certain security indicators which deserve further and comprehensive stance in the process of solving this problem are identified. However, the current findings do not indicate that there are cases of organized financing of terrorism in BiH. We do not possess any findings indicating that illegal means (for example from trade and other lucrative activities, charity organizations) have been used for financing of terrorism during 2023.

Following the adoption by the CoM BiH at its 7th session held on March 30, 2023, of the Amendment to 2022-2024 Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the amendment to the 2022-2024 Action Plan for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted on January 11, 2024 (officially published on the website of the MOS, www.msb.gov.ba, category: "Documents - Strategic Documents and Action Plans"), the Summary of the Amendment to the 2022-2024 Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the 2022-2024 Action Plan for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina have also been published.

In addition to the aforementioned, on February 5, 2024, the following documents were published on the official website of the MOS (www.msb.gov.ba, category: "Documents - Strategic Documents and Action Plans"): the 2024-2027 Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing related to Virtual Assets and the 2024-2027 Action Plan for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to Virtual Assets.

During the previous period, the CoM BiH adopted a Decision to establish a Working Group for the preparation of the 2023-2027 Risk Assessment of Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the 2023-2027 Action Plan for Combating the Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 2/23).

The new Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism was adopted on February 19, 2024, and published in the "Official Gazette of BiH", No: 13/24, and it has been aligned with EU directives. Considering the enactment of the new Law, the MOS initiated the process of nomination of members of the Working Group for drafting the Rulebook on the Implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

The Financial Intelligence Department (FID) in SIPA is the financial intelligence unit operating in accordance with binding international standards on the prevention and fight against money laundering and financing of terrorist activities. In addition to the Law on SIPA, tasks and competence of FID are provided for by the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorist Activities, based on which the department receives, collects, records and analyses data, information and documents as well as investigates and submits the findings of the analyses and/or investigations, data and documents to prosecutor's offices and other

relevant authorities in BIH and abroad. In addition to these tasks, the FID performs the tasks pertaining to the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorist activities, promotes cooperation between the relevant authorities of BIH, FBIH, RS and BD as well as with the relevant authorities of other countries and international organisations. The FID is a main organisational unit of SIPA, with all police and investigative powers. In addition to these powers, the FID has the powers prescribed by the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorist Activities, which provides a special power not only to the FID but SIPA as well and the entire system of combating organised and economically motivated crime in BIH. In case of a suspicion of money laundering or financing of terrorist activities, the FID with strong mechanisms of personal and secret data protection and for the purpose of performing its duties or for the prosecutor's offices, law enforcement agencies and foreign financial intelligence units, independently, without a court or prosecutorial order, may:

- collect necessary information and documentation from financial and non-financial institutions and all state-level authorities in BIH,
- in compliance with the principles of the Egmont Group, collect / provide information within international cooperation from / to all 146 financial intelligence units, members of the Egmont Group,
- issue an order to suspend (block) transactions for up to five working days,
- order financial institutions to monitor and report on financial operations of a client, for up to six months.

FID is involved in all major investigations into organised and economically motivated crime in BIH by providing available and/or collected information, carrying out complex financial analyses, providing expert support to prosecutors by participating in investigation teams, or direct guidance of investigations of money laundering / financing of terrorist activities. FID is involved in the training of employees of financial and non-financial institutions in BIH, prosecutor's offices and law enforcement agencies. The FID is responsible for indirect overseeing all financial and non-financial institutions in BIH that are subject to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorist Activities as well as to conduct direct supervision over certain categories of obligors under the Law, and to actively cooperate with banking agencies and other supervisory authorities. Officials of the FID chair the Working Group of BIH Institutions for Preventing Money Laundering and Financing Terrorist Activities while it also has a leading role in drafting laws, secondary legislation and strategic documents in this area. Moreover, the FID has a leading role in representing BIH in the Council of Europe Moneyval Committee and similar international bodies adopting and/or evaluating compliance with binding standards on prevention and fight against money laundering and financing of terrorist activities.

Activities within the Regional Project titled "Assessment of Cross-Border Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risks from Legal Entities for Balkan Countries" continued, with the expert assistance provided by a professional engaged by the GIZ. The development of the Risk Assessment of Money Laundering associated with legal entities is mandatory in accordance with FATF Recommendation 24 - "Transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons." By adopting the Risk Assessment of Money Laundering associated with legal entities, BIH significantly enhances its compliance with the aforementioned FATF recommendation, as well as with Immediate Outcome 5 (FATF Methodology for assessing the technical compliance of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing systems and assessing the effectiveness of "Transparency of legal entities and trusts").

The team of the Committee for the Evaluation of Measures Against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) held a series of meetings with representatives of

competent authorities in BIH, in connection with which they prepared an preliminary evaluation report according to the results set according to the FATF Standard Methodology from 2013. For the purpose of the 5th round of the Moneyval evaluation for BIH in October 2023 the MOS, supported by OSCE and GIZ, organized Conference "Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism", attended by the representatives of the competent authorities in BIH. At the Conference, a presentation was held regarding the upcoming completion of the Moneyval questionnaire for the evaluation of money laundering and terrorist financing systems effectiveness, as well as a presentation regarding the preparations for the Moneyval evaluation.

In February 2023, the Working Group adopted the Supplement to the Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2022-2024. year and the Action Plan for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2022-2024. year, which will be submitted to CoM BIH for adoption.

Activities related to the procurement of a new AMLS (Anti-Money Laundering System) were undertaken as part of the EU pre-accession assistance (IPA III) and funding for the its procurement has been approved in the amount of 3.5 million euros.

Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ITA) continuously implements activities in accordance with Recommendation 32 of the FATF, which refers to the supervision and control of cash transfers across the customs line of BIH. The ITA regularly and continuously exchanges data on the transfer of cash with the Customs Administration of the Republic of Croatia, and during 2023 it exchanged 41 pieces of information on cash not declared by BIH residents. The information in question has been submitted to the competent entity bodies for processing. SIPA-FID was regularly informed about all these activities.

In 2023, as part of regular annual trainings, in cooperation with the ITA Education and Training Center, 40 customs officers were trained in the application of UN resolutions related to targeted financial sanctions, within the module for the control of state goods in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1540. With regard to the implementation of binding UN resolutions related to the control of foreign trade in strategic goods and the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the system of selectivity in the customs subsystem of processing customs declarations has been improved.

In 2023, the Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM), in cooperation with NATO Defense Education Enhancement Program (NATO DEEP - Defense Education Enhancement Program), which had been approved at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels in February 2023, started the activities of developing curricula and programmes in the area of the fight against terrorism with the aim of implementing and maintaining an effective and efficient strategic level of education and training programs. The curricula in the field of combating terrorism will be based on NATO's Counter Terrorism Reference Curriculum (CTRC) with the aim of educating, training and positioning the most prepared people in the right places and jobs at the right time, taking into account the specific roles of police agencies and identifying the main topics that should be developed and integrated into the teaching curricula. The activities of the Project, confirmed at the NATO headquarters, are expected to last until the spring of 2025. They will involve the curricula on the fight against radicalization and violent extremism, challenges and evolving threats, the use of cyberspace technologies by terrorists, terrorist financing, etc.

- Border controls

Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BP BiH) has established a centralized border control information system for crossing of the border that enables control of biometric documents, has the possibility of checking in all relevant databases for border checks, including, inter alia, the databases of INTERPOL, IDDEEA, ROS, ISM, police agencies in BiH and databases of BP BiH. Additionally, in 2021 upgraded version of Application „Border checks“ within Information system of BP BiH has started to be operational. On this occasion, on the 44 border crossing points, 229 cameras for automatic recognition of license plates have been installed, and connected with mentioned Application. Currently, the Border Check Application is used at 68 border crossings and a total of 250 fixed document readers are in use, which enables faster data processing.

When performing border checks, police officers of the BP BiH act in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Border Control ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number: 53/09, 54/10, and 47/14) and the provisions of the Rulebook on the manner of performing border checks and entering data into travel documents ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number: 103/14, and 84/16), during which, among other things, they are authorized to perform checks in search and other records, and to stop and detain a person for the time required for performing border checks. In the execution of these tasks, the police officers of the BP BiH apply the police powers prescribed by the Law on Police Officers of BiH ("Official Gazette of BiH", number 27/04, 63/04, 5/06, 58/06, 15/08, 63/08, 35/09, and 07/12).

When performing detailed border checks, police officers of the BP BiH have direct access to search and other records, i.e. relevant databases, including the databases of other competent authorities and Interpol, and act in accordance with the ordered measures and information contained in the aforementioned databases.

Information on individuals of interest to the competent authorities of BiH were entered into Information System of the BP BiH based on the written request of the competent authorities.

When it comes to the control of persons who are on consolidated international lists, the Article 7 of the Law on the Application of Certain Temporary Measures for the Effective Implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and other international restrictive measures (Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 25/06), stipulates that the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina establishes and manages a database of persons against whom international restrictive measures, i.e. temporary measures, have been introduced under the aforementioned Law. Article 2 of the same Law states that restrictive measures, among other things, provide for import or export restrictions and restrictions on entering the country, which BiH applies due to the implementation of internationally legally binding decisions of the United Nations or when it joins the restrictive measures of the European Union or in other cases in accordance with international law. Article 1, paragraph 3 of the Law states that the purpose of the law is to foresee in BiH the manner of implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council or decisions of the European Union that provide for international restrictive measures. Therefore, in addition to the implementation of the decisions of the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia, the subject of this law are also the decisions/resolutions of the Security Council and the European Union.

Furthermore, according to the provisions of Article 5, paragraph (7) of the Instruction on the Register of Certain Foreigners (ROS) (hereinafter the Instruction) number: 06-02-1-6867/17-14 dated June 11, 2018. year, it was determined that the data from Article 4, paragraph (1) point s) indent 1) of the Instructions are entered in the ROS database by the Sector for Informatics and Telecommunication Systems of the Ministry of Security of BiH, with the note that the same provision stipulates that the ROS records include data on "a foreigner who is the subject of international restrictive measures prohibiting entry or transit through Bosnia and Herzegovina, which Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged to apply in order to implement international legally binding decisions of the United Nations or when it joins the restrictive measures of the European Union or in other cases in accordance with international law...".

Considering that the police officers of the BP BiH, when performing detailed border checks, access the ROS database through the Application for border checks, with the aim of dealing with the persons in question, it is necessary to timely record data about them in the ROS database with clearly indicated measures for handling.

In the last five years, not a single person who is the subject of international restrictive measures has been recorded at the border crossings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through the Application, Border Police of BiH gains direct access to external and internal databases relevant for border checks. External databases where checks are carried out are: IDDEEA (checks of BH documents), INTERPOL (FIND) - check of persons and documents, Ministry of Security - database of persons registered for narcotic drugs, ISM - check of visas, ROS - register of certain foreigners - Service for Foreigners Affairs, MoI FBiH, PBD, MoI RS - Agreement on Electronic Data Exchange - Document Search, through the Central Point in the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH. Internal databases where checks are carried out are: searches - wanted persons, searches - missing persons, searches - documents, ban on the use of foreign driving licenses, SIP - security interesting persons, violations of transport companies, refused entry, crossings in the last 24 hours. In case that a visa is required for a person, the validation of the visa is done directly through the Application in the ISM visa module.

During 2023, police officers of Border Police of BiH conducted enhanced activities to detect illegal weapons, explosive devices and forged documents, performing detailed border checks on the second line of checks at IBCPs, as well as enhanced security measures and actions with a focus on terrorism. During 2023, joint actions were organized between BP BiH and the Service for Affairs with Foreigners with the aim of reducing illegal migration and falsified documents with an emphasis on increased control of persons and identification of cases that point to possible abuse of the visa-free regime.

Illegal migration in BiH was intensified during 2023. Among the migrant population in our country, Afghans, Moroccans, Pakistani and Bangladeshi are the most numerous. Number of the migrants from certain countries depends on the success of the smuggling network, modus of smuggling, i.e. passability of the smuggling route. Transfer of migrants through BiH is very stepped-up. Migrants who enter our country mostly stay briefly in the camps, except for those who are interested to stay for a longer period of time in BiH or if they are characterized with poor financial condition. Smuggling of migrants will continue to represent a security problem with which BiH will be faced in the next period. OSA BiH will continue to actively exchange the findings with domestic and international partner services.

The Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM) organized training courses 'Supervision over criminal intelligence operations and risk analysis (middle management)', designed so as to help the participants improve their knowledge, skills and competences related to the supervision of criminal intelligence and risk analysis according to the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) in the context of the activities of the BP BIH and other services and agencies involved in integrated management border. It is important to note that the curriculum of the conducted training was adopted in accordance with FRONTEX's Common Core Curriculum of the EU Border and Coast Guard (Common Core Curriculum 2019).

Also, in the organization of the AEPTM, with the support of the Police Academy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, several training sessions were organized and conducted under the title Joint efforts in capacity building - Border protection with respect to human rights. The training is designed so as to help the police officers of the BP BIH in charge of state border security to improve their knowledge and abilities through the theoretical and practical part of the training, while developing individual abilities and working in teams. The training was conducted by the instructors and lecturers experienced in land border surveillance and protection, FRONTEX instructors and participants in FRONTEX joint operations.

- Travel documents security

BP BIH has standardized travel documents readers, using donations and its own funds. The BIH Border Police Information System (BPIS) has been established at 68 border crossing points (out of 86), and 250 fixed document readers are in use.

During 2023, officers of the BP BIH were continuously trained in the area of skills to detect forged documents, and the trainings were organized by police officers of the BP BIH who underwent Frontex training, as well as training organized by partner agencies. In 2023, as part of the Western Balkans Capacity Building Instrument for Integrated Border Management (WBIBM) project, a one-day training session on "Detecting imposters and falsified documents" was held in the organization of the IOM, in which 90 police officers of the GPBiH participated.

During 2023, the police officers of the BP BIH temporarily confiscated 373 documents, 265 documents at the entrance to BIH, 107 documents at the exit from BIH and 1 document in the border zone suspected of being forged, which is an increase of 42.4 % compared to the same period last year when 262 documents were seized.

In the same period, according to the requests of the internal organizational units of the BP BIH and the orders of the competent prosecutor's offices, a preliminary examination of 69 documents was carried out, which were determined to be 64 forged documents and 5 original ones, and 59 reports were drawn up on the examination and expert opinion opinions on the credibility of documents.

- Container and supply chain security

In order to detect illegal migrants and illicit goods, in cooperation with Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ITA BIH) at IBCPs, police officers of BP BIH inspect trucks, whereby they use CO2 detectors, explosives detectors, endoscopes, BUSTER,

NUCTECHTM MT Series mobile system for vehicle inspection, an innovative mobile X-ray control system, vehicle scanning and radioactivity monitoring.

The Joint Container Control Teams, consisting of officers of the ITA BIH and BP BIH, were continued to work under the United Nations Office on Drugs Control (UNODC) Program at the Customs Office/Border Crossing Point Bijača, BCP Gradiška and BCP Airport Sarajevo. Police officers of the BP BIH, in cooperation with the officers of the ITA BIH, carry out container control activities in order to detect prohibited goods such as weapons, ammunition, explosives and drugs.

During 2023. godine, 14 trainings and workshops were organized under UNODC, when attended 46 police officers of Border police.

The institute of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) was implemented in 2022 with the entry into force of the new Customs Policy Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the new Decision on the Implementation of the Customs Policy Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2023, two (2) AEO authorisations were granted, while in 2024, three (3) AEO applications are being processed

- Security of radioactive sources

The establishment of the State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (SRARNS) and strengthening of its capacities has created conditions for the implementation of treaties in the field of radioactive and nuclear material security, to which BIH is a contracting party. SRARNS oversees implementing these treaties under the Law on Radiation and Nuclear Safety in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified treaties which are listed in Annex 1 of this document.

As the government partner to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the responsible authority for the implementation of international agreements in nuclear field, the SRARNS closely cooperates with IAEA Department of Safeguards, whose inspectors conducted inspection of nuclear material in BIH in July 2023 at certain locations where nuclear material is located. These inspections are performed regularly once a year, but those were not conducted in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic of COVID 19. The inspectors conduct inspections on the base of BIH's regular reports submitting to the IAEA Safeguards Department. These reports are related to BIH obligations under the Safeguards Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Atomic Energy Agency in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Atomic Energy Agency in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In 2023 SRARNS was reporting to IAEA Safeguards Department regularly in accordance with its obligations.

Continuous control of nuclear and radioactive material in BIH is conducted by the state inspectors for radiation and nuclear safety during 2023. The inspection includes both safety and security aspect of the use and possession of the ionizing radiation sources. Particularly „Regulation on Security of Nuclear Material and Radioactive Sources” is implemented. The Regulation scope is the establishment of the requirements to ensure security of the radioactive and nuclear material in BIH. Under the Regulation, authorization holders are requested to have in place their security plans (for cat. 1 and 2 of radioactive sources) and apply security measures

for its radiation sources and nuclear material during their use, possession, transport and storage. SRARNS has mandate to control activities of authorization holders in implementation of security measures.

During 2023, representatives of BIH attended a number of important events pertaining to nuclear security and in particular: the Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres, Eleventh Meeting of the IAEA Working Group on Radioactive Material Security, IAEA Technical Meeting of the Point of Contacts for Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plans, Technical Meeting of the Representatives of Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the CPPNM Amendment.

At border crossing points, for the purpose of detecting radioactivity, manual pagers “Mini rad-D” are used to detect radioactivity, which are also used, as needed, for profiling. In addition to the pagers, the Yantar-2U radiation detection system, the Geiger-Miller counter and the like, are also used.

During 2022 the ITA began the procedure of renewing the Radiation Safety Certificate and the accompanying reports on the assessment of radiation safety, for devices owned by the ITA, which work on the principle of x-ray generation. That procedure was finished in 2023. ITA owns: 7 (seven) scanners for the control of hand luggage, of which 1 (one) is a mobile scanner, they are distributed at 4 international airports and at Customs Post Office. Also, ITA has 2 (two) mobile NUCTECH scanners for scanning cargo vehicles. In accordance with the regulations on radiation and nuclear safety, the ITA completed the procedure for renewing the Radiation Safety Certificate and accompanying radiation safety assessment reports for devices owned by the ITA that work on the principle of X-ray generation. During 2023, the ITA completed the process of transferring ownership of 4 MDS (Mobile Detection System) vans, a donation from the US Department of Energy. 14 ITA officers were trained to work on MDS vans, of which 8 were licensed as certified trainers. Each MDS contains a PRD (personal radiation dosimeter), an exploranium, an identity finder, a back pack and a fixed portal with associated software.

In 2023, pursuant to the legislation regulating possession, use, transportation and control of the sources of ionizing radiation, the ITA implemented the measures and actions within its competence in order to detect the sources of ionising radiation at the customs locations where there were the conditions for their detection. After as part of the Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade - HALT Project, which UNDP has been implementing in BIH together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and crime (UNODC).

During 2023, ITA officials as members of the Coordination Committee for the supervision of the Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Border Management for the period 2019-2023 participated in the development of the new Strategy and Action Plan for 2024-2029.

Within the Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade - HALT project, a draft of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was prepared for the actions of ITA officers when controlling the traffic of strategic goods and dual-use goods, detection of radiological materials, weapons, their basic spare parts, ammunition, drugs and explosives, and the training of officers was carried out to act according to the above-mentioned SOP. During 2023, the aforementioned document - SOP - was adopted.

About 20 workshops were held, including the training of customs officers and public postal operators on the implementation of SOPs and work on X-ray scanners, as well as protection against ionizing radiation when working on these devices.

- Use of Internet and other information networks in the terrorist purposes

Digital revolution which in the previous years has experienced its expansion has contributed to the significant transformation of the society, as well as to the phenomenon of new security challenges, such as online radicalization. Namely, Internet has become a main platform for spreading of the propaganda messages of different content, radicalization, recruitment and eventual planning of terrorist activities.

Institutional measures are conducted constantly on development and application of the means, methods of collection and analysis of the intelligence in cyber space. Competent authorities and institutions in BIH continue to track the phenomena and identification of the individuals who with their activities misuse Internet in the possible terrorist purposes, promote and support the terrorist activities and ideology in sense of spreading the hate, as well as those who have certain knowledge on possible conduction of the terrorist acts, intimidation, bringing unrest, recruiting and propaganda.

The relevant intelligence and law enforcement agencies in BIH monitor the content of websites that might be of security interest with regard to combating terrorism. Upon receiving certain findings, security checks are performed and, on the basis of their results, other measures and activities are undertaken, in accordance with the law, as the Criminal Code contains provisions with regard to the use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes. Therefore, institutional measures are continually executed for development and appliance of means and methods of gathering and analyzing of intelligence in cyber space.

As part of their regular activities, SIPA intelligence officials and investigators engaged in combating terrorism and proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons, also conducted oversight on Internet websites used by extremist groups and subsequently undertook other investigative activities in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In accordance with the strategy for combating cybercrime in RS, an Action plan for countering cybercrime for the period 2023-2024, and an Action Plan for Protection against Child Pornography for the period 2023-2024 and Action plan of Digital Forensics in RS for the period 2023-2024 were adopted.

- Legal co-operation including extradition

Issues of extradition and all other forms of international legal assistance are regulated by the provisions of the Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, as well as by the provisions of relevant multilateral European and UN Conventions in the field of criminal law, to which BIH is also a signatory, as well as by the provisions of international bilateral agreements BIH took over from the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (former SFRY) with the Notification on the succession of the former SFRY, as well as international bilateral agreements concluded by BIH with other countries.

Competent judicial bodies of BIH, including the Ministry of Justice of BIH, as the central body of BIH in the procedures of providing international legal assistance, achieved a high level of cooperation with Interpol of BIH in the implementation of cases of international legal assistance, especially in cases related to extradition.

There were no changes in the institutional arrangements.

All information about international agreements concluded by BIH, which concern international legal assistance, is available on the website of the Ministry of Justice of BIH (<http://www.mpr.gov.ba>).

Technical cooperation in the realization of cases of international legal assistance takes place directly between the judicial bodies of the requesting state and the requested state. There were no institutional changes

- Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations

No terrorist act happened in BIH in 2023. No activities have been registered in BIH which could be characterized as possible terrorist training.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on the stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law

In accordance with its commitment, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) actively contributes to the efforts of the UN, NATO and EU peacekeeping operations to maintain international peace, security, and stability. BIH deploys police and military officers, as well as civilians in UN missions helping countries to find the difficult path from conflict to peace.

The deployment of police officers and members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BIH) in peacekeeping operations is regulated by the Law on Deployment of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Police Officers, Civil Servants and Other Employees in Peacekeeping Operations and other Activities in Foreign Countries and by the Rules of Procedures for Deployment of Police Officers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Peacekeeping Operations and other Activities Abroad.

The successful completion of the previous missions in Ethiopia-Eritrea, and Iraq, as well as the current engagement in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Central African Republic and Afghanistan, confirms the readiness and the ability of the AF BIH to participate equally with allies and partners in very complex collective security operations.

In accordance with UN Resolutions and Decisions by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, AF BIH are currently deployed in:

- UN mission MONUSCO in Democratic Republic Congo: in this mission AF BIH contributes with 3 officers (20 rotations) deployed to Congo in March 2023.

- EU mission EUTM RCA in Central African Republic: BIH's contribution in this mission is with 1 officer and 2 NCO deployed to mission in February 2023 (11th rotation) and September 2023 (12th rotation)

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith

Fully aware that the primary aim of arms control and disarmament is saving lives, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) is committed to arms control and disarmament in all its aspects.

Illicit trade of conventional arms affects regional and international security and stability because millions of people suffer from the direct and indirect consequences of the irresponsible arms trade, which fuel conflicts and human rights abuses. Globalization of the arms trade allowed production and assembly of conventional weapons all over the world with little control.

BIH supports well-regulated and transparent trade of conventional arms and welcomes the progress made with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as the first legally binding treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons. By ratification of the ATT, BIH has confirmed its commitment to the strengthening of global and regional peace, security, and stability. By Article 13 of the ATT, BIH submitted an initial and annual reports. Furthermore, BIH established national control mechanism and harmonized domestic legislation with the provisions of the ATT. BIH has advocated the universalization of the ATT and its effective implementation.

In line with the UN Program of Action (POA), BIH formed the National Coordination Committee for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) aiming to ensure the control of SALW throughout the country. The Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period from 2021 until 2024 has been adopted. The primary objectives of the implementation of the Strategy 2021-2024 are that BIH shall meet the challenge of illicit trade of SALW by strengthening the capacity of police and judicial structures in the country and the cooperation with the relevant international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

BIH is part of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024, developed with the support of the EU and the governments of Germany and France, and its adopted Action Plan. Activities from the Action Plan are being implemented in BIH, which will certainly contribute to the creation of a safer environment in our country.

At the request of CB SALW and the BP BIH, the implementation of the "Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) Project" continued. The project aims to improve the capacity of the BP BIH to combat the illegal arms trade through BIH and beyond. This project is working on the development of a database on the transport of legal weapons, the improvement of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Identification Platform (SALW), the procurement of specialist border control equipment, and the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation. This project

is supported by the UNDP Office in Sarajevo through the Multilateral Fund for the Western Balkans.

In the organization of the MOS BiH and the AEPTM, with the professional support of the Regional Center for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Southeast Europe (SEESAC), Training for representatives of the criminal police on the detection of firearms was organized and conducted. The aim of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the criminal police in the fight against illegal trade and possession of firearms.

At the request of KO SALW and the competent authorities in BiH, the implementation of the "Project for the Prevention of Illicit Trade and Trafficking in Arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade - HALT)" continued. The project has been implemented since February 2020, as a joint project of the United Nations Development Program in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP BiH) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the general goal of further improving security inside and outside the Western Balkans through targeted action. aimed at improving the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against illegal trade in small arms and light weapons. The project is extended until 2028. The project is funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Sweden, the French Republic, the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Norway through the Multilateral Fund for the Western Balkans, supported by the European Union and the Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons Map. Project activities are carried out in cooperation with the ITA BiH as the main beneficiary of this project, and certain activities within the project include other institutions or agencies in BiH, including the BP BiH, the SIPA, the MOS BiH, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH (MoFTER BiH), the Ministry of Transport and Communications of BiH (MTK BiH) and postal operators in BiH.

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed and further improved during implementation of the HALT project. In June 2023, the SOPs were officially adopted by the ITA BiH. The SOPs regulate the details of approach and procedures in the prevention and detection of illegal SALW to be applied by the ITA BiH officers. Strengthening of the capacities of the ITA BiH, as well as of the BP BiH, was continued in terms of providing them with adequate specialist equipment so to enable their more efficient fight against illegal trade in SALW.

International cooperation and coordination of the ITA BiH with customs authorities of neighboring countries continued improving, exchanging information about the relevant organizational units within these institutions that work on issues of combating the illegal trade in SALW and the best practices they apply in their work.

The Ministry of Security - CB SALW signed a Protocol on Project Implementation with the OSCE Mission to BiH in November 2021, and started the implementation of the SALW Project in which the beneficiaries are police authorities in BiH. In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to BiH, Project Technical Documentation was prepared for the improvement of the physical storage infrastructure at 10 SALW police storage sites in BiH, as well as for the installation of IDS systems at those locations.

As a component of regional security, various activities about SALW are continually organized, through, inter alia, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), through the RACVIAC Center for Security Cooperation, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC), Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), the Regional Network of SALW Commissions, the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN), the South East Europe Firearms Expert Group (SEEFEG), as well as through UNDP, UNODS, and, of course, the OSCE.

BIH continually cooperates with the countries within the framework of international multilateral agreements as well as international bilateral agreements, but also sends reports and performs other forms of exchange of information with the UN, OSCE, SEESAC, and RACVIAC.

BIH was the first country in the region that introduced the moratorium on the export of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in possession of its armed forces. We fully contribute to the stability in the region by eliminating the risk that the exported equipment could end up in possession of non-democratic regimes or regimes that do not respect human rights or international terrorist groups. The Law on Control of Movement of Arms and Military Equipment is being implemented, and by enforcing it, BIH achieves a final level of control over export/import of arms and military equipment. Within the implementation framework of the mentioned Law, an Annual plan is drafted for regular audits of economic entities to which this Law applies, and, frequently, extraordinary controls are conducted on the route of the movement itself, thus establishing, overall, a series of cyclic controls representing quality supervision over export/import of arms and military equipment.

The improvement of the control of domestic and foreign arms trade, the reduction of arms-related incidents and the number of illegal weapons in the possession of citizens, the promotion of the citizens' confidence in the BIH institutions at all authority levels, as well as the reduction in the costs of SALW possessed by the Ministry of Defense of BIH remain issues of particular importance. Particular attention was paid to the continuation of approximation of the legislation with the international standards. It is important to emphasize that most of the institutions have approximated the Laws on Arms with the Directives 91/477/EEC and 51/2008. The drafting of the subordinate legislation related to the identification of small arms and light weapons has been in progress. In this way, the procedures in this area will be set forth, and the movement of arms will be monitored in the future.

In the reporting period, operational police actions were carried out, in which significant amounts of illegal small arms and light weapons were seized. Furthermore, the activities on the destruction of surplus arms and weapons in the possession of the AF BIH have continued.

Strengthening the capacity to prevent and combat illegal trade in firearms, parts, components and ammunition in postal packages has been conducted through the HERMES project, which specific objective to improve the regulatory framework (Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)) to combat trafficking in firearms, parts, components, ammunition and explosives. The SOPs serve as a reference point for the public sector in the fight against firearms trafficking, harmonizing processes with international standards and strengthening business transparency. They also provide support in improving coordination between customs, other public agencies and the wider commercial sector. To that end, 3 (three) memoranda of understanding were signed between the ITA and DPOs. In order to implement the SoP and the MoU, UNODC supported the formation and putting into operation the Working Group provided for in the MoU. In addition to that, trainings on detection of firearms, their parts and ammunition in postal shipments were conducted.

3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area

The process of arms control and disarmament has a very important role in the defense policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH). In the field of arms control, disarmament and CSBM and their continued implementation remain important elements of Euro-Atlantic stability, security

as well as developing good neighborly relations and strengthening regional cooperation. BIH attaches great importance to the implementation of its commitments. BIH is a state party to the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control, Article IV, Annex 1-B, General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as the state member of the OSCE participates in the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011. BIH is a signatory to the Treaty on Open Skies.

The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control rebuilt peace and stability in the region. The agreement is now a multilateral agreement between four countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia). These four countries are the negotiating and Contracting Parties, and they have developed this arms control agreement for enhancing regional co-operation with the possibility of moving towards a future security community within EU structures for all countries in the Western Balkans. The parties are committed to the objective of establishing new forms of cooperation in the field of security aimed at building transparency and confidence and achieving balanced and stable defense force levels at the lowest numbers consistent with the Parties respective security and the need to avoid an arms race in the region. Conscious of the common responsibility of the Parties for seeking to achieve greater stability and security in the region.

Regarding the Sub-Regional Arms Control, in 2023 BIH:

- conducted 4 active and 4 passive inspections during 2023 in accordance with decision of Sub-Regional Consultative Commission;
- provided information pursuant to Article VIII of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, in accordance with Chart I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X formats specified in this Protocol to each Party. The information in each chart provided in printed or electronic forms in the official languages of the Parties, as well as in English language;
- took part on appointments of Sub-Regional Consultative Commission twice and working group of Sub-Regional Consultative Commission;

Regarding Vienna Document 2011, in 2023 BIH:

- exchanged Annual information on their military forces concerning the military organization, manpower and major weapon and equipment systems, in the zone of application for confidence and security-building measures (CSBMs), according to the article I Annual Exchange of Military Information;
- exchanged annual information to provide transparency about each OSCE participating State's intentions in the medium to long term as regards size, structure, training and equipment of its armed forces, as well as defense policy, doctrines and budgets according to the article II Defense Planning;
- exchanged an annual calendar of its military activities subject to prior notification, within the zone of application for CSBMs according to the article VII Annual Calendars;
- conducted 1 passive inspection of specific area from R. Slovenia in March 2023,
- conducted 1 passive evaluation visit from FR Germany in May 2023,
- conducted 1 passive inspection of specific area from R. Türkiye in May 2023,
- conducted 1 passive inspection of specific area from the Czech Republic in June 2023,
- conducted 1 active inspection of specific area in R. Serbia in June 2023,
- conducted 1 active inspection of specific area in R. Croatia in July 2023,
- conducted 1 passive evaluation visit from Norway in August 2023,
- conducted 1 active visit to the military base in Romania in September 2023,
- conducted 1 active visit to the military base in Hungary in October 2023,
- conducted 1 active visit to the military base in R. Croatia in November 2023,
- conducted 1 passive inspection of specific area from USA (DTRA) in December 2023.

According to the Open Skies Treaties, BIH was scheduled to conduct one observation flight and to receive four observation flights over the territory on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regarding the Open Skies Treaty, in 2023 BIH conducted:

- 1 observation flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina from Denmark, Germany, France in April 2023;
- 1 observation flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina from Benelux, Portugal, Spain in May 2023;
- 1 observation flight over Georgia together with Turkey, in June 2023;
- 1 observation flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina from Türkiye, Hungary, Croatia in July 2023;
- 1 observation flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina from United Kingdom in September 2023.

SECTION II: INTRA-STATE ELEMENTS

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defense expenditures in your State?

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PA BIH), as the highest legislative body, established Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BIH as a standing committee. Members of Joint Committee are representatives and delegates from the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples of the PA BIH.

Responsibilities of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BIH are clearly defined by the Rules of Procedures, Article 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Article 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With regard to the relevant information, it is important to point out that Joint Committee is, among other things, responsibility for the following:

- a) Considers and monitors the implementation of BIH security and defence policies
- b) Conducts parliamentary oversight with the aim of improving efficiency, transparency and functionality. Implementation of parliamentary oversight is based on the principles of constitutionality, legality, democracy and respect for human rights and freedoms. Parliamentary oversight is carried out over the following institutions:

- 1) Defence institutions: Ministry of Defence of BIH and Armed Forces of BIH.

- 2) Security institutions: Ministry of Security of BiH, Border Police; State Investigation and Protection Agency - SIPA, Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Agency for Forensics, the Agency for Education and Professional Training and the Agency for police support.
 - 3) Other institutions and bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina within their responsibilities related to issues of defence and security: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BIH, in the part relating to the import, export and transit of weapons, military equipment and dual-use products, as well as the Ministry of Civil Affairs in the part related to mine-clearance.
 - 4) Bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly of BIH in the framework in which their work is subject to parliamentary oversight: Independent Board of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee on Public Complaints to the work of police officers in BiH police bodies and the Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BIH.
 - 5) The Joint Commission conducts parliamentary supervision over other BH institutions if the Parliamentary Assembly passes such a decision.
- c) considers laws and amendments to laws within the competencies of Joint Committee.
 - d) monitors legality and compliance of supervised institutions with a defence and security policy of BiH;
 - e) considers reports, short-term and long-term plans related to the structure of BIH Armed Forces, personnel policy and recruitment, salaries and allowances, education and training of the Armed Forces of BIH, professional conduct and ethical standards for civilian and military personnel;
 - f) monitors the procedures of equipping the army, procurement and import and export of weapons and military equipment, material assistance and contracts with foreign companies which provide services to defence institutions on a commercial basis, combat readiness, military exercises, military mine-clearance process, and operations including enforcement of international obligations and international peace support operations;
 - g) monitor and review the situation of human rights and freedoms in the defence and security sector;
 - h) monitor compliance with the political, ideological and interest neutrality in the work of the supervised institutions;
 - i) monitor and review the implementation of means and methods in conducting special investigative activities in supervised institutions;
 - j) Reviewing reports on budget execution, as well as the audit reports of the supervised institutions;
 - k) consider and approve work reports of the supervised institutions;
 - p) considers the issues of cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the bodies of European Union, United Nations, OSCE, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and other international organizations in the domain of defence and security;
 - r) considers activities of permanent and ad hoc delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in international and inter-parliamentary institutions in the domain of security and defence;
 - s) establishes cooperation with competent parliamentary committees of BiH entities, other countries as well as with international organizations and other bodies in the domain of defence

1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

In the past year, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PA BiH) and the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina were engaged in tasks and activities defined by the rules of procedure of both houses.

During the year 2023, the Joint Committee worked on the implementation of the obligations established by the Rules of Procedure, as well as the obligations determined by itself in the Orientation Work Plan of the Joint Committee for the year 2023.

The Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina carried out the following activities:

- held 6 sessions on which a total of 42 items were discussed on its agenda,
- organized Review Conference on the topic: "Legislative framework, current situation and plans of BiH institutions in the field of defence and security",
- carried out 5 field work visits to institutions, units and commands from the defence and security sector of BiH,
- participated in many different activities, conferences, seminars, presentations, workshops and round tables,
- held 6 working meetings with representatives of international institutions,
- organized a study working visit to NATO PA, NATO and NATO High Command Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium.

In the period January 1 - December 31, 2023, the Joint Committee considered two proposed laws as the competent commission:

1. Proposal of the Law on Border Control (Proposer: Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and
2. Proposal of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Proposer: Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In the organization of the Joint Committee, on June 8, 2023, a review conference was held in the PA BiH on the topic: "Legislative framework, current situation and plans of BiH institutions in the field of defence and security". On this occasion, the members of the Joint Commission got acquainted with the current situation as well as the plans of all ministries and institutions from the defence and security sector. In addition to ministers and deputies, the conference was attended by heads of institutions who also presented the situation in their institutions. The work of the Review Conference was supported by the Security Cooperation Department of the OSCE Mission in BiH.

In 2023, the Joint Committee realized the following five working (field) visits to institutions, units and commands from the defence and security sector:

1. Working visit of members of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BiH to the Command of the 6th Infantry Brigade of the Armed Forces of BiH, Banja Luka, 25 September 2023.
2. Meeting of the members of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BiH with the General Corps of the Armed Forces of BiH, Banja Luka, September 25, 2023.

3. Working visit of members of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BiH to the Regional Office of the Border Police of BiH Northwest in Gradiška, Gradiška, 25 September 2023.
4. Working visit of members of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BiH to the Combat Training Center of the Armed Forces of BiH in Manjača and a meeting with members of the Command of the 5th Infantry Brigade of the BiH Armed Forces, BiH Armed Forces Training Ground, Manjača, September 26, 2023.
5. Working visit of members of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of BiH to TROM Doboje, Doboje, 27 September 2023.

The working visits were carried out with the support of the OSCE Mission in BiH and in direct cooperation with the Department for Security Cooperation of the OSCE Mission in BiH. It has been shown in practice that working visits are an irreplaceable way of gaining insight into the situation in the defence and security sector, and it is a form of parliamentary supervision that has visible effects.

It is important that the members of the Joint Committee attend the annual conferences dedicated to analyses of the personnel situation, mine clearance and training organized by the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH.

The Joint Committee realized a study working visit to NATO PA, NATO and the Headquarters of the NATO High Command, Mons, Belgium (December 10 - December 12, 2023). It was an excellent opportunity to discuss, exchange opinions and learn about the activities of NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Members of the Joint Committee took part in the work of the 105. Rose Roth Seminar of NATO PA, which was held in Sarajevo from 14-16 November 2023. It was an opportunity for conversation, exchange of opinions and participation in discussion on numerous current topics related to the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of South East Europe and beyond.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

In accordance with the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH (PA BiH) conducts the parliamentary control over the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) and all defense institutions at the State level.

The Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee for Defense and Security performs tasks in the area of the oversight over the BiH defense and security institutions. The Joint Committee for Defense and Security conducts parliamentary oversight of the following institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces, Ministry of Security, SIPA, Border Police, National Central Bureau of INTERPOL, and the BH Demining Centre.

Democratic control over the AF BiH is conducted by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The role of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the oversight of the AF BiH is conducted in

accordance with the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the Law on Defense, the Minister of Defense is a civilian in charge of the Ministry of Defense and conducts his function in the area of administrative, organizational, and command authority as well as control and inspection of the BIH AF.

Foreign management and supervision of Intelligence-Security Agency of BIH, as well as internal management and control, is regulated by the Law on Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rights and liabilities of the subjects of legislative and executive authority regarding Agency are clearly defined, such as: BIH Presidency's rights and liabilities; Council of Minister's (CoM BIH) rights and liabilities; Chairman of the Council of Ministers' rights and liabilities; Executive Intelligence Board; and Parliamentary supervision. The Agency is directly subordinated to CoM BIH, Executive Intelligence Committee, and the most directly to the Chairman of CoM BIH. The control of Agency work legitimacy is done by Security-Intelligence Committee for Supervision of the Agency, established by BIH Parliament. The Committee is responsible for supervising the Agency's work, conducting investigation on the Agency's work based on a grounded suspicion of illegal performance of the Agency, i.e. pursuant to the relevant legal provisions as well as analyzing the expenditures of the Agency's budget, including issuing opinion on the draft budget of the Agency.

The Agency constantly strives to come up with new and efficient education modalities and trainings of its employees. In that view, a special attention is devoted to education of employees of the state institutions regarding the role and place of the Agency in the security sector of our country; as well as to education of the public in general, and the academic community in special. From the Agency's stance, the specialized programs of OSCE Mission to BIH, such as the course "Security politics", have proved to be extremely valuable.

Due to that reason, the Agency remains open for the development and participation in those programs, being aware of the importance of Codex and contributions made by the Agency.

Ministries and police agencies at the at the entity and cantonal levels of government also have constitutionally established procedures ensuring the effective, democratic control over their activities. Legislation in this regard is listed under Annex I.

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

The Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina regulates the competencies of the state institutions in the defense sector and defines the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Minister of Defense as the crucial state institutions for democratic control. The democratic control is implemented through a clear chain of command and control, defined by the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The parliamentary control over the AF BIH shall be performed by the Parliamentary Assembly (PA BIH), directly through the Joint Committee for Defense and Security by defining necessary laws and the process of creating the budget, and supervision over its implementation and execution. The Parliamentary Assembly has the executive authority to adopt laws relevant to the organization, funding, appointment, training, mobilization, equipping, and use of the AF BIH.

The PA BIH also has the authority to announce the state of war upon the request by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the case of direct attack to Bosnia and Herzegovina

or parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to announce a state of emergency. The PA BiH confirms the appointment of the Chief and Deputy Chiefs of Joint Staff of the AF BiH, Commanders and Deputy Commanders of the AF BiH Operational Command, Commander and Deputy Commander of the Support/Logistics Command and all officers in the rank of general in the AF BiH. The Joint Committee for Defense and Security Policy of the PA BiH is in charge of the control and supervision of defense and security institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Joint Committee for Defense and Security Policy manages parliamentary supervision over following BiH institutions: the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Security, the Border Police (BP), the SIPA, the National Office of Interpol, the Mine Action Centre – BHMAC. Furthermore, the Joint Committee for Defense and Security Policy also considers and monitors implementation of the Security and Defense Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina; supervises and considers reports of the BiH Ministry of Defense, the BiH Ministry of Security and other executive bodies dealing with security and defense matters reporting on the subject the PA BiH.

In reporting, a focus is on: short-term and long-term activities concerning structure of the AF BiH; personnel policy and recruitments; salaries and compensations; education and training of the AF BiH members; professional conduct and ethical standards for civil and military staff; provision of military equipment; work of the military industry; acquisition of assets and export/import of arms and military equipment; material assistance and contracts signed with foreign companies providing commercial services for defense institutions; combat preparedness, drills and operations which include fulfillment of international obligations and international peace support operations. In addition, the Joint Committee for Defense and Security Policy considers laws and amendments to the laws within its competence; gives opinions and recommendations; makes changes and amendments to the defense budget proposal; considers reports on defense budget execution; and reports on the revision of institutions dealing with the defense and security policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina; other issues that concern the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) are a professional, single military force organized and controlled by the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be organized, trained, equipped, or mobilized in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, only in accordance with the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Service in the AF BiH.

The mission of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina is to:

- Participate in operations of collective security, peace support operations and self-defense operations, including the fight against terrorism;
- Provide military defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Assist civil authorities in reacting to natural disasters and catastrophes;
- Demining activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Fulfill international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Engagement of the AF BIH is conducted upon the proposal of the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such engagement is based on a decision of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which (in case of the announcement of a state of emergency, state of war or deployment of AF BIH units to peacekeeping missions) is confirmed by the PA BIH.

The AF BIH, in accordance with a decision of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, can have up to 10,000 military personnel, 1,000 civil employees (including employees of the Ministry of Defense) and 5,000 members of active reserve.

The AF BIH cannot be used for political purposes or activities of political parties. Armed Forces members, including generals, are neutral in political matters and shall not be engaged in any political activity of political parties or be selected or appointed to public functions. These provisions shall not prevent members of the AF BIH to be registered for voting or to be a candidate for elections in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Members of reserve units selected or appointed to public functions are not obliged to resign from the position if mobilized for regular training.

When it comes to training of members of security agencies for protection of persons and property, as well as the training of private detectives, the establishment of such agencies and control over their activities is under the auspices of and executed by, in cooperation, the Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM) at the state level and entity and cantonal levels ministries and police agencies.

Ministries and police agencies at the at the entity and cantonal levels of government also have clearly established roles and controls ensuring they act solely within the constitutional framework.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

The compulsory military service in Bosnia and Herzegovina was abolished in 2006. However, the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes the existence of an active reserve. There is no specifically designed reserve component of the AF BIH, but an active reserve is envisioned in the peacetime structure.

The Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina advertises available positions in the AF BIH and, through prescribed procedures, selects the appropriate number of candidates for training in training centers of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The cadets who have been trained and educated at the foreign Military Academies, for the needs of the AF BIH, significantly contribute to an overall number of the officers admitted into our military service. This kind of arrangement is based on a bilateral agreements between Bosnia and Herzegovina and those countries.

Recruitment of staff for police agencies, usually performed through public announcements, is executed by at the entity and cantonal levels of government ministries and police agencies, and it is regulated through legislative acts at those levels, with particular attention paid to gender equality.

3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

There is no compulsory military service in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina has only professional armed forces.

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces' personnel as well as conscripts?

The recruiting of staff for AF BIH is regulated by *the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Law on Service in the AF BIH; the Law on Participation of the Members of AF BIH, Police Officers, Civil Servants, and Other Employees in Peace Support Missions and Other Activities Abroad, and the Law on the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Accession to AF BIH is exclusively in accordance with legal provisions, regulated by the laws abovementioned laws.

Current solutions define that all members of the AF BIH during their active or reserve service exercise their rights and obligations in accordance with *the Law on Defense and the Law on Service in the AF BIH*. The mentioned laws comply with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other relevant legislation. There is no Military Court within the AF BIH.

AF BIH personnel consist of military professionals, reserve personnel, and civilians employed in the AF BIH. Military professionals exercise their rights and obligations in accordance with *the Law on Service in the AF BIH*. The Law regulates: the service in the AF BIH, composition of the AF BIH, admission into service, rights and obligations of the personnel serving in the AF BIH, status during service, personnel classifying system, evaluations, promotions, personnel record and carrier management, ranks and insignia in the AF BIH, standards of conduct and other status issues of the personnel serving in the AF BIH. Civilians in service in the AF BIH are civil servants and employees who exercise their rights and obligations in accordance with *the Law on Labor in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

The institution of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of Bosnia and Herzegovina is set out by the Law on the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This established a new institution in the field of the protection of human rights and freedoms, specialized exclusively for the protection of human rights and freedoms of military personnel and cadets in the AF BIH and the MOD.

The position of Military Commissioner is established in order to strengthen the rule of law, protection of human rights and freedoms of military personnel and cadets in the AF BIH and the MOD, as stipulated in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and attached international agreements. The Military Commissioner works on professional basis only and does not advocate, protect or undermine interests of any political party, registered organization or association, or any people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In performing parliamentary oversight of the work and other issues in the area of the protection of human rights and freedoms related to military personnel and cadets in the AF BIH and the MOD, the Military Commissioner has the following competencies:

- Investigation of specific issues under the directions of the Parliamentary Assembly of BIH and the Joint Committee on Defense and Security. The directions may be issued only in case that the issue is not already considered by the Joint Committee, and the Military Commissioner may request the Joint Committee to issue the directions for investigation of specific issues;

- Activities performed based on his/her personal assessment, following information received by the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, or consideration of complaints by military personnel and cadets, or in any other circumstances indicating a violation of human rights and freedoms of military personnel and cadets.

Rights of military forces personnel are regulated by the Law on professional military service BiH and by the Law on Parliamentary military Commissioner BiH as well as subordinate legislation such as bylaws – for example, about promotion, disciplinary process, about food requirements, and other spheres of soldiers life and work. When it comes to limitation and restrictions on rights, it is important to emphasize that soldiers do not have a right to strike, neither to syndicate nor politics gathering. As mentioned above, soldiers do not have any kind of service personnel representatives or labor unions. That is the best reason that the establishment and growing of the PMC institution is necessary and that the role of PMC is to be „a lawyer of the citizens in uniform“.

The most important segment of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner’s work is consideration of the complaints of professional military personnel and cadets in the AF BiH based on their assessment and the circumstances that indicate violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Activities of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner in this segment can be divided into acting upon complaints, acting upon requests for legal assistance and acting on the initiative of Parliamentary Military Commissioner.

In addition to acting upon complaints and conducting visits to barracks and units of the Armed Forces of BiH, the work of the Military Commissioner also implies provision of legal assistance to professional military personnel.

The Military Commissioner paid special attention to the application of the “mediation” process, in line with legal competences, and within the segment of provision of legal assistance to professional military personnel he influenced the elimination of spotted violations of their rights without conducting an investigation procedure.

In addition, field visits to commands and units of AFBiH were conducted, according the 2023 Work Plan and as needs emerged. During these visits, in addition to discussions with commanders, separate meetings and discussions are also always organised with all categories of professional military personnel because each category – soldiers, NCOs and officers – have their specific needs and challenges to face in their daily work. The constituent part of each of these visits is also a tour of facilities where professional military personnel live and work, to include: classrooms, dining facilities, dormitories, guard posts, courtyards, toilets; at each of these sites it was especially checked whether separate rooms were provided for female staff of the Armed Forces of BiH in accordance with the gender equality standards.

Such practice was not always met with positive attitude among the responsible in the Ministry of Defence BiH and Armed Forces BiH, but the aim of the Military Commissioner has always been clear: establishing on site rather than from papers in what kind of conditions the members of Armed Forces BiH live and work, what difficulties they face and what improvements can be done in that regard.

Deserving to be singled out as a special achievement in the reporting period is the improvement of the transparency of numerous processes in the Ministry of Defence BiH and Armed Forces BiH. The more transparent the processes and the more visible the results of decision makers, the less room for dissatisfaction and complaints. In his work, the Military Commissioner

always stresses that the principles of equal opportunity, legality and transparency must be an imperative in the process of career management of the professional military personnel.

In the context of the implementation of parliamentary control of work and other issues in the field of protection of human rights and freedoms of military personnel and cadets in the Armed Forces of BiH and the Ministry of Defense of BiH, every professional military personnel or cadet in the Armed Forces of BiH has the right to directly contact the military commissioner, and file a complaint. In the reporting period, the largest number of procedures and investigations were opened on the basis of complaints from professional military personnel (hereinafter: PVL). In addition to acting on complaints, the military commissioner is authorized to act *ex officio* when, while carrying out his duties, he receives information or observes circumstances that refers to a violation of the human rights and freedoms of professional military personnel and cadets.

In 2023¹, the Office of the Military Commissioner acted on 31 proceedings instituted upon receiving complaints of professional military personnel and 29 proceedings instituted upon requests for legal assistance, making a total of 60 proceedings². In the reporting period, 59 proceedings on complaints and requests for legal assistance were finalised, and one proceeding is still going on.

The reporting period has seen an increase in the number of reports concerning inappropriate content posted by professional military personnel on the social media, which consequently led to the increase in the number of disciplinary proceedings.

The Military Commissioner issued a recommendation asking from the Inspector General of the MoD BiH to draw the attention of cadets and professional military personnel, on the occasion of visits to the military barracks and units of the Armed Forces of BiH, to the type of information they can post on social media.

While respecting the freedom of speech and expression, the right to privacy and other rights guaranteed under the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Military Commissioner in this segment recommends that due to the unique nature of their work and duties that they perform, cadets and professional military personnel should refrain from posting information that is closely connected with performing of their official duties or execution of any work-related assignment, in particular making comments with political, religious, ethnic or other related background, which is contrary to the laws and bylaws governing the operation of Armed Forces of BiH and the Ministry of Defence of BiH.

Although professional military personnel are citizens in uniform and as such enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, still there are certain limitations related to the professional military service that are equally applicable to all other uniformed personnel, including police

¹ In year 2023 once again the smaller number of complaints by professional military personnel was received for two reasons:

1. Due to the cessation of participation of members of Armed Forces of BiH in the peace support mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,
2. Due to the preventative action while monitoring the vacancy procedure for recruitment of personnel for Armed Forces of BiH.

² In the reporting period, complaints and requests for legal assistance were rather referred to systemic solutions, therefore they encompassed certain groups of PMP or were submitted by a group of several individuals but were integrated into a single proceedings.

officers. These limitations certainly apply to the manner of communication of professional military personnel on social media, media appearances and the ban on *engagement in any type of activity of political parties*. A workshop on the topic: “Development of Guidelines on the use of social media and online space by members of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and Armed Forces of BiH”, was organized, which resulted in the Draft Guidelines.

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programs and regulations?

Bosnia and Herzegovina ensures that the AF BIH are equipped, trained, and managed in accordance with the provisions of International Humanitarian Law through the implementation of the Security and Defense Policy as well as the Military Doctrine.

The training curriculum of basic and advance courses for soldiers, NCOs and officers of the AF BIH includes studying of International Humanitarian Law and conventions, which must be applied in armed conflicts, as well as relevant state legislation. The rules of engagement of AF BIH in peace support operations are identified in accordance with the provisions of International Humanitarian Law.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

Law on Service in Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines that members of the AF BIH have the right and obligation to perform their duty in accordance with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other legal acts. Regardless of rank, every member of the AF BIH has a personal responsibility to comply with the law. Commanders must ensure that the law is complied with by others and must take action in case of violations. Orders issued by a superior commander are not to be carried out if their execution represents a criminal activity.

The training of military professionals is prescribed in the “Leader’s Development” manual. The obligatory courses have been defined at the Center for Professional Development for the AF BIH officers and NCOs as Command and Staff Course; Basic Officer Course; Basic NCO Course; Advanced Officer Course; Advanced NCO Course; Staff Officer Courses and Staff NCO Courses at Peace Support Operations Training Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The attendance of these courses is mandatory for each AF BIH officer and NCO depending on his/her rank. Programs of instructions for all courses mentioned above contain lessons, which address in details the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Law on War. Also, at the level of all AF BIH units, the mentioned topics are mandatory, and they are being planned on a regular basis and conducted through unit training. All unit members attend this training. Newly recruited soldiers that are being trained through TRADOC Basic Training Center attend classes in accordance with the approved programs of instructions on the Law on War, the Geneva and Hague Conventions. The AF BIH in coordination with the ICRC organizes the execution of seminars and courses according to the ICRC plans and programs.

All AF BIH units that are to be deployed in peace support operations must be trained on IHL and Law on War. Additionally, the AF BIH has developed manuals that they can use during

their mission execution to remind themselves of some provisions regarding stated rules and laws. The mentioned manuals are the part of the additional equipment for the AF BIH soldiers in peace support missions.

4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

Bosnia and Herzegovina ensures that AF BIH are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights based on the provisions of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Defense Law of the Armed Forces, as well as other legislative acts regulating this particular matter. Article 4 of the Defense Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines the missions of the AF BIH. According to this article, the AF BIH cannot be used to limit human and civil rights. The Law of Defense regulates state institutions' competencies in the defense sector (civil and democratic control over the defense sector for the AF BIH). The civil and democratic control additionally ensures that AF BIH cannot be used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?

The Defense Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines that the AF BIH cannot be used for political purposes or political party activities. The members of the Armed Forces of BIH including generals are neutral with the regards to political issues. They cannot be engaged in any political activity nor to be appointed for a public position. Members of the AF BIH are allowed to register for voting as well to participate in voting, and can nominate themselves for elections in accordance with the Election Law. Political engagement of the reserve members is defined as well, so that if the reserve member is elected or appointed on a public position, he/she is not obliged to resign if he/she is engaged in a regular training, but during the time in the AF BIH, he/she cannot perform party-related activities. The AF BIH Service Law strictly prohibits syndical and political organization of all AF BIH members.

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defense policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

The alignment of defense policy and doctrine with international law has been ensured by incorporating provisions of international law into domestic legislation. Additionally, open public debate, the requirement for parliamentary approval for the AF and major acquisitions, as well as the requirement of a UN Security Council mandate for peace support operations help ensure that defense policy and doctrine are in accordance with international law.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's foreign policy is aimed at promoting and preserving lasting peace, security and overall state development, international peace and the inclusion of BIH in modern European and Euro-Atlantic integration. BIH's activities in international relations are based on the principles contained in the UN Charter, OSCE documents and generally accepted principles of international law.

SECTION III: PUBLIC ACCESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Public access

1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

The public is informed about all strategic documents, laws, policies, and strategies related to OSCE's Code of Conduct through official websites of ministries and other relevant institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. All relevant institutions are encouraged to publish the Code of Conduct (CoC) and Information of the CoC on their respective websites, and to offer it to the public in other forms. There are also efforts undertaken to raise awareness through seminars and involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations, by relevant authorities, and often in partnership with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

Bosnia and Herzegovina's relevant institutions are encouraged to publish the Code of Conduct, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina's reply to the Questionnaire on their respective websites.

1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

According to Bosnia and Herzegovina's defense policy, a transparent approach to the defense activities is in accordance with international standards, also assisting to restore and develop confidence among all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This principle implies the implementation of the following objectives:

- Mutual exchange of information concerning the planning of defense activities, engagement of assets and their origin and on the location of the military units and facilities;
- Transparency of the budget and foreign military assistance;
- Transparency of cooperation with the armed forces of other states;
- Full access to and oversight of all defense activities by civilian authorities exercising command and control of the defense structures in BIH;
- Cooperation with appropriate government and non-governmental organizations dealing with security and defense issues;
- Openness to the media and continued informing the public about defense activities.

Public access to information related to the AF BIH is in accordance with the Law on Free Access to Information in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, representatives of media are invited on a regular basis to attend all significant events taking place at defense institutions and in the AF BIH.

2. Contact information

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sector for Multilateral Affairs - Department for OSCE
Musala 2, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Telephone: +387 (33) 281-107; Fax: +387 (33) 227-156

Voluntary report in regards to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 – Women, Peace, and Security

Information on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2023 By the Special Decision of OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation

I. Prevention

1. Measures of raising awareness among the military staff on special contribution requirements of women in conflict situations.

The Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have a strong institutional framework that supports continuous and sustainable progress in promoting gender perspectives, which is visible through the implementation of obligations stemming from the "Women, Peace, and Security" agenda, including partnership goal G 0013, "Women, Peace, and Security." This is actually a continuous process that begins with the preparation of the competition for admission to military service and continues in all stages of the admission process. After admission to military service, it refers to professional training and leading a military career, professional and specialist education and training, and integrates a gender perspective in all activities, including military exercises, engagement in peace support operations, military-diplomatic missions, and military representation missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Gender Audit of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019/2020) has given concrete recommendations and proposals, including the analysis and harmonization of 36 policies, regulations, and procedures. Recommendations on gender equality are incorporated into the Armed Forces of BiH Training doctrine. The training packages for gender perspectives are adapted to the military context and included in the training plans and programs implemented in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to affirm their positive values and prevent discrimination.

Gender equality concepts are included in the TRADOC during institutional and operational education and training on courses attended by all categories of members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Command and Staff Course
- Staff officer training
- Training of NCO candidates
- Training of officer candidates

- Training of soldier candidates

The Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina offers a NATO-accredited course on "Utility of Gender in Peace Support Operations." The use of available training materials supports the activities of GENAD and GFP. Also, PSOTC annually conducts personnel training prior to deployment on peacekeeping missions. This training is accredited by the relevant bodies of the United Nations and is conducted by domestic and international instructors. The training in its nature is international, as it includes military and police personnel, as well as international students from NATO member states and other countries. Within the framework of the pre-deployment of members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina who will be deployed in peace support operations, the following topics are covered:

- Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions,
- International Humanitarian law applicable in Peace Support Operations,
- Protection of human rights, with special emphasis on the Protection of the rights of women and children in Peace Support Operations,
- Protection of civilians in Peace Support Operations,
- Gender in Peace Support Operations,
- Protection of children and women in Peace Support Operations, etc.

„Human security" is one of the new approaches to the concept of security, and members and units of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have already undergone training with the instructors of the 77th Brigade of the British Army. For the first time, this training was realized in 2021, and due to the pandemic, it was held online. At that time, 27 instructors were certified by the UK for "Human Security" training. The "Human Security" training concept represents a modern approach to the interpretation of security that focuses on the individual, the needs of different categories of the population during conflict and the peace-building process, as well as the integration of the principles of the "Women, Peace, and Security" agenda into military operations and peace support operations. The aim of this training is to train the members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the personnel responsible for planning and evaluating exercises, for further training of units, and the integration of these topics into exercise scenarios and the responsible execution of set missions and tasks - which is closely related to reaching the standards according to the partner, the goals of PG L 4000 "The struggle of combined genders in an urban environment" and PG 0013 "Women, Peace, and Security" as well as improving the interoperability of the BiH Armed Forces. This training covers topics that are problematic in the latest NATO and UN documents and guidelines, as areas relevant to the planning of military operations and peace support operations, namely:

- Protection of Civilians (POC),
- Women, Peace, and Security (WPS),
- Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV),
- Cultural Property Protection (CPP),
- Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR)...

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have 15 instructors of Gender Training of the Trainers (GToT). GToT instructors not only participate in the training of members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina but also in training conducted within the framework of UNDP SEESAC, thereby contributing to the formation of a wider network of instructors for gender equality.

2. Measures for processing violations of women and girls' rights in accordance to international standards.

The Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina acted urgently in cases of femicide (gender-based killings of women) by initiating meetings with the Steering Committee of the network of non-governmental organizations "Safe Network" and representatives of the police and judiciary institutions regarding more effective prevention of gender-based violence and femicide.

Some categories of human rights defenders are subject to higher risks due to the specific nature of their work. It is a fact that female police officers are subject to specific threats and attacks that have a gender-based connotation, making it necessary to improve protection mechanisms.

The Protocol on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders was signed on November 20, 2018., between the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BH and relevant civil society organizations - human rights defenders. By decision of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Advisory Committee for the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders in Bosnia and Herzegovina was appointed and 4 meetings were held. The Action Plan for the work of the Advisory Board, is created.

After an analysis of 39 career courses and 27 operational training programs in the AFBiH, as well as recommendations for the integration of topics related to gender equality in training programs in which these topics are not sufficiently represented, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH issued Guidelines for Training in the AFBiH and ordered that the recommendations are implemented in accordance with the Training Doctrine of the AFBiH. According to this Doctrine, soldiers and civilians serving in the AFBiH begin training on the day they join the AFBiH and it continues until their retirement or the end of their military service, in all three areas: institutional training, operational training and self-development. The guidelines are applied in a planned and continuous manner, and topics on gender equality are integrated into the training plans of commands and units, as well as thematic plans and programs of institutional training instructions, according to the Training Program for integrating the content of gender equality into training and exercises of the AFBiH from 2021. The guidelines also include training on the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and the rights of the child. Also, the adoption of the Instructor's Manual for gender equality issues is extremely important for the standardization of training. This manual, developed with the support of UNDP/SEESAC, contains guidelines for training on gender equality issues and is a tool for all those in the MoD and AFBiH who develop, organize and conduct training on gender equality issues.

According to the information submitted by the Ministry of Security of BiH (MoS), within the framework of the DCAF project "Regional police cooperation and strengthening of integrity in the Western Balkans (PCIB)", a workshop was held on the topic "Continuous training on integrity and gender in law enforcement agencies" for representatives educational police institutions in BiH (Agency for training and professional development of personnel of BiH, Administration for Police Education of the Ministry of Interior of RS, Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior of FBiH). The goals of the workshop were to determine whether basic, advanced and specialist training within educational police institutions cover topics on gender equality, the implementation of international standards on gender equality in the police sector, the application of UN resolutions on women, peace and security, etc., and the analysis of additional the need for continuous training in these areas.

The regular annual training plan of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) also includes training on gender equality for all employees. During the implementation of Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, over 220 SIPA employees attended this training, of which 98 were women (about 45%). All SIPA employees were informed in writing about the appointment of contact persons for gender equality, as well as their duties and tasks. Contact persons were educated through participation in various external trainings on the topic of gender equality in the security sector. The need for all SIPA employees to familiarize themselves with these topics is recognized and supported by the SIPA management. In March 2022, 7 contact persons were appointed, increasing their number from 3 to 7.

The BiH Border Police (BP BiH) stated that it was involved in all external trainings on gender equality and UNSCR 1325 organized and/or supported by non-governmental and international organizations. Although these trainings (by invitation) are continuously conducted, it is important to emphasize that there is still no internal plan and program in the BP BiH that would ensure the regular implementation of trainings on the topic of gender equality.

The Agency for Education and Professional Training (AEPTM), with the professional support of the Association "Network of Police Officers" and the "EU Human Rights and Combating Discrimination in BiH" project, organized workshops on the topic "Gender equality and gender-based discrimination in the police structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The workshops were designed to raise awareness of gender equality and gender-based discrimination in the police structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They were organized as part of the IPA 2 pre-accession support project of the European Union (EU) in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, the Gender Center of the Government of the FBiH and the Gender Center of the Government of the RS. The workshops were conducted in accordance with the curricula developed and adopted by the AEPTM.

The UNDP BiH organized two workshops on gender equality in the security sector, which were attended by 45 managers from the ITA BiH (19 women and 26 men) with the aim of improving the position of women and the perspective for the development of their careers in the ITA, emphasizing the importance of gender equality and prevention sexual and gender-based harassment. The workshop was supported by the Association "Network of Police Officers" and the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

II. Participation

1. Measures for increasing the number of women in all decision-making positions in the AF BiH and the MOD

During each announcement of the recruitment for officers in the AFBiH and the accompanying campaign, which has been carried out for years, special attention is paid to promoting the participation of women and encouraging girls to apply. This includes numerous promotional and media contents and materials (video recordings, billboards, posters) presented through all means of public information. The data on the number of women applying for competitions for the recruitment of soldiers, officers and non-commissioned officers show that there is an increasing trend in the number of women applying for recruitment to the AFBiH, with the assumption that the aforementioned campaigns contribute to this.

The Gender Audit provided a number of recommendations that were translated into the objectives of the Dynamic Plan and approved by the Minister of Defense. The

recommendations concern the implementation of international and BiH commitments in the field of gender equality, and they include 50 recommendations and relevant measures for improvement and further implementation in the three key areas.

In the interest of implementing our goals and in accordance with these recommendations, three working subgroups have been formed. Each of the groups was led by a general. 3 key areas of action and 3 working subgroups:

1. Harmonization of Defence sector regulations:
 - The team for harmonization of regulations analysed 238 documents and 138 regulations proposed by laws and other regulations of the MoD and JS AF BiH. So far, 36 amendments to these acts have been approved by the MoD BiH. Other changes are still being worked on in accordance with the recommendations. The General Inspector of the Ministry of Defence and the AF BiH is in charge of the team.
 - The Decision on Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence is in force, as are the Instructions on the Application of Regulations in the Field of Exercising the Right to Maternity and Parental Leave and Regulating the Status of Pregnant Women.
 - The AF BiH is required to follow international and BiH legal regulations regarding gender equality. When adopting policies and regulations, as well as when writing SOPs, the gender perspective must be considered.
2. Gender mainstreaming in military training and education:
 - The Team for Integrating Gender Equality on Training and Military Exercises in the AF BiH prepared an analysis of training programs for 39 career courses and 27 training and training plans in the AF BiH, as well as proposed measures to be taken to implement them and correct them where necessary. A team is led by the Deputy CHOD for Operations.
 - With the assistance and support of UNDP SEEC, we published The Handbook on Gender and Gender Issues, which is designed to be a useful tool for the development of gender training and contribute to achieving gender equality in the defence system. It covers the provisions on the content of UNSC Resolution 1325 and other related UNSC Resolutions as well as the knowledge required for civilian protection in military operations and peacekeeping missions.
 - We are implementing and developing "human security" training in cooperation with the British Army, with the goal of training instructors, military personnel, and units of the Armed Forces of BiH.
3. Improving military infrastructure
 - A Gender Audit determined that there is a need to improve the living and working conditions of women and men in the military.
 - The infrastructure at AF BiH sites is mainly inherited from a system in which women did not have an active role in the previous armed forces; therefore, infrastructural solutions did not envisage them working and staying 24/7 at locations as professional military personnel.
 - The infrastructure team prepared excerpts from conceptual solutions for infrastructure investments at 147 facilities in 29 AF BiH locations, with a total monetary value of more than 7 million Euros. NATO HQ Sarajevo assisted in translating the subject materials into English.
 - Taking into account specific perspectives as well as the needs of current and future female AF BiH members, the AF BiH is determined to provide working conditions that are commensurate with their needs and to provide equal access to opportunities, the performance of professional duties, and advancement in their careers to all women serving in the AF BiH.

- Infrastructural improvements at AF BiH locations affect other essential elements of the defence system's functioning. Poorly maintained premises, particularly those where personnel work and live 24 hours a day, have a negative impact on the health and safety of women and men in service and pose legal and operational risks. Poor infrastructure at the location also affects the admittance and recruitment processes in the AF BiH.
- With the support of the Government of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland and NATO HQ Sarajevo, the facilities were renovated in accordance with the standards of gender equality and security, providing safe and equal protection and training facilities for both male and female members of the AF BiH. The first facility was completed in the "Mika Bosnic" barracks in Manjaca in 2022, while work on the guard facility in the "Rajlovac" barracks in Sarajevo will be finished at the end of April 2023. Other facilities included in this project are the guard facility in the Capljina barracks and the women's facility in the Professional Development Center of the Training and Doctrine Command in Travnik. This is one of the priority activities in order to ensure the basic conditions for increasing the number of female members in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Strengthening of the Network of contact persons for gender issues for lessons learned and exchange of best practices, cooperating with inspectors and ethics advisers in the implementation of training on gender equality issues;
- The GENAD CHOD position was established in JS AF BiH.
- Quarterly reporting, as well as GENAD and GFP meetings
- The drafting of the rulebook on gender equality for the MoD BiH and Armed Forces of BiH, as well as the SOP for the integration of the principle of gender equality in the activities of the Armed Forces of BiH, is underway.
- Gender perspectives are integrated into the key tasks and functions of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the national, international, and normative frameworks of the "Women, Peace, and Security" agenda.
- Recognition of the principles of the "Women, Peace, and Security" agenda in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina improves the application of gender perspectives in the context of operations. GENAD and GFP are included in planning processes due to the possibility of contributing to more effective planning with a focus on gender perspectives. Special attention should be paid to the activities of the General Inspectorate of the MoD BiH when it comes to training, but also to other activities from the Building Integrity program in the context of the "Women, Peace, and Security" agenda.

SIPA promotes the police call and encourages the registration of women through the admission and employment of candidates, as well as the attendance of candidates for the rank of police officer - I level and the rank of junior inspector - II level.

1. Measures for increasing the number of women in peacekeeping forces

As part of the promotional activities of the MoD, regular campaigns are carried out with the aim of promoting the role and participation of women in peacekeeping missions. During the celebration of 15 years of participation of the AFBiH in international peacekeeping missions, the participation of 34 women in peacekeeping missions was promoted.

When it comes to training for peacekeeping missions, the BiH MoD and the AFBiH have included topics in the field of gender equality in their curricula and conduct them regularly. All officer and non-commissioned officer courses on peacekeeping operations have a gender module lasting 1-3 hours, which includes a theoretical part and a short practical

exercise/discussion. Training in the AFBiH takes place on three levels: operational-strategic, tactical, and through training before sending to missions outside BiH.

Indicators on the representation of women in the army, police and peacekeeping missions, including decision-making positions, indicate stagnation or slight progress and do not reflect equal representation of the sexes. The implementation of the previous three action plans on UNSCR 1325 led to the creation of a more favorable environment for increasing the interest and participation of women in military and police structures.

After graduating from the military academy, 8 women (17.7%) were accepted into professional military service in the initial rank of officer. The data show an increase in the number of women admitted to the AFBiH on an annual basis (compared to the total number of admissions). However, the data on the participation of women in leadership positions in the MoD and the AFBiH do not show significant changes during the implementation of the third AP.

In the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH, there are 8,34% of female police officers, which indicates a slight trend of increase in the representation of female police officers compared to the previous reporting period.

The average representation of female police officers in cantonal ministries of internal affairs is 8.5%. In certain cantons, a significant progress was recorded in the representation of female police officers, and a trend of increasing the number of female police officers with higher ranks can be noted. The representation of female police officers in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RS was 10.7%, and in the police of BD 6.1%.

The above data show that during the implementation of the third AP UNSCR 1325, there was an increase in the participation of women in almost all police agencies and cantonal ministries of internal affairs by an average of about 1.5%, but women are still underrepresented in the highest management positions with higher ranks.

The participation of female police officers in peacekeeping missions has been from 30% to 35% in recent years and is continuously increasing, thanks to the application of the affirmative measure on the necessary previous experience, which the MoS has been applying since 2008. However, the MoS indicates a possible trend of decreasing representation of men and women in peacekeeping missions, which may in the near future be reflected in the overall engagement of BiH in police peacekeeping missions, and the ceding of positions to other countries. In the last three years, some law enforcement agencies in BiH have made decisions to stop sending police officers to peacekeeping missions, which is explained by the lack of personnel as well as increased regular operational tasks.

In 2023 there are three female police officers of Republika Srpska (RS) Ministry of Interior. As of December 31, 2023, there are 14 members of RS Ministry of the Interior in the UN peacekeeping missions - South Sudan (10) and Cyprus (4). In 2023 one female police officer of the Police of the Brcko District participate in the UN peacekeeping missions on Cyprus.

III. Protection

1. Better access to judiciary by women whose rights have been violated.

In addition to training in the field of ethics and professionalism, including the code of conduct, through planned regular training and daily contacts with the BIH AF, the BIH MOD General Inspectorate and the BIH AF inspectors regularly encourage all persons to report irregularities,

which includes explaining the basic principles of the work of inspectors and a way of communicating with them.

IV. Other information

Information on drafting, implementation and assessment of National Plan on Implementation of Resolution 1325 UN Security Council.

At its 26th session, held on October 18, 2023, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a decision on the adoption of the BiH Gender Action Plan for the period 2023-2027 (GAP BIH), as the fourth generation of a comprehensive strategy for introducing the principle of gender equality in the field of public and private life in BiH.

GAP BIH is the result of the joint work of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH (ARS BIH MLJPI), the Gender Center of the FBIH and the Gender Center of RS. This BiH strategic document is implemented by competent authorities at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and institutional mechanisms for gender equality (ARS BIH MLJPI and entity gender-centers) play a key role in coordinating the implementation of GAP BIH.

The new GAP BiH relies on the strategic goals, priorities and measures of the previous GAP BiH, state and entity development strategies, strategies and other relevant documents of the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations. It contains goals, programs and measures for achieving gender equality in all areas of social life and work, namely: 1) Prevention and suppression of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, as well as human trafficking, 2) Public and political life and the adoption decision, 3) Work, employment and access to economic resources, 4) Education, science, culture and sports, 5) Health, prevention and protection, 6) Social protection, 7) Gender and security and 8) Gender equality in the context of environmental protection and climate change.

So, priority area 7 is called Gender and Security and aims to improve the security of citizens, including multiple marginalized groups in BiH, through the equal participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, and building and preserving sustainable peace. Although the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been successful so far, there are many stereotypes, traditional perceptions, and gender prejudices about the roles and dominance of men in the security sector, which represent obstacles. Their removal requires a multidisciplinary approach, which implies the cooperation of institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, as well as cooperation at the regional and international level to exchange practices, knowledge, professional and financial resources.

The action plan for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace, Security" in BiH for the period 2023-2027 was drawn up in cooperation with institutions and non-governmental organizations, but due to the negative opinion of the Gender Center of the Government of the RS, it was not referred to the adoption procedure.

At the level of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as at the level of entity governments, operational plans for the implementation of GAP BIH were adopted. The operational plan plans activities that will be carried out by the competent institutions within specified deadlines until the end of 2027. In addition, the GAP BIH Coordination Committee was formed, a body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the GAP BIH at the level of the institutions of BiH and the Brčko District of BiH. The coordination committee consists

of representatives of the relevant institutions responsible for implementation of GAP BiH. Also, coordination committees of institutions at the entity level which are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of GAP BiH, were formed.

At the 20th session, held on August 23, 2023, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina took note of the Information on the Recommendations of the Committee of Signatories to the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Recommendations from the report of the GREVIO Committee for BiH on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The CoM BiH tasked the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH to submit the mentioned report to the PA BiH, as well as the Recommendations of the Committee of Signatories of the Istanbul Convention. The PA BiH considered the Report and Recommendations and passed a conclusion instructing the CoM BiH to, in cooperation with the relevant institutions of the entity, the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the canton, draw up a plan of measures for the implementation of GREVIO recommendations. In accordance with these conclusions, ASP BiH MLJPI took steps to create a Plan of Measures and invited relevant institutions and levels of government to join this process.

ARS BiH MLJPI organized three meetings of the Coordinating Committee (CO) to monitor the implementation of GAP BiH and CO for AP UNSCR 1325, for the purpose of a participatory approach to planning, as well as consideration of practical aspects of the implementation of GAP BiH and the Operational Plan. Coordination committees are made up of representatives of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meetings were held in February and November 2023. Through the involvement of members of the Coordinating Committee from relevant institutions, institutional ownership of the goals and measures foreseen in GAP BiH is encouraged, as well as a harmonized and coordinated approach to the implementation of action documents adopted with the aim of achieving equality and different aspects of social life.

2. Information on best practices and lessons learned

In order to strengthen the capacities of institutional mechanisms for gender equality, the analysis of pre-accession capacities was conducted and a set of recommendations was developed. Emphasis was placed on strengthening the relevant sectoral capacities for the application of the perspective of gender equality in the process of preparation and implementation of IPA pre-accession aid as well as in the adoption of policies. Workshops were held for persons responsible for gender and persons responsible for European integration in selected key institutions from the state and entity level of government in the sectors of democracy and the rule of law, the sector of competitiveness and innovation, as well as in the sector of agriculture. It is expected that the Gender Equality Facility mechanism, i.e. initiatives financed from the IPA, as well as sectoral policies, would contribute to the strengthening of gender equality in BiH society.

A special focus was placed on the process of capacity building for the use of gender indicators and statistics in relation to monitoring the goals of sustainable development, GAP BiH, the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, the Istanbul Convention, and the like. A special set of workshops was conducted for statistical institutions, as well as persons from the aforementioned sectors who are in charge of data collection. Important analyses and reports have been produced, such as the report on the mapping of gender statistics and guidelines for the enrichment and updating of the statistical bulletins "Women and Men" prepared by the BiH Statistics Agency.

After the analysis of the position of women in the defense and security sectors, the application of affirmative measures and the definition of activities to eliminate the identified shortcomings continued. Measures include recommendations, adjustment of internal propositions, quotas, notes on the publication of public and internal advertisements, and the admission of candidates by the performance lists.

Indicators of women's representation in the military, police and peacekeeping missions, including decision-making positions, point to slight progress but do not reflect gender equality. A Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism (for the period 2021-2026) and an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy have been drafted in BiH. It includes activities on the gender perspective in the context of violent extremism and terrorism.

The Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH (2021-2024) and the Action Plan of the Strategy was adopted, which include a medium-term goal, measures and activities aimed at integrating a gender perspective into measures for the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW). A gender analysis of the legal and strategic framework relevant to small arms control was conducted and training was organized to strengthen the capacity of professionals to identify a gender perspective in SALW control.

The Coordination Board for Monitoring the Implementation of AP UNSCR 1325 is an effective mechanism of coordinating approach and inter-institutional cooperation in the creation, implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan. With the professional support of AGE BiH, MHRR, members of the CB are actively working to introduce gender equality standards into the scope of work of the institutions they represent. In the development and implementation of the next, fourth AP UNSCR 1325 in BiH, it is necessary to maintain the existing structure, the process of appointing members of the CB, the organization and the way of working. The coordination and advisory role of AGE BiH, MHRR is an example of good practice that should be maintained.

The introduction of the concept of human security from the aspect of gender equality, as a strategic priority of AP UNSCR 1325 in BiH, made it possible to see the security of citizens in BiH through a gender-responsive approach to existing and new security challenges (support for victims of gender-based violence with a special focus on survivors of sexual violence and other forms of suffering during war, victims of human trafficking, natural disasters, migration, and a gender-responsive approach in managing crisis and emergency situations).

3. Other relevant information

In the framework of the project "EU for human rights and combating discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina", an Analysis of the compliance of existing legislation with the provisions of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH and the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was prepared at the end of 2023. The analysis revealed the existence of inconsistencies and as such can serve as a platform for further action of the institutional mechanism for gender equality in the direction of competent institutions for further harmonization which is necessary.

Voluntary reporting on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSC)

In accordance with domestic legislation in BiH (see Annex 1), private security agencies perform protection (close body protection or other physical protection) of persons and property in BiH. These agencies cannot be employed for the protection of persons and property for the

Armed Forces of BIH or for subjects under the jurisdiction of state level and/or lower levels of government. The agencies cannot have police powers or the authority of judicial bodies (courts, prosecutors' offices, etc.), nor can they perform tasks for domestic or foreign state defense, security or counterintelligence services. The agencies must not undertake activities which are under the jurisdiction of internal affairs bodies. The agencies cannot be organized or merged in order to commit violent and other actions against any public bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina or do acts that endanger its territorial integrity or independence - or that of other countries.

Protection activity in FBIH is under the Law on agencies and internal services for the protection of people and property. (Official Gazzette of FBiH number 78/08 and 67/13). This law defines the terms for conditions of establishing agencies for protection of people and property, activities of agencies, conditions for obtaining certificates of persons intending to perform protection activities, rules on doing business of the agency, organization of internal protection service and other issues of importance for organization and work of agencies and internal services for protection of people and property on the territory of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the FBIH, the aforementioned law defines that only private security agencies can exist and internal services that perform physical and technical protection of people and property.

In the procedure of establishing an agency for performing protection activities, the founder is obliged to obtain a work permit from the locally competent cantonal Ministry of the Interior, and after that to submit a request to the competent court for entry of the agency in the court register. In addition to the approval of the cantonal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the agencies must have the special consent of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of FBIH in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned law.

Supervision over the work of these agencies is carried out by the Inspectorate as the basic organizational unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of FBIH in accordance with the provisions of Articles 54 to 60 of the above law.

Protection activities in the FBIH are currently performed by a total of 42 agencies registered in the FBIH as well as subsidiary agencies from the RS entity, which employ 3.699 persons certified to perform protection activities in accordance with the applicable law. These agencies, in accordance with Article 24 of the law, have a total of 742 pistols and 98 rifles (rifles can be carried only when transporting money).

The total number of 29 agencies for protecting persons and property, three private detective agencies and two private detectives are registered on the territory of RS. In agencies for protecting persons and property and private detective agencies in RS, a total of 1,476 workers are employed, and all agencies have a total of 621 pieces of registered short-barreled firearms.

As of December 31, 2023, a total of 8 personal and property insurance agencies and private detective agencies were registered in the territory of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, employing 140 people. They own 33 firearms (short-barreled firearms) and 16 vehicles (including intervention vehicles and special vehicles for transporting money).

ANNEX I

Political documents:

- Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN, 9 December 1994;
- Declaration to supplement the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN, 17 December 1996;
- Proliferation Security Initiative, 9 February 2005.

Universal international multilateral treaties:

- Convention on Criminal Acts and other Acts Committed in Aircraft;
- Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Hijacking Convention)
- Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation;
- Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Criminal Acts against Persons under International Protection, Including Diplomatic Agents;
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages;
- Protocol on Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at the Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, as an Amendment to the Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, dated 23 September 1971;
- Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (in the ratification procedure);
- Protocol on Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located in Epicontinental Seaway;
- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, 1 March 1991;
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 15 December 1997, ratified on 19 June 2003;
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, 9 December 1999.
- Regulation on Security of Nuclear Material and Radioactive Sources;
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (and Amendment)

Relevant Council of Europe anti-terrorism conventions:

- European Convention on Combating Terrorism (ETS 90);
- Additional Protocol (ETS 190);
- European Convention on Extradition (ETS 24);
- First Additional Protocol (ETS 86);
- Second Additional Protocol (ETS 98);
- European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS 30);
- First Additional Protocol (ETS 99);
- Second Additional Protocol (ETS 182);
- European Convention on Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (ETS 73);
- European Convention on Compensation of Damage to the Victims of Violent Crimes (ETS 116);
- European Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (ETS 141);
- Convention on Cybercrime (ETS 185);
- Additional protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Incrimination of the Acts of Xenophobic and Racist Nature (ETS 189);
- European Council Convention on Terrorism Prevention (ETS 196);
- European Council Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on Combating Terrorism (ETS 198).

EUROPOL

An 'Agreement on Operative and Strategic Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUROPOL', was signed in Sarajevo on 31 August 2016 and entered into force 17 March 2017.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The New Safeguards Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Atomic Energy Agency in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Atomic Energy Agency in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Regional multilateral treaties:

- Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime with the Charter of Organization and Operation of the South-East European Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre SECI for Combating Trans-border Crime, 16 May 1999;
- OSCE Document on SALW (Vienna, 24 November 2001);
- OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Porto, December 2002);
- OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- The Strategic Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the European Police (EUROPOL), signed on 26 January 2007;
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the security of information, signed on 16 March 2007;
- Agreement on the Exchange of Security Data with the European Union, signed in 2004;
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union on Readmission; Agreement was ratified and entered into force on 1 January 2008;
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union on Benefits for Visas; Agreement was ratified and entered into force on 1 January 2008;
- In accordance with signed 'Protocols on Conducting Joint Patrols', regional Plans for conducting joint patrols with the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia have been agreed upon, and currently, appropriate actions are being taken in the field.
- In Skopje, on November 19, 2019, an Arrangement was adopted for the implementation of a 'Joint Action Plan on Combating Terrorism in the Western Balkans' between the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Commission.

Bilateral agreements that define police cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states:

Republic of Austria

An 'Agreement on Police Cooperation between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Austria', was signed on 5 May 2006, and it entered into force on 01 September 2007;

Republic of Bulgaria

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Police Cooperation', was signed in Pleven on 20 September 2007;

Republic of Belgium

A 'Memorandum of Understanding' between the Ministry of Security and Belgian Federal Police was signed in Brussels 03 December 2015;

Republic of Croatia

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Smuggling, and Abuse of Drugs and Organized Crime,' was concluded in Sarajevo in 2002;

-Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation and Monitoring of the State Border was signed on 29 March 2007;

-According to the Agreement on State Border Surveillance Cooperation, the following protocols were created and signed between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia:

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Border Police and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia – Police Directorate, on Conducting Joint patrols along Common Border;

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Border Police and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia – Police Directorate, on Forming Joint Groups for Fighting Crime;

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Border Police and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia – Police Directorate, on Assigning Liaison Officers;

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Border Police and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia – Police Directorate, on Official Transit Across the Other Contracting Party Territory to Act in Own State Area.

French Republic

An 'Agreement on cooperation in the area of security between Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Government of the French Republic', was signed on 29 March 2010. Concrete measures and actions are anticipated with special attention devoted to fighting against terrorism, organized crime, illegal drug trade, money laundering and human trafficking.

Federal Republic of Germany

A 'Joint statement of intent for the cooperation in fight against crime, terrorism, organized crime and illegal drug trade between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Ministry of Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany,' was signed in Sarajevo, on 15 January 2014.

Hellenic Republic

An 'Agreement on cooperation in the area of fight against crime, especially fight against terrorism, illegal drug and organized crime between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Hellenic Republic', was signed in March 2006.

Hungary

An 'Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Hungary on Cooperation on Combating Terrorism, Traffic of Narcotics and Organized Crime', was signed in Budapest (Hungary), on 21 April 1996, entering into force on 26 February 2007.

Islamic Republic of Iran

An 'Agreement on cooperation in the field of security between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Islamic Republic of Iran', was signed in 2005.

Italian Republic

An 'Agreement on cooperation between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Italian Republic in the field of the combat against organized crime', was developed and signed in 2002, entering into force on 26 October 2007.

Montenegro

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Montenegro on Police Cooperation', was signed in Bečići on 7 September 2007.

In accordance with Police Cooperation Convention in South-eastern Europe, the following Protocols and Agreements were signed with Montenegro:

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Interior and Public Administration of Montenegro on Organizing and Holding Regular Meetings of Border Polices at National, Regional and Local Levels;
- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Interior and Public Administration of Montenegro on Conducting Joint patrols along Common Border;
- The Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Montenegro on Conducting Border Checks at Joint Border-crossing Points.

North Macedonia

An 'Agreement on police cooperation with the Republic of Macedonia', was signed on 24 March 2009.

Republic of Romania

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Romania on Police Cooperation' was signed in Bucharest on 04 June 2007.

The Protocol on Implementation between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administrative Reform of Romania was signed in Bucharest on 6 July 2007.

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Romania on readmission of their citizens and foreigners', was signed in Bucharest on 10 October 2005.

Russian Federation

A 'Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation', was signed in September 2004.

Swiss Confederation

An 'Agreement on Police cooperation between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Swiss Confederation', was signed on 25 April 2007.

Slovak Republic

An 'Agreement on Police cooperation between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Slovak Republic', was initiated in 2006;

Republic of Serbia

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Serbia on police cooperation', was signed on 24 September 2010 and entered into force on 28 January 2012.

The Protocol on Joint Border Patrols along the State Border with the Republic of Serbia was signed on 6 March 2009 (Official Gazette no 08/09.)

In accordance with the Police Cooperation Convention in South-eastern Europe, the following Protocols and Agreements were signed with the Republic of Serbia:

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia on Conducting Joint patrols along Common Border;

- The Protocol between Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia on Holding Regular Meetings of Border Police Representatives at National, Regional and Local Levels.

Republic of Turkiye

An 'Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organized Crime', was signed in Ankara (Turkey) on 21 June 2000 and was ratified by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5 April 2002.

Republic of Ukraine

An 'Agreement on Cooperation in the Fight Against Crime between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Cabinets of Ministers of Ukraine' was signed in Kiev on 18 December 2015.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

An 'Agreement on Cooperation in Fight Against Crime between the Council of Ministers and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia', was signed in Jeddah on 16 May 2016;

BIH continued the activities of the implementation of the Arrangement for the Implementation of the Joint Action Plan to Combat Terrorism for the Western Balkans between the European Commission and the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed in 2019, the implementation of which continued in 2023.

Legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to democratic control of armed forces and combating terrorism and terrorism-related activities:

- Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH);
- Criminal Code of BIH;
- Law on Applying Certain Temporary Measures for the Efficient Enforcement of the Mandate of International Crime Court for the former Yugoslavia and Other International Restrictive Measures;
- Law on Border Control of BIH;
- Law on Classified Data Protection of BIH;
- Law on Criminal Proceedings of BIH;
- Law on Defense of BIH;
- Law on the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and on Agencies for Support to the Police Structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Law on Identity Cards of Citizens of BIH;
- Law on the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BIH;
- Law on the Participation of the Members of the Armed Forces of BIH, Police Officers, Civil Servants and Other Employees in Peace Support Missions and Other Activities Abroad;
- Law on Police Officials of BIH;
- Law on Protection of Witnesses under Threat and Vulnerable Witnesses;
- Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism;
- Law on the Protection and Rescue of People and Property in the Event of Natural or Other Disasters;
- Law on Radiation and Nuclear Safety in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Law on Service in the Armed Forces of BIH;
- Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency of BIH;
- Law on Travel Documents of BIH;
- Law on Witness Protection Program;
- Constitution of FBiH;
- Law on the Agencies and Internal Affairs for Protection of Persons and Property of the FBiH
- Law on Criminal Procedure of the FBiH
- Law on Internal Affairs of the FBiH
- Law on Police Officers of the FBiH
- Memorandum of Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism between the Police Administration of the Federation of BiH and Cantonal Ministries of Interior in the FBiH
- Constitution of RS;
- Criminal Code of RS;
- Law on Administration of RS;
- Law on Agencies for Protecting Persons and Property, and Private Detective Activities of RS;
- Law on Civil Servants of RS;
- Law on the Government of RS;
- Law on Labor of RS;
- Law on Police and Internal Affairs of RS;
- Law on Parliamentary Oversight of the Defense and Security Sector of RS;
- Law on Security of Critical Infrastructure in RS;
- Law on Salaries of Employees of the Ministry of Interior of RS;
- Special Collective Agreement for Employees in the Field of Internal Affairs of RS
- Statute of BD;

- Criminal Code of the BD;
- Law on Agencies for Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activities of BD;
- Law on civil service in the administration of BD;
- Law on Labor of BD;
- Law on Police of BD;
- Law on Police Officers of BD.