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15 November 2023

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PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ICELAND

to the Organization for Security  
and Co-operation in Europe

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The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions of OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and, with reference to FSC Decision 2/09, has the honour to transmit hereby the response of Iceland to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, valid as of 30 August 2023. In accordance with the Interpretative Statement made with regard to the FSC Decision 02/09, additional information concerning implementation of the OSCE MC Decision 14/05 and the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, is included.

The Permanent Mission of Iceland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Delegations and Permanent Missions of OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 14 November 2023



To all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE  
to the Conflict Prevention Centre  
V i e n n a



**OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects on Security**

***ICELAND***

**Annual Information Exchange on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct**

**Valid as of 30 August 2023**

## Section I: 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?

##### The 12 Universal Anti-terrorism Conventions and Protocols

1. Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963) *	P (R)
2. Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)*	P (R)
3. Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)*	P (R)
4. Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons (1973)	P (R)
5. Against the Taking of Hostages (1979)	P (a)
6. Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1980)	P (a)
7. Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving Intl. Civil Aviation, supp. to 1971 Convention	P (R)
8. Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988)	P (R)
9. Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988)	P (R)
10. Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991)	P (a)
11. Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)	P (R)
12. Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)	P (R)

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##### The 4 Universal Anti-terrorism Conventions and Protocols concluded in 2005

1. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)	Signed	16.9.2005
2. Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005)*		
3. Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005)*	P (R)	
4. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005)*	P (R)	

P = Party, (R) Ratification, (a) accession, \* - not yet in force

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**Other international and regional legal instruments related  
to terrorism or co-operation in criminal matters**

1. UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)	P (R)	
1.a. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. New York, 15 November 2000	P (R)	
1.b. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. New York, 15 November 2000	Signed	13.12.2000
1.c. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. New York, 31 May 2001	Signed	15.11.2001
2. European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (1977) CETS No: 090	P (R)	
3. Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (2003) CETS No: 190*	Signed	
4. European Convention on Extradition (1957) CETS No: 024	P (R)	
5. Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1975) CETS No: 086	P (R)	
6. Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1978) CETS No: 098	P (R)	
7. European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1959) CETS No: 030	P (R)	
8. Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1978) CETS No: 099	P (R)	
9. Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2001) CETS No: 182	Signed	
10. European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (1972) CETS No: 073	Signed	
11. Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (1990) CETS No: 141	P (R)	
12. Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (2005) CETS No: 196	Signed	

13. Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (2005) CETS No: 198	Signed	16.5.2005
14. Convention on Cybercrime	P (R)	

P = Party, (R) Ratification, (a) accession, \* - not yet in force

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## **1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the abovementioned agreements and arrangements?**

- (1) UNSC resolutions are implemented by the Law on Implementation of International Sanctions and freezing of assets, No. 68/2023
- (2) Law on Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, No. 140/2018.
- (3) General Penal Code, No. 19/1940.
- (4) Law on the arrest and extradition of persons to and from Iceland for criminal acts on the basis of an arrest warrant, No. 51/2016.
- (5) Law on carrying out penal sentences pronounced in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden et. al., No. 69/1963.
- (6) Law on extradition and other assistance in penal matters, No. 13/1984.
- (7) Law on international co-operation in carrying out penal sentences, No. 56/1993.
- (8) Law on the implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, No. 43/2001.
- (9) Law on criminal liability of legal persons for bribery and terrorist acts, No. 144/1998.
- (10) Article 100 (b) of the General Penal Code, No. 19/1940, deals with the financing of terrorist groups.

## **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?**

Iceland has no military, paramilitary or security forces.

The Minister of the Justice is the supreme head of the **police** in Iceland as well as the Icelandic Coast Guard. The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police administers police affairs under the Minister's authority, cf. Article 4 of the Police Act No 90/1996. The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police's role is to perform various administrative functions in fields related to law enforcement, such as providing general instructions to regional commissioners of police and making proposals for rationalisation, co-ordination, development, and safety in policing. His/Her office shall grant the regional commissioners of police assistance and support and carry out any police work which calls for centralisation or co-ordination among the offices involved. His/Her office is responsible for international police relations. The role and special tasks of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police are laid down in detail in Article 5 of the Police Act.

In addition to crime prevention and investigation, the Icelandic Police are responsible for public security and maintaining law and order. Iceland has no armed forces and the police force is organized along non-military lines with members having civilian status.

The National Security Unit (NSU) of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police co-ordinates counter terrorism measures, in collaboration with district commissioners. The NSU is tasked with analysing organised crime and also the threat of terrorism in Iceland. Furthermore the NSU is tasked and to issue forward-looking-assessments in the field of law enforcement. In the event of a terrorist act or terror related offences the NSU is responsible for the investigation. An annual threat assessment is made by the National Security Unit of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police on the threats of terrorism. In addition, the NSU investigates offences which constitute a threat to public and/or state security, including treason and all terrorist offences. The District Prosecutor's Office has the power of prosecution for these offences as well as for serious economic offences, including large scale money laundering and terrorist financing.

The police in Iceland are very restricted in their use of force and the police are unarmed while on duty except for a short baton and an OC-canister, but all policemen are trained in the use of firearms. A Special Weapons and Tactics Team is operated within the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. It tackles security cases and police duties that require the use of arms countrywide and its economic zone. All aspects of running the team, such as training, operations, equipment and policy regarding tasks and working methods, are in the hands of the National Commissioner. Members of the team are on a day-to-day basis involved in ordinary police work and are unarmed in the course of their normal duties.

Although there is not an independent security or an intelligence service in Iceland, the NSU is the designated national security authority. The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police coordinates the work of the police in internal security affairs with the goal of preventing conduct that may be in breach of the provisions X and XI of the General Penal Code No 19/1940 and preventing acts of terrorism and other organized crime. Iceland has close co-operation with international bodies such as Europol and Interpol. Since 2008 Iceland has been a member of PWGT (Police Working Group on Terrorism). Iceland is a member of NATO's AC/46 Committee.

Surveillance of the sea territory falls under the mandate of the Icelandic Coast Guard.

#### **1.4 Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining inter alia to:**

##### **Financing of terrorism;**

The aim of the Act on Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing No. 140/2018 (entry into force 1 January 2019, as amended by Act No. 55/2019, Act No. 91/2019, Act No. 163/2019, Act No. 8/2020, Act No. 45/2020, Act No. 96/2020, Act No. 10/2021, 116/2021 and act No. 62/2022, transposing i.a. EU directives and regulations no. 2015/849, 910/2014, 2011/61, 2013/14, 2018/843, 2018/1108, 2019/758, 2007/16, 2009/65, 2013/14, 2014/91 and 2010/78) - as defined in Article 2 of the Act No. 140/2018, is to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing by imposing on parties engaging in activities which may be used for the purposes of

money laundering and terrorist financing the obligation to obtain knowledge of their customers and their business activities, maintain adequate reports, report to the competent authorities any knowledge of such illegal activities and avoid to carry out suspicious transactions.

Article 2 of the Act defines a broad range of Obligated Entities, that i.a. includes financial undertakings (authorized to carry out any of the following activities: carry deposits, credit institutions, provide payment services, issue e-money, pension funds, securities firms, life insurance etc.), virtual asset service providers, business/profession service providers and agents/dealers in high value goods and assets (lawyers, dealers in high value goods, real estate agents etc.), casinos and lotteries, and any business which handles cash transactions over 10.000 Euros. For a complete list please refer to Article 2 of the Act.

The act provides legal framework in which the Icelandic Financial Intelligence Unit is responsible for receiving, analysing, and disseminating Suspicious Activity/Transaction Reports (SAR/STR regime) of all types, i.e., money laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions evasion.

Terrorist Financing is defined in article 3(7) of the Act as obtaining of funds, directly or indirectly, for the purpose or by knowing the funds are wholly or partially to be used to commit act(s) punishable under article 100(a) – 100(b) of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940 (acts of terrorism).

The National Security Unit of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police (NSU) is the primary domestic authority competent to investigate terrorist financing. Consequentially FIU Iceland will disclose reports of such activities to the NSU. In case FIU Iceland obtains information on terrorist financing pertaining to a foreign jurisdiction report thereof are to be spontaneously disseminated to the FIU of the jurisdiction in question. To this effect FIU Iceland can freely exchange information with FIUs within the European Economic Area (EEA/EU). Cooperation with non-EEA FIUs is subject to prior Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs). FIU Iceland is continuously enhancing its MoU portfolio and has competence to enter into such arrangements at it's own discretion.

### **Border controls;**

Since 25 March 2001, Iceland has been a member of the Schengen Agreement. The Schengen cooperation opened up free movement of individuals within the borders of the Member States by terminating personal control of individuals travelling between the States, but coordinating instead control on the outer borders of the Schengen area.

The Icelandic Police is responsible for all border control and the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police plays a leading role in Iceland's participation in the Schengen scheme and operates a specific Border Management division which has the task of organizing and coordinating border control within the Icelandic Police.

The Directorate of Customs in Iceland is responsible for the control of import, transit and export, and secondly the collection of duties, taxes and various state revenue. The Directorate of Custom's main objectives are to strengthen control, hinder importation of illegal goods, ensure correct levy of import charges and improve collection results.

### **Travel document security;**

As of May 2006 Icelandic passports are issued with biometric identifiers and equipped with high quality security features and are security printed. Since July 2009 passports

have been equipped with a microchip that stores the same information as the passports data page in addition to two finger prints of the holder.

The control of foreign travel documents is in accordance with Schengen rules.

#### **Container and supply chain security;**

On July 1st 2004 new legislation no. 50/2004 on maritime security took effect in Iceland. According to the law customs authorities handle cargo security, which involves making preventive measures to protect cargo from any kind of terrorism or other illegal activity. In accordance with the law the Directorate of Customs issued Cargo Security Rules number 141/2010. The Icelandic customs territory covers the country together with islands and reefs as well as twelve nautical miles of territorial waters around it with boundary in accordance with law No. 41/1979, Article 1, on territorial waters, economic jurisdiction and the continental shelf. The Icelandic customs territory also includes the airspace above the aforementioned land and sea territories.

Together with the provisions of the ISPS Code and SOLAS chapter XI-2, container security has been established in Icelandic ports under the auspices of the Directorate of Customs. The mandatory ISPS Code and regulation (EC) No 725/2004 of the European Parliament has been fully implemented with regard to Icelandic port facilities.

According to the Icelandic Maritime Association Iceland's participation in the international maritime security system is sound and at present there are no evident obstacles in maritime security aspects. Icelandic ports are in full compliance with international maritime security laws and regulations.

#### **Security of radioactive sources;**

There are no nuclear power plants in Iceland and no nuclear weapons. With regard to other radioactive sources, the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority ensures that all international safety requirements are met.

Iceland is a party to the Convention on the physical protection of nuclear material (1980) and participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

#### **Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes;**

The Post and Telecom Administration in Iceland is responsible for the implementation of rules on internet security. Act No. 62/2012 amending Act No. 69/2003 on the Post and Telecom Administration and Act No. 81/2003 on Electronic Communication establishes CERT-IS defined in Art. 2(1) as:

*A computer security and incident response team (CSIRT) operating under the aegis of the Post and Telecom Administration in Iceland for the protection of critical information infrastructure against cyber-attacks*

CERT-IS participates and serves as the contact for the Icelandic authorities in national and international cooperation on incident response for network and information security. The aim of CERT-IS activities is to prevent and mitigate as much as possible the risk of cyber-attacks and other security incidents against its constituency, and to counteract and minimise any critical information infrastructure damage resulting from such attacks and incidents.

CERT-IS enjoys generous rights to data and when a major cyber-attack is suspected, CERT-IS is authorised to scan the control information of electronic communication

packets relating to possible security threats for more detailed information on their origin, destination and technical properties. Where there is reasonable suspicion that individual transmissions contain malicious code, CERT-IS is authorised, with the consent of individual critical information infrastructure operators, to analyse the content of individual electronic communication transmissions to and from the network concerned.

In cases where national security and the public interest are at stake, CERT-IS may notify the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police of any major cyber-attacks against its constituency and of any serious or wide-spread security incidents which have caused damage or the risk of damage to critical information infrastructure. At the request of the Police Commissioner, CERT-IS shall engage in co-operation on prevention and response. Breaches are enforced by police authorities.

#### **Legal co-operation including extradition;**

The National Commissioner of the National Police, including the National Security Unit of that office, in collaboration with district commissioners as well as the Strategic Response Unit co-ordinates counter terrorism measures, in cooperation with several institutions and organizations, such as Interpol, Europol, PTN and regional police authorities in the Nordic countries.

See also the above list of international and regional legal instruments related to terrorism and co-operation in criminal matters.

Iceland is an active participant in the European Arrest Warrant, a simplified cross-border judicial surrender procedure for the purpose of prosecution or executing a custodial sentence or detention order. The Ministry of Justice and the Director of Public Prosecution are responsible for providing and requiring bilateral mutual legal assistance with other states on the basis of the EAW and several other international treaties.

#### **Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations;**

The stipulations of UNSCR 1373 on safe havens and shelter to terrorists are implemented by the Regulation on international security measures regarding terrorism, No. 122/2009.

## **2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory**

Iceland has no armed forces.

### **2.1 Provide information on 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.**

Iceland has no armed forces.

## **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.**

Iceland is a state Party to most multilateral arms control-, disarmament- and non-proliferation treaties and agreements, such as;

- Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)
- Treaty on Open Skies
- All Confidence- and Security Building Measures agreed upon in the OSCE
- Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (CWC)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC)
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti- Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Iceland implements the above-mentioned treaties and agreements as well as other international instruments and initiatives in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Iceland implements all UNSC resolutions on non-proliferation, including 1540. It sponsors and supports non-proliferation initiatives at the UN, IAEA, CTBTO and other international fora. In addition to its membership in the organisations mentioned above, Iceland is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (*NATO*), the Financial Action Task Force (*FATF*), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (*GICNT*) and supports the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (*GTRI*)

Iceland is a member of the following export control regimes:

- the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- the Australia Group (AG) and
- the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
- fully compliant applicant to the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).

Iceland supports minimizing the threat of conventional weapons through stricter controls, including by an Arms Trade Treaty.

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

Iceland supports international efforts in the area of non-proliferation through international co-operation and implementation of all international obligations in this area. Iceland supports arrangements promoting arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building applicable to the OSCE area. Iceland is a party to the

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (*CFE*), the Treaty on Open Skies, the Vienna Document 2011 and other confidence- and security building measures agreed upon in the OSCE/Forum for Security Cooperation.

## **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 defence expenditures in your State?**

Iceland has no military.

Iceland is a member of NATO. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is responsible for foreign policy aspects of defence and security and NATO matters. The Minister is constitutionally and politically responsible to the Parliament for all activity carried out by the Ministry and its subordinated organs. The Icelandic Defence Agency (*IDA*) was abolished as of 1 January 2011. On that same date, agreements entered into force allocating the defence-related functions previously carried out by the IDA to the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police and the Icelandic Coast Guard. Operations continue to be carried out within the security zone at Keflavik Airport. The Althingi (*Parliament*) adopts the State budget, including the defence budget.

#### **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?**

Iceland has no military and no military capabilities.

Iceland is active across a broad range of multilateral organisations aimed at strengthening global security, including NATO, OSCE and UN.

The Iceland Crisis Response Unit (*ICRU*) was established in 2001 as a civilian peacekeeping entity. Its objective is to maintain a roster of trained personnel available for deployment to international organisations in the field of post-conflict reconstruction and for emergency and humanitarian assistance. Since Iceland has no military forces, it contributes civilian personnel only. The ICRU's chief international partners are UN funds and programmes, (*UNICEF, UN Women, UNRWA, OCHA, UNHCR* and *WFP*) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (*NATO*), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (*OSCE*).

Prior to deployment, all civilian experts learn about the essential elements of UNSCR 1325, including gender mainstreaming. They are taught how to recognise the special needs of women in conflict areas and how to engage women in post-conflict reconstruction. The ICRU emphasises gender balance among seconded civilian personnel.

### **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?**

Iceland has no military, paramilitary and internal security forces and no intelligence services.

The Minister of Justice is the supreme head of the **police** in Iceland and is responsible to the Parliament (*the Althingi*). The Parliament is democratically elected at least every four years. The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police administers police affairs under the minister's authority. According to Article 28 of the Police Act, the Minister of Interior appoints the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, the Deputy Commissioner of the Icelandic National Police, the Commissioner of the Reykjavík Police, the Deputy Commissioner of the Reykjavík Police, the Commissioner of the Suðurnes Police and the Deputy Commissioner of the Suðurnes Police for periods of five years at a time. The Minister also appoints District Commissioners for a five-year period. The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, the Commissioner of the Reykjavík Police and the Commissioner of the Suðurnes Police shall meet the same general requirements as district commissioners. Their deputies shall meet the same general requirements, but the requirements for their education and experience are not as substantial. Chief constables, deputy chief constables and other policemen are by the relevant police commissioner. The Commissioners of Police are in charge of criminal investigation and are authorised to prosecute minor offences in the lower judicial instance. According to Article 8(1) of the Police Act, the police shall investigate offences in consultation with the prosecuting authority. Article 11(1) stipulates the general rule that the police shall assist the prosecuting authority in its work.

The Code on Criminal Procedure No. 88/2008 (hereinafter referred to as the “CCP”) contains rules concerning the appointment of public prosecutors, their role and duties. The CCP also sets forth rules concerning police investigations and criminal proceedings.

A Code of Conduct for law enforcement personnel was issued by the National Police Commissioner in 2003 and amended last in 2016. It drew inspiration from the European Code of Police Ethics. The Code regulates the handling of confidential information and various other requirements related to the professional conduct in daily work and in connection with hierarchical orders and colleagues, confidentiality etc. Some of the principles deal with corruption, gifts, conflicts of interest and bribery.

The Code does not explicitly provide for sanctions. However, it must be read in conjunction with the Police Act, as well as with the Government Employees Act No. 70/1996 which deals with disciplinary aspects concerning all Icelandic civil servant.

The Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG) has its own Code of Conduct for employees, published in 2006 which is quite similar to the above Code as regards the content and spirit.

A new code of conduct for the Icelandic Police and Coast Gúard will be issued before the end of this year.

### **The Police Supervisory Committee**

The Committee for the Supervision of the Police is an independent administrative committee. The committee took office on 1 January 2017.

One of the main roles of the committee is to receive reports from citizens concerning the alleged criminal conduct of a police officer, the working methods of the police or the conduct of a police employee.

The Committee for the Supervision of the Police also has the role of examining cases when a person dies or suffers major bodily injury in connection with the work of the police. The committee is also authorized to examine incidents and procedures of the police on its own initiative when it deems it necessary.

All cases concerning the potential criminal behavior by a police officer are forwarded to the District Prosecutor's Office for investigation.

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

The fulfilment of the above procedures are ensured by the courts and through the democratic political process.

There are several procedures for administrative control. The control is both internal and external. First, all decisions by public bodies, or bodies vested with public authority, are subject to review from a higher authority, unless otherwise provided for by law. Second, decisions made by independent authorities may in some cases be reviewed at a ministerial level and in some cases they may be referred to special review boards. Third, decisions by municipalities may in some cases be referred to the relevant ministry. Fourth, the Courts are competent to review any executive decision, whether taken by a ministry, an independent authority or a municipality. Fifth, Althingi can obtain reports on executive acts and conduct follow up with the relevant minister. And finally, decisions by the executive may be subject to review by the Althingi Ombudsman.

**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?**

Iceland has no military, paramilitary or security forces.

**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?**

Iceland has no military, paramilitary or security forces.

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

Iceland has no military service.

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

Iceland has no military service.

**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 programmes and regulations?**

Iceland has no military.

The Icelandic Red Cross regularly hosts seminars on International Humanitarian Law for various groups of professionals and students.

**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?**

Iceland has no armed forces personnel.

**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?**

Iceland has no armed forces.

**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?**

Iceland has no armed forces.

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

Iceland has no military and has no intention of establishing armed forces.

The respect for established norms of international law has always been central to Iceland's policies, including human rights and humanitarian law.

With respect to the relationship between domestic law and international law, Iceland adheres to the principle of dualism. The method most commonly used in Iceland to implement international conventions, is adaptation; the provisions of international conventions that may have, or are intended to have, effect in domestic law are transcribed in the form of general statutes, executive regulations or as appropriate, constitutional laws, or Icelandic legislation is amended in such a way as to be compatible with the undertakings involved in the relevant international convention.

### **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 Ministry for Foreign Affairs homepage includes a link to the OSCE's politico-military dimension website.

**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?**

The replies of Iceland to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct are available to the public on the OSCE website.

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

Iceland has no armed forces.

## **2. Contact information**

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

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Directorate for International and Security Affairs

Raudararstigur 25, 150 Reykjavik, Iceland

Tel: +354 545 9900

Fax: +354 562 2373

E-mail: [external@utn.stjr.is](mailto:external@utn.stjr.is)

Website: [www.mfa.is](http://www.mfa.is)

## **Section IV: Implementation of UNSCR 1325 “Women, Peace and Security”**

## **Section IV: Implementation of UNSCR 1325 “Women, Peace and Security”**

### **1.1 Women, Peace and Security**

*The following additional information on women, peace and security is provided with reference to the interpretative statement FSC.DEC/2/09, 1 April 2009, Attachment 1 and to OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in accordance with ministerial decision No. 14/04 as well as ministerial decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation - aiming at enhancing the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).*

*Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is one of the key pillars of Iceland's foreign policy. Iceland remains strongly committed to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions. Iceland adopted its first National Action Plan on resolution 1325 on 8 March 2008. Iceland's third NAP for the period 2020-2022 consisted of four pillars 1) Training and advocacy, 2) Participation, 3) Prevention, protection, relief, and recovery 4) Partnership and collaboration. Raising awareness of the importance of 1325 and increasing the knowledge of women, peace, and security in Iceland has contributed towards its implementation and furthering its objectives domestically and internationally is an integral part of the NAP. This includes informal cooperation and collaboration with civil organisations often in the context of Iceland's international development cooperation. Also, emphasis has been on an informal on the*

job training for key personnel including in areas such as crisis management, security and defence, and humanitarian work. Promoting and advocating for the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security has been high at all levels, including at the UN, NATO and the OSCE.

Ensuring full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in decision-making and the implementation of actions that promote peace, the inclusion of women in peace processes and post post-conflict reconstruction and in the prevention of conflict is another priority in the NAP. This includes seconding experts on women, peace, and security into key international organisation and into field missions or operations, including through UN and NATO. Maintaining gender balance within all of Iceland's deployment of seconded experts and personnel working within the field of security and defence has also been carefully ensured Iceland has also provided support and training for women in conflict zones for women empowerment and to promote women's participation in peace processes and reconstruction. This has been done through funding and training programs.

Prevention and protection through various projects that take into consideration the needs of women and girls in conflict zones through humanitarian support and development cooperation are part of the NAP. It also includes assistance and support for female refugees in Iceland. Finally, the NAP 2020-2022 included actions directed towards strengthening partnerships and collaboration with international and national stakeholders promoting and implementing actions relevant for women, peace, and security. A review of Iceland's third NAP 2020-2022 has already been conducted and published on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' website. The implementation of the NAP 2020-2022 was somewhat impacted by COVID-19. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for drafting the national action plan in close cooperation with key stakeholders, will incorporate the relevant past actions into the fourth NAP, which should be issued early 2024.