



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
VIENNA**

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**NOTE VERBALE**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Republic of Croatia to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 April 2016



**To:**  
**The Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE**  
**The Conflict Prevention Centre**  
**VIENNA**

**THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**  
**ANNUAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
**THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO - MILITARY**  
**ASPECTS OF SECURITY**  
**(YEAR 2015)**

**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 Republic of Croatia condemns international terrorism and is strongly committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations at national, regional and global level. In order to efficiently counter this threat, Croatia recognizes the need for strong and intensive cooperation with-within-and-among the United Nations, regional organisations and all States.

Croatia firmly supports values and objectives of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, especially the position that all counterterrorism measures must comply with the undertaken obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, and in particular with human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. Croatia has always acted in accordance with those values and in line with provisions set by the United Nations, in particular those set by Committees established pursuant to relevant Security Council Resolutions.

Regarding international agreements and conventions related to the fight against terrorism, Croatia has ratified fourteen (14) universal legal counter-terrorism instruments (UN conventions and protocols) while the two SUA 2005 protocols related to maritime security are in the ratification procedure.

Croatia is a state party to a number of agreements within the Council of Europe framework that in a broader sense relate to terrorism (along with other forms of criminal issues). Croatia has ratified Convention of the Council of Europe on the Prevention of Terrorism as well as Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation on of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism.

Enhancing international cooperation within the framework of international institutions and geopolitical alliances, Croatia actively participates in the global struggle against terrorism, through active cooperation within regional initiatives, such as SEEDM, SEI, SECI, SEEC, CEI the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the Budapest Process. Croatia is a state party to SELEC Convention, Agreement between the governments of Slovenia, Austria and Hungary on the operation of the Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation in Dolga Vas and Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Witness Protection between Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Croatia joined these initiatives and organisations to achieve more efficient results in the exchange of information relevant for the suppression of terrorism. For the same reason, the Republic of Croatia joined the Regional Expert Group with the main goal of improving police cooperation.

The international agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the European Police Office was signed on 13 January 2006 and an official agreement on strengthening judicial cooperation between Eurojust and Croatia was signed in Brussels on 9 November 2007. The purpose of this agreement is to formalise and develop closer co-operation between Croatia and Eurojust, in order to increase the effectiveness of their response to combating serious forms of international, cross-border and organised crime.

The Republic of Croatia, as a member of Interpol, actively participates in exchanges of information on the fight against terrorism. This co-operation has been especially intensified by the exchange of information with the Interpol Expert Working Group for the fight against terrorism (FUSION TASK FORCE), the aim of which is to identify terrorist organisations, groups and individuals, as well as their connections and sources of financing.

By acceding to the international anti-terrorist conventions, the European Convention on Extradition and both of its two protocols and signing numerous bilateral agreements on this topic, the Republic of Croatia has completely regulated the legal basis for the implementation of the *aut dedere aut judicare* principle.

In order to improve international co-operation in the field of the suppression of organised crime, drugs and terrorism, the Republic of Croatia has so far signed 36 governmental and 17 ministerial bilateral treaties on police co-operation with other countries and international organisations. It has signed bilateral agreements with all its neighbouring countries, while additional bilateral agreements are in the pipeline and/or about to be signed.

Bilateral Agreements on Police Cooperation include following countries: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina (two agreements), Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Chile, Egypt, India, Italy (two agreements), Latvia, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia (two agreements), Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Austria, France, Germany, Hellenic Republic, Serbia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malta, Poland and USA.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia contracted 17 bilateral international acts with the Ministries of the Interior of the following countries: Poland, Ukraine, Austria, Montenegro, Bulgaria, China (two agreements), the Russian Federation (three agreements), Netherlands, USA, and Kosovo; with local governments: Federal State of Bavaria (three agreements) and the Federal State of Baden Württemberg.

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

In addition to the obligation of implementation of relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, the prevention and suppression of terrorism and the active contribution of the Republic of Croatia to global efforts were defined among the national security priorities in the National Security Strategy adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 19 March 2002. This document underlines the importance of implementing a series of specific measures for the purpose of neutralising security risks such as terrorism and organised crime. These measures comprise the following: establishment of an efficient system of border control in the Republic of Croatia; deepening of police and intelligence cooperation with neighbouring countries on the surveillance and prevention of the activities of terrorist groups and organised crime; precise legal regulation of the status of immigrants and asylum seekers; alignment of extradition

procedures for persons accused of the said activities with procedures in other EU countries (in particular with EU procedures); linking of relevant national databases with equivalent databases in other countries, in particular EU countries.

In October 2015 the Government of the Republic of Croatia amended the National Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism. The amendments of the Strategy emphasizes new terrorist *modus operandi* such as foreign terrorist fighters, using of Internet for terrorist purposes etc. Moreover, it sets out the general framework of counterterrorism activities of the Republic of Croatia by providing guidelines for the improvement of existing, and for the development of new measures, mechanisms and instruments for the prevention and suppression of terrorism.

Croatian Parliament amended in 2015 the Criminal Code. This new document further improves previous 2008 and 2011 amendments and brings even more coherence in regards to terrorism related offences. It provides, inter alia, for the implementation of the resolution 2178 of the UN Security Council on foreign terrorist fighters, as well as the Additional Protocol of the Council of Europe's Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, CETS 196. One of the most important amendments of the Criminal Code regarding counterterrorism is the criminalisation of preparation measures for all terrorism related activities. The Criminal Procedure Act entered into force on 1 September 2011. The national legislation is in line with relevant documents of the United Nations, *EU acquis communautaire*, Council of Europe's conventions, legal standards of the European Court for Human Rights, as well as best practices of other comparatively relevant national legislations.

In the process of aligning the Croatian criminal law with the legal norms and provisions of the EU, Croatia achieved complete harmonization with the Framework Council Decision on combating terrorism of June 2002 (definition of the criminal act of terrorism; criminal acts of association in the terrorist group; criminal acts connected to terrorist activities; inciting, aiding and attempting of terrorist acts; penalties and special circumstances; liabilities of legal entities and sanctions against legal entities; competence and criminal prosecution; protection of, and assistance to, victims).

The Criminal Code introduces important changes with regard to counterterrorism provisions. Some of the novelties are: amended definition of terrorism offence, financing of terrorism and introducing of the new terrorist organization offence. Articles in new Criminal Code that incriminates terrorism are: Terrorism, Article 97; Financing of Terrorism, Article 98; Public provocation to terrorism, Article 99; Recruitment for terrorism, Article 100; Training for terrorism, Article 101; Terrorist Organization, Article 102.

Moreover, the Act on Proceedings for the Confiscation of Pecuniary Benefit Resulting from Criminal Offences and Misdemeanours also entered into force on 1 January 2011. This act has not only direct but also a preventive effect on all forms of organized crime as well as on terrorist activities.

Activities undertaken by competent national bodies with the purpose of eliminating the danger of terrorist activities are in line with the national political and legal framework, in line with all legal norms prescribed by international conventions. International treaties pertaining to the suppression of terrorism, to which Croatia is a state party, form integral part of the Croatian legal system. Pursuant to article 141 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia: "International agreements concluded and ratified in accordance with the Constitution and made public, and which are in force, shall be part of the internal legal order of the Republic of Croatia

and shall be above law in terms of legal effects.”

For the purpose of combating terrorism Croatia applies a broad scope of legislation covering different forms of criminal activities (organised crime, corruption, money laundering, trafficking in narcotics, arms, human beings etc.).

On 1 October 2004 (in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and on their Destruction) Croatian Parliament passed the Law on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Official Gazette No. 141/2004).

Croatian authorities continued their activities and have taken numerous steps in order to improve the national system of countering money laundering and financing of terrorism. One of the most important steps was conducting National Risk Assessment which included representatives of competent state authorities and agencies and private sector. Croatia conducted NRA using National Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (ML/TF) Risk Assessment Tool developed and provided by the World Bank. One of the most important steps was further development of Action Plan for implementation of National Risk Assessment and preparation of the NRA and Action Plan for adoption by Croatian Government.

The NRA Working Group (NRA WG) was composed of following competent state authorities and agencies and private sector:

- Anti-Money Laundering Office
- State Attorney's Office
- Office for Suppression Corruption and Organized Crime
- Croatian National Bank
- Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Agency (HANFA)
- The Financial Inspectorate
- Tax Administration
- Customs Administration
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice
- Security and Intelligence Agency
- County Court in Zagreb
- The Faculty of Law in Zagreb
- Office for Combating Drug Abuse
- Office for Cooperating with NGO's
- Croatian Bureau of Statistics
- Representatives of different sectors of reporting entities (banks, insurance companies, notaries public, lawyers, representatives of organisers of games of chance, brokers, authorised exchange offices, money remittance companies, Croatian Post).

In 2008, the Croatian parliament passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Law in order to fully harmonize it with the international standards and commitments (3rd EU Directive on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing, FATF Recommendations (2003), EU Regulation No.1889/2005 on controls of cash entering or leaving the Community, EU Regulation No. 1781/2006 on information on the payer accompanying transfers of funds).

Furthermore, Croatian authorities formed a Working Group on harmonisation of Croatian AMLTF Law with Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing (4th EU AML Directive), and with FATF Recommendations (2012). Working Group consists of representatives of AMLO, Financial Inspectorate, Tax Administration, CNB and HANFA. Planned deadline for adoption of the new AMLTF Law is December 2016.

### **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?**

Article 39 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of the Defense Act (Official Gazette No. 73/13 and 75/15) define the tasks of Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia:

(1) The Armed Forces shall protect the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Croatia and defend its territorial integrity.

(2) The Armed Forces may, subject to the conditions stipulated by the Constitution, international treaties and law:

- participate in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad;
- render assistance in the defence of allied states in case of armed aggression on one or more of them as stipulated under ratified international treaties;
- participate in joint efforts of the European Union, in a spirit of solidarity should any member state be exposed to a terrorist attack or had been the victim of a natural or by human activity provoked disaster;
- be used to assist the institutions of civil authority, organizations and services designated for protection and rescue operations, and to assist population in case of disasters, major accidents and accidents, search and rescue operations, transport of injured or diseased.
- Concerning international military tasks and missions in the prevention and fight against terrorism, the Republic of Croatia actively participates in different NATO, EU and UN led peace support missions and operations.

In 2014, through engagement of military and civilian personnel, Croatia continued to support the allied efforts in Afghanistan and Kosovo, EU operations and missions ATALANTA, EUPOL, EULEX and EUMM and 6 UN missions. In 2015, Croatia continued to support the allied efforts in Afghanistan and Kosovo, EU operations and missions ATALANTA, and 3 UN missions (UNFIL-Lebanon, MINUSRO-West Sahara and UNMOGIP-India-Pakistan). Furthermore, Croatia continues to support the NATO operation Active Endeavour by exchange of information with CCMAR (Naples).

We would also like to emphasize the fact that Croatia is employing significant efforts to educate and train its Armed Forces in counter-terrorism.

Concerning international military tasks and missions in the prevention and fight against terrorism, the Republic of Croatia has been actively participating in ISAF operation in Afghanistan since 2002. In December 2002, Croatian Parliament ratified the decision of the Government on the participation of a Military Police platoon of the Croatian Army in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Croatia is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding ISAF III. It has been actively involved in the NATO-led ISAF

peace support mission with a military contingent since 2003 and with a civilian component since 2005. The Croatian military contingent has assumed a variety of tasks, including training and mentoring the Afghan National Army by the specialized units tailored to the needs of the ISAF mission. Croatia deployed its first OMLT (Operational Mentoring Liaison Team) in 2006 and since then has been increasing support in training of ANSF. In December 2006, Croatian Parliament ratified the decision on increasing the military contribution to ISAF to the maximum of 200 troops in 2007, and to 300 in 2008 and in 2009. Additionally, the Croatian Parliament ratified the decision on the military contribution to ISAF to the maximum of 300 troops in 2009.

In 2010 Croatia directed its efforts to a readjustment of the structure of its forces in Afghanistan. At the beginning of September 2010, in line with the decision of Croatian Parliament from April 2010, along with its 16th contingent, Croatia increased National Contingent up to 320 troops contributing in ISAF. In December 2010 Croatian Parliament authorized the increase of Croatian national military contingent from 320 to 350 soldiers. In September 2010, within the 16th contingent, in support of new tasks and increased engagement, Croatia deployed 2 Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams - POMLTs (which include also the engagement of Croatian Ministry of Interior). Croatia also deployed additional contribution to NTM-A through engagement of teams of instructors and mentors for helicopter and logistics training (Mi-17 Air Mentor Team, ANA Engineers School, ANA Logistic School), as well as team of instructors and mentors to the ANA Military Police School. In March 2011 Croatian team of instructors took over the ANA MP School as a Lead Nation (within the Adriatic Charter - A5 initiative). In December 2011, within the 17th contingent, Croatia deployed a team of instructors and mentors to the Combined Forces Command Artillery Team.

In 2012, the application of the SFA model changed the composition and tasks of the components of the OMLT and POMLT, they were renamed into the MAT and PAT. Former task of mentoring has been replaced by the task of counselling. During the 2012, there were a significant strength changes, as well as structural changes of troop components. The total strength of the 19th HRVCON was 344 troops and the total strength of the 20th HRVCON was 291 troops.

During 2013, the 21st and 22nd rotations of the military contingent were deployed in Afghanistan. The twenty-first Croatian Contingent in ISAF with its tour from March to September 2013 counted 215 troops. Within the 21st contingent, for the first time, a Police Advisory Team was sent to National Police Coordination Center. CAF also started with assignment in Consolidated Fielding Center with one Coy Level Embedded Training Team, as well as with some staff officers in Combined Special Operations Task Force-10 and NATO Special Operations Component Command. The 22nd Croatian Contingent in ISAF with rotation in September 2013 was additionally reduced by few troops and by the end of 2013, there were 188 troops. By the end of 2013, the total participation of CAF in ISAF, Afghanistan, was 4275 troops (150 of them were females).

Due to changes in the structure and size of ISAF forces during the transformation phase from the ISAF Operation to the Resolute Support Mission, in 2014 there was decreasing tendency of number of Croatian troops deployed in Afghanistan. Also, the main focus in 2014 was transformed to training, advising and assisting Afghan Special Police Units. Therefore, for the first time in March 2014 there was deployed Special Operations Task Unit. During 2014 two contingents were deployed in Afghanistan, 23rd and 24th HRVCON. The 23rd HRVCON,

with its rotation from March to September, counted 157 troops. During its engagement there were some further troops reduction but also were three new troop components - Multinational Military Police Battalion NATO Special Civil Representative Office Assistants, COMISAF Gender Advisor and COMISAF GENAD Close Protection Team. The 24th HRVCON additionally followed troops reduction so it counted 92 troops at the end of the year. Also, the troops structure has been significantly changed and there were also few new troop components as it follows: Train, Advise and Assist Regional Combat Battle School Advisory Team, Police HQ Advisory Team (Hybrid) to AUP Type A Police HQ and ANA Special Operations Kandak Special Operations Advisory Team. Regarding the mission Resolute Support, we still maintaining our role in force protection units at Camp Marmal, but with reduced size. Total number of Croatian troops in 2014 (22nd, 23rd and 24th HRVCON) was 438 (21 of them were females). With our troops there were 57 Montenegro troops incorporated into Croatian force structure as a part of the Force Protection Train, Advise and Assist Coy in Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif. Total participation of CAF in ISAF till the end of 2014 was 4523 (162 of them were females).

Our Parliamentary Decision from November 2014 authorizes maximum of 120 personnel to be deployed to NATO-led Resolute Support Mission. The rotation and handover between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Croatian Contingent was in the first half of March 2015. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> HRVCON, beside Montenegro, there are some additional troops of our partners from region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Albania) who served with Croatian troops together in Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif. The 2<sup>nd</sup> HRVCON with its rotation from March to September, counted 109 personnel. During engagement of 2<sup>nd</sup> HRVCON there was one further troop reduction (Special Operations Kandak) but also was added one new troop component – Rotary Wing Mi-17 Air Advisory Team.

Furthermore, our Parliamentary Decision from September 2015 authorizes maximum 110 personnel until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and maximum 70 personnel from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 for engagement in Resolute Support Mission. At the same time, our Parliament made a Decision about engagement of maximum 80 personnel for assignment members of CAF to NCS (NATO Command Structure) which involves Deployable Communications Module (DCM).

Total number of Croatian troops in 2015 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> HRVCON) were 313 (13 of them were females). With our troops there were 51 Montenegro troops incorporated into Croatian force structure as a part of the Force Protection Train and Advise and Assist Coy and Bosnia and Herzegovina troops, Macedonia troops and Albania troops which were part of Situational Awareness and Recovery Operations Centre (SAROC).

In January 2016, 5 DCM personnel of Croatian Armed Forces was deployed to Afghanistan under command NATO CIS Group. The handover between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> HRVCON will be in the middle of March 2016.

The Republic of Croatia has actively participated in KFOR operation in Kosovo since 2009. In July 2008, Croatian Parliament ratified the decision on the military contribution to KFOR to the maximum of 20 troops and two helicopters; in May 2011 as well as in December 2012 Croatian Parliament ratified the decision on the military contribution to KFOR to the maximum of 25 troops and two helicopters.

By the end of 2014, CAF had actively participated in KFOR operation in Kosovo with the



total strength of 346 troops (eleven of them were females). The principal task of the Croatian contingent is hauling people and cargo. The contingent consists of three helicopter crews, an aviation-technical team for maintenance, national support element, staff officers and two transport helicopters Mi-171-Sh.

Our current Parliamentary Decision from December 2014 authorizes a maximum of 35 personnel to be deployed to Operation KFOR. Croatia has decided to maintain its presence in KFOR with helicopter assets as long as it is necessary for the success of this important mission. Rotations between Croatian contingents in 2014 in KFOR were made as follows: between XIV and XV contingent from 12 to 20 March 2014, between XV and XVI contingent from 16 to 24 July 2014 and between XVI and XVII contingent from 21 November to 3 December 2014. Croatian XVII contingent counts 18 troops with two helicopters (Mi-171Sh) plus 5 staff officers among whom there is one Assistant Chief of Staff J1/J4/ENG deployed in November 2014, one senior advisor in NLAT-TRADOC (NATO Liaison and Advisory Team - Training and Doctrine Command) deployed in September 2014, one officer for air operation in JOC/J-3 deployed in July 2014, one officer for intelligence in J-2 deployed in August 2014 and one intelligence officer in ACCI deployed in September 2014. In addition to that, two staff NCOs were also deployed along with XVII contingent, one as administrative NCO deployed in November 2014 and one as Staff assistant to MOVCON MILU deployed in September 2014. Our current Parliamentary Decision from September 2015 is the same as previous Decision (authorizes maximum 35 personnel).

In 2015, 3 contingents (19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> HRVCON) were deployed to Operation KFOR in March, July and November with approximately 23 personnel in each contingent. During engagement 20<sup>th</sup> HRVCON, Croatian Armed Forces assigned new position in KFOR HQ – Logistics and Infrastructure Advisor.

As a NATO member, Croatia continues to fulfil its commitment to maintaining the training and readiness levels of the units designated for NRF (NATO Response Force) rotations.

At the beginning of 2011, the total strength of Croatia's contribution to 7 UN peacekeeping missions consisted of 120 peacekeepers. Croatia participated in UNMOGIP, MINURSO, UNDOF, UNMIS, UNMIL, UNIFIL and UNFICYP. In 2011 Croatia's military personnel completed its contribution in UN peacekeeping mission UNMIS in Sudan, so by the end of 2011 Croatia had participated in 6 missions with 116 soldiers. The largest Croatia's UN contribution remains in the buffer zone between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights (UNDOF), where in 2011 a total of 95 Croatian soldiers participated per rotation (as part of the Austrian battalion -AUSBATT and a staff officer in UNDOF HQ). At the end of the year 2011, Croatian Parliament decided on participation in UN missions for the period 2012-2013, with the number of 146 troops from troops possible to engage in six current missions and mission UNMISS established in South Sudan.

At the beginning of 2012, the total strength of Croatia's contribution to 6 UN peacekeeping missions consisted of 119 peacekeepers. Croatia participated in UNMOGIP, MINURSO, UNDOF, UNMIL, UNIFIL and UNFICYP. In May 2012 (from May to August) Croatia increased its participation to 7 UN peacekeeping missions with two peacekeepers in UNSMIS (Syria). Grand total of Croatia's peacekeepers was 121. On the August 2012 UNSMIS completed its existing. Croatia's contribution decreased to 6 UN peacekeeping missions. Further to 2011. The largest Croatia's UN contribution remains in the buffer zone

between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights (UNDOF). In this way at the end of the year 2012 the total strength of Croatia's contribution to 6 UN peacekeeping missions consisted of 119 peacekeepers.

At the beginning of 2014 CAF contributed to 5 UN peacekeeping missions consisted of 20 peacekeepers. On the 25 September, due to Government Decision, Croatia completed serving in UN mission UNFICYP in Cyprus and 1st October 2014 in UNMIL in Liberia. At the end of the 2014 Croatia took part in 3 UN missions consisted of 16 peacekeepers. Croatian Parliament decided on participation in UN missions for the period 2014-2015, with the number of 32 troops possible to engage in 6 missions. During 2015, Croatia participated in 3 UN missions with 17 military personnel; in UNIFIL with 1 Military Liaison Officer, MINURSO 7 Military Observers and in UNMOGIP with 9 military personnel on position of military observers among which Croatia has deployed 1 Medical Officer and in UNMOGIP Deputy Chief military Observer- DCMO.

According to the decision of the Croatian parliament dated 3 April 2009, the Republic of Croatia participates in the European Union military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast (Operation Atalanta). Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the European Union on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast (Operation Atalanta), was signed in Brussels on 27 July 2009. It was ratified by Croatian parliament on 29 January 2010 and published on 17 February 2010 (Official Gazette No. 1/2010). In 2009, Croatian Navy officers were embarked on French and Belgium ship participating in operation Atalanta and one staff officer was deployed in the Atalanta HQ Operation Center in Northwood (UK). In 2010, Croatian Navy officers were embarked on Dutch, Italian and Spain ship. Two staff officers were also deployed in the Atalanta HQ Operation Center in Northwood (UK). During the 2011, only two staff officers were deployed in the Atalanta HQ Operation Center in Northwood (UK). During 2012 there were two staff officers deployed in the Atalanta HQ Operation Center in Northwood (UK) and four officers were embarked on a war ships (German, French, Italian and Belgian ship) and one officer in the German logistics base in Djibouti. During the 2013, two staff officers were deployed in the Atalanta HQ Operation Center in Northwood (UK). Until the end of 2013, Croatia had deployed 19 Navy officers and NCOs in the operation. Furthermore, in 2013 Croatia was preparing an AVPD team to be deployed, according to our current plans, in September 2014. Our current Parliamentary Decision from November 2013 authorizes a maximum of 25 personnel to be deployed to Operation ATALANTA in 2014.

Regarding the training mission in Mali, Croatia is supporting EU's efforts in training and equipping Malian Armed Forces, by providing donations to the Malian Armed Forces. Croatia already delivered one donation in June 2013 (in total 50 pistols cal 7,62 mm, 1000 assault rifles 7,62 mm, 50 mortars cal 60 mm and 10000 mortar mines cal 60 mm) and now we are preparing another one.

Until the end of 2014, Croatia had deployed 36 Navy officers and NCOs in the operation among whom one was a woman. Our Parliamentary Decision from December 2014 authorizes maximum of 25 personnel to be deployed to operation ATALANTA in 2015 and 2016. During 2015, two officers were deployed in OHQ in Northwood (one in January and one in August) and one Navy officer was deployed in January 2015 on Dutch Navy ship Johan De Witt. Twelve members of AVPD (Autonomous Vessel Protection Detachment) team were deployed

on Cypriot commerce ship MSM Douro from December 2014 to April 2015. The rotation plan in 2016 is similar to the one in 2015.

In addition to its participation in the operations, Croatia puts a special emphasis on the active contribution to the development of the EU battle groups. Technical Agreement about participation in Nordic Battle Group with the Kingdom of Sweden was signed in December 2010. During 2010 national preparation and training phase for EU BG was conducted and Croatia participated in the Nordic Battle Group which was in stand-by period at the beginning of 2011 and maintained that status until 30 June 2011. Croatia contributed to the Nordic Battle Group through the engagement of two helicopters equipped with the corresponding MEDEVAC teams (medical evacuation teams). This was the first Croatian participation in the EU BGs. In the second half of 2012 Croatia also participated to the EU BG with 250 personnel with Germany as Lead Nation. A Memorandum of Understanding concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of EU BG 2/2012 has been signed by the participating countries in July 2011. Croatia will also participate in EU BG 2/2016 and EU BG 1/2017, which will be in standby status in the second half of 2016 with Germany as the Lead Nation and in the first half of 2017 with Italy as the Lead Nation. Memorandum of Understanding concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of EU BG 2/2016 is signed.

The current Decision of the Croatian President based on Parliamentary proposal from September 2013 authorizes a maximum of 250 personnel to be engaged to EU BG 2/2016 in 2016. The Government of Republic of Croatia, in August 2013, accepted the Letter of Intent about forming DECI EUBG I/2017, with the participation of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. The Government of Republic of the Croatia, in August 2013, accepted the Letter of Intent about forming DECI EU BG I/2017, with the participation of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia.

**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: Border controls: Travel document security: Container and supply chain security: Security of radioactive sources: Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes: Legal co-operation including extradition: Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations:**

The Interagency Working Group for Suppression of Terrorism is the Government's main body responsible for coordinating national mechanisms for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1566 and other important documents in the domain of the UN, the EU, NATO, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe. In addition, the International Restrictive Measures Act was adopted on 21 November, 2008. This Act enables a more comprehensive and efficient implementation of the sanctions regimes (including the sanctions regime against Al' Qaida and Taliban, UNSC Resolution 1267), counting as well existing counterterrorism sanctions, that are adopted within the framework of the UN and the European Union (and other international organizations), including also those restrictive measures that the Republic of Croatia introduces in accordance with other obligations that are in conformity with international law.

In the Law on Coast Guard, passed by Croatian Parliament at the session on 03 October 2007 (Official Gazette No. 109/07 24 October 2007), in Chapter IV, the Republic of Croatia regulates the scope of work and assignments of the Coast Guard in the "Suppression and

Prohibition of Terrorism, International Organized Crime and Proliferation of the Weapons for Mass Destruction”, and in Chapter V “Suppression of Piracy and Other Forms of Open Seas Usage for Non-peaceful Purposes”.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted in year 2009 National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy and Action Plan. In the same period the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the inter-ministerial National Authority coordinated by the MFEA with a responsibility for ensuring effective implementation of above mentioned documents.

The close link between terrorism and other forms of criminal activities has always been in the focus of all counter-terrorism strategies and effective measures. Since the main prerequisite for the preparation of terrorist actions is the accumulation of financial means, it is obvious why it must be dealt with the outmost vigorousness and resolve. To this end, a careful consideration must also be given to the full protection of human rights, especially to the right of personal privacy. For this reason, the Republic of Croatia attaches great importance to the legal basis for the prevention of financing terrorism, which, in addition to being contained in several international agreements, is also contained in the Criminal Code, the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act, the Banking Act, the National Payment System Act, the Foreign Exchange Act, and the Act on Seizure.

The supervision over transactions pursuant to the Foreign Exchange Act is exercised by the Croatian National Bank and the Ministry of Finance - Financial Inspectorate and Customs Administration. The Croatian National Bank supervises banks and the Financial Inspectorate supervises exchange offices. Supervisory bodies exchange information needed in the process of supervision and inform each other of any irregularities found in the course of supervision, provided such findings are relevant to the work of the other supervisory body.

In December 1997, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) was established within Ministry of Finance, as an independent administrative and analytical body authorised for receiving information on financial transaction from obligated entities, relevant state authorities - supervisory authorities within the Ministry of Finance (Financial Police, Customs, Tax Department, Supervision of Foreign Transactions Department), the Ministry of Interior, and appropriate authorities and organizations, as well as to international organizations responsible for preventing money laundering. The Croatian Parliament has passed Anti Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act at its session held on 15 July 2008. The Act entered into force on 1 January 2009. It prescribes measures and actions in banking and non-banking financial operations, money-related and other operations taken for the purpose of the prevention and detection of money laundering and terrorist financing, reporting entities subject to the Act obliged to implement the measures and actions, supervision over reporting entities in their implementation of measures and actions in banking and non-banking financial operations, cash and other operations, which measures and actions shall be taken for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing prevention and detection, tasks and jurisdictions of the Anti-Money Laundering Office as a Financial Intelligence Unit international co-operation of the Office, jurisdictions and actions of other state bodies and legal persons with public authorities in the detection of money laundering and terrorist financing, and other issues of significance for the development of the preventive system within the scope of money laundering and terrorist financing prevention. The provisions contained in the above mentioned Act concerning money laundering prevention equally apply to the countering of terrorist financing for the purpose of preventing and detecting activities of individuals, legal persons,

groups and organizations in relation with terrorist financing.

Croatian authorities formed a Working Group on harmonisation of Croatian AMLTF Law with Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing (4th EU AML Directive), and with FATF Recommendations (2012). Working Group consists of representatives of AMLO, Financial Inspectorate, Tax Administration, CNB and HANFA. Planned deadline for adoption of the new AMLTF Law is December 2016.

The Anti-Money Laundering Office is an independent organisational unit within the structure of the Ministry of Finance, performing tasks aimed at money laundering and terrorist financing prevention, as well as other tasks as provided for in the Act. As a Financial Intelligence Unit, AMLO collects, stores, analyses and submits data, information and documentation on suspicious transactions to competent government bodies for further proceeding for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing prevention and detection in keeping with the provisions contained in the Act. In the money laundering and terrorist financing prevention and detection, AMLO cooperates with the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of the Interior - the General Police Directorate, the supervisory services of the Ministry of Finance (the Financial Inspectorate, the Customs Administration and the Tax Administration), the Croatian Financial Services Supervision Agency, the Croatian National Bank, the Security-Intelligence Agency, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and with other state bodies. For the purpose of achieving the strategic and operational objectives, the above-mentioned bodies (including AMLO) signed a protocol on cooperation and on the establishment of an inter-institutional money laundering and terrorist financing working group. Furthermore, AMLO has a timely access, direct or indirect, to financial, administrative and security data, information and documentation relative to the implementation of the Law and regulations passed on the basis of the Act for the purpose of the AMLO's tasks performance, including the suspicious transactions analyses.

Within the framework of international cooperation in the field of global prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, the Anti-Money Laundering Office as a Croatian Financial Intelligence Unit has actively participated in the work of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) since June of 1998. Furthermore, Anti-Money Laundering Office is a member of decentralised computer network FIU.NET, and uses its secure facilities for the exchange of information with FIUs from Member States.

International standards pertaining to the prevention, uncovering and punishing money laundering are incorporated in the Croatian respective legislation (UN Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime; Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism; FATF 40 + IX Recommendations ; 3<sup>rd</sup> EU AML Directive etc.). The new AMLTF Law will incorporate the 4<sup>th</sup> EU AML Directive as well as FATF Recommendations adopted in 2012.

International police co-operation is defined in the Police Act, the Criminal Proceedings Act, and The Act on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, as well as in bilateral agreements and international acts mentioned under 1. (b). As of July 1, 2013 the Republic of Croatia as new EU Member State cooperate with European Police Office on the basis of

Council decision on establishment of EUROPOL and which replaced Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and EUROPOL signed in 2006.

**Bilateral agreements on police cooperation:**

- Bulgaria in combating organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and terrorism, signed at Sofia on 26 November 1996. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 10/03, entered into force on 1 August 1996 (OG/IT 15/03).
- Czech Republic on co-operation in combating organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism as well as other kinds of dangerous criminal activities, signed at Prague on 30 November 1999. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 8/01, entered into force on 1 September 2002 (OG/ IT 11/02).
- Egypt on co-operation in combating organized crime, signed at Cairo on 22 November 2004. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 5/05, entered into force on 30 July 2005 (OG/ IT 9/05)
- India in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international terrorism and organized crime, signed at New Delhi on 4 May 2001. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 2/02, entered into force on 21 February 2002 (OG/ IT 5/02).
- Italy on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and organized crime, signed at Rome on 28 May 1993. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 13/93, entered into force on 4 May 1994.
- Latvia on cooperation in combating terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and organized crime, signed at Zagreb on 23 February 2001. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 11/03, entered into force 15 August 2003 (OG/ IT 17/03).
- Macedonia on police cooperation signed at Skopje on 28 May 2012. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 5/2013, entered into force on 18 August 2013 (OG/ IT 9/2013).
- Romania on cooperation in combating terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as other kinds of illegal activities, signed at Zagreb on 30 September 2000. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 6/02, entered into force on 21 May 2002 (OG/ IT 7/02)
- Slovakia on cooperation in combating organized crime, signed at Bratislava on 30 November 2000. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 5/01. Entered into force on 30 November 2011. Additional Agreement signed at Zagreb on 17 Nov 2010, entered into force on 15 June 2011.
- Slovenia in combating terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and drug abuse, as well as organized crime, signed at Zagreb on 4 June 1993. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 13/93, entered into force on 29 May 1994 (OG/ IT 1/97); and Agreement on cross-border police cooperation, signed at Berlin on 6 Nov 2002, entered into force on 16 April 2003.
- Sweden on co-operation in combating crime, signed at Zagreb on 3 October 2005. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 9/06, entered into force on 30 November 2006 (OG/ IT 1/07)
- Cooperation in combating serious crime, organized crime, trafficking in narcotic drugs, trafficking in persons, trade in human beings, international terrorism and related issues of mutual concern - concluded between the Croatian Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance and Public Attorney's Office on one side, and the representatives of the Police Administration of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the other, signed at Zagreb on 1 March 2002. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 11/02, entered into force on 1 March 2002.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina on co-operation in border control, signed at Sarajevo on 29 March 2007. Ratified and published in OG/IT 10/07, entered into force on 16 December 2007 (OG/ IT

1/08) and the Agreement on co-operation in combating border crime, signed at Sarajevo on 17 September 2010, entered into force on 28 January 2012.

- Hungary on cooperation in combating cross border crime, signed at Heviz, on 4 October 2008. Ratified and published in the OG/IT 4/09, entered into force on 7 August 2009 (OG/ IT 8/2009).
- France on Police Cooperation, signed at Paris on 10 October 2007. Ratified and published in OG/IT 7/08, entered into force on 1 September 2009 (OG/ IT 7/09).
- Greece on co-operation in combating illicit international trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international terrorism and organized crime, signed at Athens on 23 November 1998. Ratified and published in OG/IT 11/09, entered into force on 3 January 2010 (OG/ IT 13/09)
- Israel on co-operation in combating organized crime, signed at Jerusalem, on 16 September 2009. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 1/10, entered into force on 1 April 2010 (OG/ IT 3/2010)
- Serbia on police co-operation, signed at Rijeka, on 25 September 2009. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 1/10, entered into force on 7 May 2010 (OG/ IT 3/10)
- Moldova on co-operation in combating organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism as well as other kinds of serious crime, signed at Chisinau on 16 February 2006. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 1/10, entered into force on 28 March 2010 (OG/ IT 4/10)
- Malta on the Fight against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Organized Crime and International Terrorism, signed at Zagreb on 7 April 2010. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 9/10, entered into force on 5 January 2011.
- USA Agreement on the promotion of cooperation in preventing and combating serious crime, signed at Washington DC on 18 Feb 2011, entered into force on 19 Aug 2011.
- Spain, Agreement on fight against crime and on security issues signed at Madrid on 1 jan 2012, entered in to force on 1 Jan2013.
- Montenegro, Agreement on police cooperation, signed at Budva on 17 March 2011, entered into force on 27 Feb 2013.
- Germany, Agreement on cooperation in combating organized and serious crime, signed at Berlin on 10 March 2009, entered into force on 28 June 2012
- Kazakhstan, on the cooperation in suppressing organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism and other dangerous criminal activities, signed at Astana on 5 July 2007, entered into force on 20 June 2012.
- Belgium, Agreement on Police Cooperation signed at Zagreb on 19 October 2004, ratified and published in the OG/IT 5/2005 and entered into force on 01 December 2013 (OG/IT 12/13)

**List of bilateral agreements on interim bases:**

- Albania in the fight against terrorism, illegal trafficking and abuse in drugs and organized crime, signed at Zagreb on 14 December 1993. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 6/94, entered into force on an interim bases on 14 December 1993.

**The following bilateral agreements have not entered into force (only signed or ratified):**

- Chile in the prevention and control of abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, signed at Santiago on 15 June 2001. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 11/04, not entered into force

- Ukraine in combating terrorism, trafficking in narcotic drugs and drug abuse, as well as organized crime, signed at Kiev on 26 October 1993. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 3/94, not entered into force.
- Turkey on co-operation in combating international trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international terrorism and organized crime, signed at Ankara on 7 November 1995. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 7/96, not entered into force.
- Sri Lanka on co-operation in combating illicit international trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international terrorism and organized crime, signed at Colombo on 7 May 2001. Ratified and published in the OG/ IT 4/02, not entered into force.
- Poland on cooperation in the fight against crime, signed at Dubrovnik on 9 July 2010. Not entered into force.
- Italy signed at Zagreb on 05 July 2011.

**List of bilateral agreements between the Ministries of Interior:**

- Baden-Württemberg on cooperation and improvement of standards of police performance, signed on 18 November 1998.
- Bavarian Ministry of Internal Affairs on fight against international organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs and terrorism, signed in München on 28 November 1994, new Declaration signed at Zagreb on 24 May 2000, as well as the Joint Declaration on International Police Cooperation signed at Kašteli on 8 August 2012.
- Bulgaria on co-operation in police matters, signed in 2005.
- Montenegro on co-operation in police matters, signed at Zagreb, 22 November 2005.
- China, signed in Beijing on 26 February 1997; and with the Ministry of Public Security on Police Cooperation, signed at Beijing on 03 Dec 2012.
- Poland, signed in Warsaw on 8 November 1994
- Service of the Russian Federation for Narcotics Traffic Control on cooperation in combating illicit traffic of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, signed at Zagreb, 7 July 2007; Agreement on Cooperation, signed at Istanbul on 23 Nov 2012 and the Protocol on Cooperation between 2013 and 2015 signed in Moscow on 27 June 2013.
- Ukraine, signed at Zagreb on 24 May 1993.
- Netherlands in the field of internal affairs, signed at Cannes, France, on 7 July 2008, on combating crime, signed in Zagreb on 16 July 2009.
- Kosovo, signed at Pristina on 5 October 2009.

**Multilateral agreements:**

- Border Crime and the Chapter on Organization and power of the Southeast Cooperation Initiative (SECI) Regional Centre for Fighting Cross-Border Crime, signed in Bucharest on 16 November 1999 and ratified on 27 September 2000 (Official Gazette 104/00);
- South East European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), signed in Bucharest on 9 December 2009, ratified and published on 16 March 2011 in the OG/IT 5/2011, entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 7 October 2011 (OG/IT 12/2011);
- Trilateral Center Dolga Vas - Agreement between the governments of Slovenia, Austria and Hungary on the Center for Police Cooperation in Dolga Vas, agreed upon in Bruxelles on 8



November 2007, ratified and published on April 20 2011 in OG/IT 6/2011, entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 12 September 2011 (OG/IT 1172011);

- Danube Police-Security Coordination Center, Agreement between the governments of Hungary and Croatia (open for all Danube states), signed in Matrahazi on 11 October 2012, ratified and published on 10 May 2013 in OG/IT 3/2013, entered into force on 26 June 2013 (OG/IT 7/2013);
- Agreement on the Witness Protection Cooperation, between Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, signed in Stirin on 24 May 2012, ratified and published on 6 November 2013 in OG/IT 11/2013, entered into force on 1 February 2014 (OG/IT 13/2014).

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

### **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.**

The Republic of Croatia acceded to the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States Participating in the Partnership for Peace Regarding the Status of their Forces with the Additional Protocol (PfP SOFA). The Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 10 February 2002 (Official Gazette-IT No. 14/2001).

After becoming a NATO member, the Republic of Croatia acceded to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces (NATO SOFA). It was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 10 July 2009 (Official Gazette/IT No. 7/09). The Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 22 October 2009 (Official Gazette/IT No.11/09).

The Republic of Croatia acceded to the Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty. It was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 10 July 2009 (Official Gazette-IT No. 7/09). The Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 22 October 2009 (Official Gazette-IT No. 11/09).

The Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement on the Status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, National Representatives and International Staff. It was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 01 October 2010 (Official Gazette-IT No. 7/2010). The Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 29 October 2010 (Official Gazette-IT No. 9/2010).

The Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement on the Status of Missions and Representatives of Third States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 11 December 2009 (Official Gazette-IT No. 13/2009). The Agreement entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 28 January 2010 (Official Gazette-IT No. 2/2010).

The Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation regarding Atomic Information with Secret Technical Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation regarding Atomic Information and Confidential Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation regarding Atomic Information. The Agreement with Annexes was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 10 December 2010 (Official Gazette/IT

No. 10/2010). The Agreement with Annexes entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 20 January 2011 (Official Gazette/ITNo. 1/2011).

The Republic of Croatia signed the Protocol Amending the Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation regarding Atomic Information. The Protocol was ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 11 May 2012 (Official Gazette/IT No. 5/2012).

Croatian Parliament, at its session of 16 June 2010 (Official Gazette No. 76/2010, 05/2014), adopted the Amendments of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia. The amendments to Article 7 are related to the powers of state government bodies to make decisions concerning deployment and operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

The amended Article 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 85/2010 -consolidated text) states: The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia shall protect its sovereignty and independence and defend its territorial integrity”.

Assistance in the protection of sovereignty and independence and defence of territorial integrity may also be rendered to the Republic of Croatia by allied states pursuant to ratified international treaties.

The armed forces of allied states may cross the national border and enter the Republic of Croatia or operate within the national borders thereof as stipulated under ratified international treaties, pursuant to a decision by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the prior consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

The Republic of Croatia may render assistance to allied states in case of armed aggression on one or more thereof as stipulated under ratified international treaties, pursuant to a decision of the Croatian Parliament proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the prior consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia may cross its national borders or operate across its borders pursuant to a decision of the Croatian Parliament proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the prior consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

The decision specified in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of the Article shall be made by the Croatian Parliament by a majority vote of all of its members.

Insofar as the President of the Republic of Croatia denies the consent specified in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of this Article, the Croatian Parliament shall make the decision by a two-thirds majority of votes of all of its members.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia may cross the national borders of the Republic of Croatia for the purpose of military exercises and training within the framework of international organizations to which the Republic of Croatia has acceded or is in the process of acceding pursuant to international treaties and for the purpose of rendering humanitarian assistance, pursuant to a decision by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the prior consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Under the circumstances specified in Articles 17 and 101 of the Constitution, the Armed Forces may, if necessitated by the nature of a threat, be deployed to assist the police and other state bodies.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia may also be deployed to assist firefighting and rescue operations and surveillance and protection of the rights of the Republic of Croatia at sea.

The defence structure, chain of command, administration and democratic oversight of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia shall be regulated by the Constitution and law.

The participation of members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia in peacekeeping operations and other activities abroad was regulated by the Act on the Participation of Members of the Armed Forces, Police, Civil Protection and Civil Servants in Peacekeeping Operations and other Activities Abroad (Official Gazette No. 33/2002 and 92/2010) but, in accordance with Article 126 of the Defence Act (Official Gazette No. 73/2013 and 75/2015), on the date of entry into force of this Act, the provisions relating to members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia cease to apply. This legal sphere is now fully regulated by the Defence Act.

Article 46 paragraph (1) of the Defence Act regulates the use of the Armed Forces as follows:“(1) The Croatian Parliament, the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence decide on the use of the Armed Forces in accordance with the Constitution and this Act.”

In addition to regulating the use of the Armed Forces in a state of war and state of imminent threat, an entire Section of the Defence Act is dedicated to crossing the state border and operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 49 of the Defence Act regulates the decision making process concerning deployment and operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia as follows:

“(1) The Armed Forces may cross the borders of the Republic of Croatia and act across its borders pursuant to a decision of the Croatian Parliament proposed by the Government subject to a prior consent of the President of the Republic.

(2) Based on a decision of the Croatian Parliament referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the President of the Republic orders the use of the Armed Forces.”

The provisions of the Defence Act regulate the use of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia for the following purposes:

- in providing assistance in defence of allied states (Article 51);
- in providing assistance in defence of the member states of the European Union (Article 52);
- in accordance with the European Union's solidarity clause (Article 53);
- in building international security (Article 54),; and
- in providing international humanitarian assistance (Article 56).

By April 2014, Croatia participates in a total of 11 international missions and operations: 6 UN (MINURSO, UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNMIL, UNMOGIP, MINUSTAH), 2 NATO (KFOR and ISAF) and 3 EU (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, EULEX and EUPOL), with 220 members of the Armed Forces, 22 Police Officers and 1 diplomat (female).

During 2015, Croatian Armed Forces participates in a total of 6 missions and operations: 3 UN (MINURSO, UNIFIL and UNMOGIP), 2 NATO (KFOR and RS) and 1 EU (EUNAVOR ATALANTA) with cca 300 personnel.

During 2015, our Parliamentary Decision from July 2015 authorizes maximum of 50 personnel with Croatian Navy ship "Andrija Mohorovičić" to be deployed to Joint Operation European Patrolling Network "TRITON" in the Mediterranean Sea. The 1st HRVCON started the operation 1st of august 2015 and came back to the Republic of Croatia three months later. It was an ordinary humanitarian operation taken with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia. Croatian troop was accompanied with seven civilian policemen in the operation.

### **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.**

The Republic of Croatia regulated the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building in its strategic documents. The Republic of Croatia has signed all relevant treaties in the field of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (NPT, CTBT, BTWC, CWC). The said documents are all incorporated in the national legislation. The Republic of Croatia has also renounced the use of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions (Ottawa Convention, CCM). The Republic of Croatia consistently performs its obligations assumed in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and takes an active part in the PSI.

Through the committed implementation of major international conventions, protocols and regimes on the prohibition of particular kinds of weapons and strict export control regimes, Croatia actively contributes to minimizing threats on all levels, as an element of indivisible security and in good faith.

Croatian Government adopted The National Strategy and the Action Plan for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction on 10 January 2013. The Strategy defines the general framework of actions of the Republic of Croatia pertaining to the suppression of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and provides guidelines for improvement of the existing and development of new measures, mechanisms and instruments for the prevention and suppression of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Strategy provides guidelines for strengthening coordination and integration of activities of state and public authorities and other legal entities in the Republic of Croatia, and cooperation with bodies of other states and international organisations. The Strategy is an integral part of the entire national crisis management system. The Strategy shows how Croatia contributes to the global, regional and national security through its active and responsible approach to international cooperation in WMD non-proliferation, meeting all of the commitments stemming from the UN Security Council resolutions, and adaptation to the relevant NATO and EU standards. The

Strategy and the Action Plan represent guidelines for improving the system on the level of state administration bodies, better cooperation and coordination between them, as well as cooperation between the relevant Croatian bodies, relevant bodies from other countries and international organizations. Following the Strategy, National Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation was established and consists of representatives of relevant state administration bodies.

Croatia, USEUCOM and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, during 2014, started joint regional outreach project "*Counter WMD Network of Governmental experts*" for the countries of the SEE with aim to assist them in drafting and developing national strategies and action plans for non-proliferation of WMD.

The aim of the Network is to assist members with the implementation of international obligations, developing strategic documents, building national capacities and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of non-proliferation.

Croatia is a state party to:

- 1) Arms Trade Treaty, ratified 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 (Official Gazette No. 1/2014);
- 2) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and on their Destruction, dated 4th December, 1997 - ratified 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1998 (Official Gazette No. 7/98);
- 3) 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.

Regardless of the Aim from 10th October 1980 that came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1983, and the five Protocols to the Convention - the Protocol on Non- Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) from 1980, the Protocol on Prohibition or Restriction on Use of Landmines, Booby Traps and other Devices (AP II) from 1980, the Protocol on Prohibition or Restriction on Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) from 1980, Amended Protocol II from 1996, entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 25 October 2002 (Official Gazette/IT No. 13/2011) and the Supplementary Protocol IV on Blinding Lasers Weapons from 1995 (entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 25 October 2002); Amendment to Article 1 of the 2001 Convention and the 2003 Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V), (Official Gazette No. 11/2004), entered into force for Croatia on 12 November 2006 (Official Gazette No. 5/2006);

4) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction from 1993 dated 13 January 1993, ratified 10 March 1995 (Official Gazette No. 4/95);

5) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction dated 10 April 1972 (Official Gazette SFRJ/International Agreements No. 43/74, Official Gazette No. 12/93- note of succession);

6) Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III)- ratified by Croatian Parliament on 30 March 2007; entered into force for Croatia on 13 December 2007 (Official Gazette/IT

No. 7/07);

7) 1925 Geneva Protocol (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare) (Official Gazette No. 7/06), ratified by Croatian Parliament on 30 June, 2006; entered into force for Croatia on 18 December 2006 (Official Gazette/IT No. 1/07);

8) 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, ratified 10 November 2004 (Official Gazette No. 11/2004);

9) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) dated 01 July 1968 (Official Gazette SFRJ/International Agreements No. 10/1970; Official Gazette No. 12/93-note of succession);

10) Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) together with its amendments dated 26 October 1979 (Official Gazette SFRJ/International Agreements No. 9/1985; Official Gazette No. 12/93- note of succession);

11) Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, ratified by Croatian Parliament on 30 March 2007; entered into force for Croatia on 07 July 2007 (Official Gazette No. 9/07);

12) Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, 3 December 2008, ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 5 June 2009 (Official Gazette No. 5/2009) and entered into force for the Republic of Croatia on 01 August 2010 (Official Gazette No. 2/2010);

13) Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, Moscow, 5 August 1963 (Official Gazette SFRJ/International Agreements No. 11/63; Official Gazette No. 4/94 - note of succession);

14) Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, Washington, London, Moscow, 11 February, 1971 (Official Gazette SFRJ/International Agreements No. 33/73; Official Gazette No. 4/94 - note on succession);

15) Convention on Nuclear Safety, Vienna, 17 June 1994, the Republic of Croatia signed it on 10 April 1995 (Official Gazette/IT No. 13/95);

16) Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, New York 24 September 1996, the Republic of Croatia signed it in September 1996 and is state party as of 2001 (Official Gazette/IT No. 1/01).

Croatia is state party to the following export control regimes: The Nuclear Suppliers Group; The Zangger Committee; The Australia Group; The Wassenaar Arrangement. Croatia is the Subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation (HCOG). And has applied to the export control regime The Missile Technology Control Regime.

Additional efforts include the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; Croatian and US Government Agreement on

Cooperation on the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Promotion of Defence and Military Relations, Zagreb, 04 February 2003., ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 13 June, 2003 (Official Gazette/IT No. 12/03), Initiative Ship boarding Agreement between Croatian Government and US Government, Washington, 1 June 2005, ratified by Croatian Parliament on 2 February 2007 (Official Gazette/IT No. 2/2007).

### **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.**

Croatia actively participates in all activities aimed at arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability globally and in the OSCE area, in particular given its focus on the countries in our region and close neighbourhood. Croatia regularly provides our national expertise in the complex Euro-Atlantic integration processes to the countries of the SEE region, including through the established Center of Excellence within the MFEA.

Within the MoD there are organizational units that deal with the supervision of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures. As part of OSCE, the Republic of Croatia is party to the 2011 Vienna Document, the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control and Open Skies Treaty. The Republic of Croatia consistently performs its obligations assumed in the said documents through the exchange of military information and acceptance of inspections. In that regard, in frame of the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control, Croatia accepted 3 passive inspections of declared sites (2 from Serbia and from Bosnia and Herzegovina) and conducted 4 active inspections of declared sites (2 in Serbia, 1 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 in Monte Negro). In the frame of VD 2011, Croatia accepted 2 Specified area (SA) inspections (1 from Russian Federation and 1 from Montenegro) and conducted 2 SA inspections (1 in Serbia, 1 in Belorussia as guest inspector (GI)). Additionally Croatia conducted 1 evaluation visit as GI in FYR of Macedonia and took a part in Airbase and Military Formation visit in Finland. In the frame of Open Skies Treaty, Croatia accepted 1 observation flight done by Russian Federation and conducted 1 observation flight in Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Germany, Hungary and France. Representatives of the Republic of Croatia take part in courses on arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures, especially those held in RACVIAC and the NATO School.

The Republic of Croatia cooperates and works together with RACVIAC and verification centres from other OSCE countries, conducting different arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation activities.

## **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?**

The provisions of Section II of the Defence Act (Official Gazette No. 73/2013, 75/2015) regulate the responsibilities of state government bodies and administration for decision making in the field of defence, as well as planning with regard to the organization of the Armed Forces. Those responsibilities are distributed among the Croatian Parliament, the President of the

Republic of Croatia, the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Defence

Article 5 Paragraph (2) of the Defence Act defines the responsibilities of the Croatian Parliament, which includes:

- 1) Adoption of the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and with the consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia;
- 2) Deciding on the amount and structure of funds for financing defence, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- 3) Adoption of the Long-term Plan of Development of the Armed Forces, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- 4) Adoption of the Annual Report on Defence.

The Annual Report on Defence is submitted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and it includes the state of readiness of the defence sector, personnel policy implementation and the overall state of the Armed Forces.

Through its respective bodies the Croatian Parliament monitors the implementation of the Defence Plan of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the implementation of defence preparations.

Article 6 of the Defence Act defines the responsibilities of the Defence Committee of the Croatian Parliament as follows:

- (1) The Defence Committee of the Croatian Parliament discusses and adopts positions on the following:
  - The amount and structure of funds for financing defence as proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
    - Reports in the field of defence adopted by the Croatian Parliament;
    - Laws and other acts in the field of defence adopted by the Croatian Parliament.
- (2) The Committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article provides opinions to the Ministry of Defence concerning defence procurement for values exceeding EUR 5.000.000,00 before the procurement procedure is initiated.“

Article 7 paragraph (1) of the Defence Act defines the responsibilities of the President of the Republic of Croatia (who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces), which include:

- 1) Adoption of the Military Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, proposed by a Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and with the consent of the Minister of Defence;
- 2) Adoption of the Plan of use of the Armed Forces, proposed by a Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and with the consent of the Minister of Defence;
- 3) Approval of the proposed Defence Plan of the Republic of Croatia;
- 4) Adoption of the Decision on the Size, Structure and Mobilization Development of the Armed Forces proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- 5) Providing a preliminary opinion on the acts in the field of defence adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 8 of the Defence Act defines the responsibilities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, which include:

- 1) Adoption of the Strategic Defence Review, proposed by the Minister of Defence;



- 2) Submitting of the Annual report on Defence to the Croatian Parliament (including the state of readiness of the defence sector, personnel policy implementation and the overall state of the Armed Forces);
- 3) Adoption of the Defence Plan of the Republic of Croatia.
- 4) Proposing a decision of the Croatian Parliament not to call conscripts for mandatory military service.”

Article 14 of the Defence Act defines the tasks of the Ministry of Defence, which include:

- 1) Drafting of the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Croatia;
- 2) Drafting of the Strategic Defence Review;
- 3) Drafting of the Long-term Plan of Development of the Armed Forces;
- 4) Drafting of the proposed Defence Plan of the Republic of Croatia;
- 5) Drafting of the Annual report on Defence;
- 6) Planning, coordination and implementation of international military cooperation and activities resulting from the accepted international obligations of the Republic of Croatia;
- 7) Coordination of the projects aimed at contributing to the development of allied defence capabilities and defence capabilities of the European Union;
- 8) Directing and coordination of the preparations and activities concerning the engagement of the Armed Forces in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad;
- 9) Inclusion and work within the framework of international initiatives, organizations and alliances to which the Republic of Croatia has acceded or is in the process of acceding pursuant to international treaties.

Article 16 paragraph (1) of the Defence Act defines the tasks of the General Staff of the Armed Forces within the Ministry of Defence, which include:

- 1) Drafting of the Military Strategy of the Republic of Croatia;
- 2) Drafting of the Plan of use of the Armed Forces;
- 3) Participation in drafting of the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Croatia;
- 4) Participation in drafting of the Long-term Plan of Development of the Armed Forces;
- 5) Implementation of activities concerning the engagement of the Armed Forces in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad.

The above stated plainly shows that no state government body has the exclusive responsibility for developing defence regulations, documents and plans. The responsibility concerning all issues, including determining/approving military position rests with several state government bodies, whose powers may include proposing, approving, discussing, providing opinions adopting a particular document and making decision on a particular issue. The comprehensive defence planning system, as a key component of the overall defence management is focused on the development of strategic and conceptual documents, as well as on the documents of operational and implementation planning. It consists of strategic development, operational and implementation planning.

The above mentioned process is regulated by:

- The Budget Act (Official Gazette No. 87/2008 and No. 136/2012),
- The Act on State Budget Execution for current year,
- The Defence Act (Official Gazette No. 73/2013),

- The Regulation on the Method of Planning, Programming, Development and Implementation of the Budget of the Ministry of Defence (Official Gazette No. 38/2003, No. 168/2003, No. 14/2006 and No. 105/2006...).

The national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving defence expenditures is part of the state budget developing process. It is a result of interaction among the President of the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Parliament, Croatian Government, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Defence, and other ministries. The state budget for one year and projections for next two years (and the budget of the Ministry of Defence, accordingly) is approved by the Croatian Parliament.

The above mentioned process is regulated by:

- The Budget Act (Official Gazette No.87/2008, No. 136/2012 and No. 15/2015),
- The Act on State Budget Execution for current year,

The Defence Act (Official Gazette No. 73/2013 and No. 75/2015).

The Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the ministry responsible for structural reforms and coordination of European Union Funds prepare the instruction for the preparation of strategic plans for a three-year period and submit it to ministries.

Ministries prepare strategic plans for a three-year period on the basis of sector strategic documents and programme documents designated for the use of European Union funds in accordance with the instruction and submit it to the Ministry of Finance. Strategic plans for a three-year period contain mission, vision, strategic goals, ways of achieving these goals, relation thereof with organizational and programme classification and measures for results assessment.

On the basis of strategic plans, the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the ministry responsible for structural reforms and coordination of European Union Funds prepare the strategy of Government programmes for a three-year period and propose it to the Government. The strategy of Government programmes contains total joint vision and strategic goal, main strategic areas of Government activities with identified goals, ways of achieving these goals, measures for results assessment, ranked strategic priorities and their link to organizational and programme classification.

On the basis of the strategy of the Government programmes for a three-year period the Ministry of Finance prepares draft economic and fiscal policy guidelines for a three-year period and propose them to the Government.

The guidelines contains strategic goals of economic and fiscal policy of the Republic of Croatia, basic macroeconomic indicators of the Republic of Croatia, basic indicators of fiscal policy of the Republic of Croatia, an estimate of revenues and expenditures and receipts and expenses of all levels of the general budget, a proposal of the financial plan level by divisions of organizational classification, which consists of the financial plan level for the previous budget year and the current budget year, as well as proposal of the financial plan level for the following budget year and for the following two years, and projected changes in public debt and a strategy of public debt management.

On the basis of the Government's guidelines, the Ministry of Finance delivers to

ministries instructions for the preparation of draft State Budget. The instructions include basic economic indicators from the guidelines and method and deadlines for the State Budget preparation.

Ministries prepare their financial plan proposals on the basis of the instructions for the preparation of the draft State Budget. The financial plan proposal includes revenues and receipts presented by types, expenditures and expenses anticipated for a three-year period, classified according to the budget classifications, and explanation of the financial plan proposal.

The explanation of the financial plan proposal includes summary of the scope of work of a budgetary user, reasons for programmes in a particular area, legal and other grounds that programmes are based on, goals, strategies and programmes harmonized with the documents of the long-term development, starting points and indicators which are the basis for calculations and assessments of funds necessary for the implementation of programmes, report on the achieved goals and results of programmes based on performance indicators under the competence of the budgetary user in the previous year based, and other explanations and documentation.

Ministries are obliged to deliver harmonized financial plan proposals to the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance reviews proposals and reconciles financial plans with the estimated revenues and receipts, prepares draft budget for the budget year and the projection for the following two years and submits them to the Government.

If during the debate on the proposed state budget a disagreement should occur between the Minister of Finance and ministers responsible for particular budgetary users, the Minister of Finance shall prepare a report for the Prime Minister who makes a final decision.

The Parliament adopts the budget at the level of a subgroup (third level) of economic classification for the next budget year and the projection at the level of a division (second level) of economic classification for the following two budget years.

## **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?**

Drawing and adoption of policy and planning documents that define military capabilities of the Croatian Armed Forces, is being conducted in a transparent and open manner and all adopted documents are available to domestic and international public. In that way, all interested states have insight in the current situation and reasons for development of military capabilities. Also, through intensive bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation with all democratic states, especially with those from the region and close neighbourhood, security and defence talks are being held, through which all security questions, concepts and solutions are being discussed among participants.

Croatian foreign and security policy identifies contribution to international security, and sustainment of favourable regional and wider international environment, as one of the missions of Croatian Armed Forces.

The implementation of the UN, EU, NATO and OSCE decisions and guidelines are considered the backbone of Croatian contribution to international security and stability. The Republic of Croatia develops civilian and military capabilities focused on training, education and mentoring of the national forces in conflict-affected countries. Those capabilities, properly suited to concrete missions, contribute to security and stability, especially by providing assistance in the process of establishing self-sustainable national forces and authorities.

## **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?**

The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Article 7 paragraph 12) states:

“The defence organization, command, management and democratic control over the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia are defined by the Constitution and the law.”

The Defence responsibilities of the Parliament as defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Article 81 paragraphs 6 and 7) include:

- 1) Adoption of the National Security Strategy and the Defence Strategy
- 2) Exercising civilian control of the Armed Forces and security services of the Republic of Croatia.

The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia stipulates procedures for ensuring democratic and political control of the operation of security and intelligence agencies foreseen provided for in the Act on the Security-Intelligence System (OG 79/06 and 105/06). The bodies that control the work of security and intelligence agencies are the Croatian Parliament, the Office of the National Security Council (ONSC) and the Council for Civil Supervision of Security and Intelligence Agencies. The supervision of security and intelligence agencies is carried out by the Croatian Parliament directly and through its National Security Committee and the Council for Civil Supervision of Security and Intelligence Agencies. The ONSC performs professional supervision of the operation of security and intelligence agencies. In the supervision of security and intelligence agencies, the Croatian Parliament, through its National Security Committee, may request the ONSC to submit reports and notifications and/or to carry out professional supervision of security and intelligence agencies. The Committee may also perform direct supervision of security and intelligence agencies, and Chairman comes from the most represented opposition party in the Croatian Parliament. The Council for Civil Supervision of Security and Intelligence Agencies was formed to perform civil supervision of the operation of security and intelligence agencies. The chairman and the Council are held accountable for the lawfulness of their work to the Croatian Parliament, and supervision of their work is carried out by the National Security Committee of the Croatian Parliament. If irregularities are identified during supervision, the chairman person of the Council reports to the President of the Republic of Croatia, the president of the Croatian Parliament, the Prime Minister and the State Attorney General about the findings.

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

Procedure of democratic political oversight of the Armed Forces is regulated by the

provisions of the Defence Act (Official Gazette No. 73/2013, 75/2015). The responsibilities of the Croatian Parliament are defined in Articles 5 and 6.

Article 5 of the Defence Act stipulates as follows:

- (1) The Croatian Parliament shall decide on war and peace and exercise civilian oversight over the Armed Forces.
- (2) The Croatian Parliament:
  - 1) Shall adopt the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and with the consent of the President of the Republic of Croatia;
  - 2) Shall decide on the amount and structure of funds for financing defence, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
  - 3) Shall adopt the Long-term Plan of Development of the Armed Forces, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
  - 4) Shall adopt the Annual Report on Defence;
  - 5) Shall determine the state of immediate threat, on the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
  - 6) Shall adopt a decision not to call conscripts for mandatory military service;
  - 7) Shall adopt other acts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and law.“

Article 6 of the Defence Act defines the responsibilities of the Defence Committee of the Croatian Parliament as follows:

„(1) The Defence Committee of the Croatian Parliament shall discuss and adopt positions on the following:

1. The amount and structure of funds for financing defence as proposed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia
2. Reports in the field of defence adopted by the Croatian Parliament
3. Laws and other acts in the field of defence adopted by the Croatian Parliament.

(2) The Committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall provide opinions to the Ministry of Defence concerning defence procurement for values exceeding EUR 5,000,000,00 before the procurement procedure is initiated. “

The Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament in Article 71 defines the competence of the Defence Committee, so that the provision in question stipulates the following:

“The Defence Committee is responsible for the activities of determining and monitoring the implementation of policies, and in the procedure of adopting the legislation and other regulations the Committee has the rights and duties of the main working body in areas relating to:

- the organization and scope of work of the bodies of state administration in the field of defence,
- defence,
- cooperation with authorities in the Republic of Croatia working in the field of defence,
- other defence-related issues.

The Defence Committee as a working body of the Parliament performs activities in accordance with Article 44, paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Standing Orders of the Republic of

Croatia stipulating as follows:

“The working body of the Parliament shall discuss proposals and incentives for the adoption of legislation and other acts and other issues from within the scope of work of the Parliament.

The working body of the Parliament shall monitor, as part of its scope of work, the work of the Government and other bodies whose work is supervised by the Parliament in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and law.

The working body of the Parliament shall discuss reports of the bodies and legal persons having public powers that they submit to the Parliament under law.

The working body of the Parliament shall adopt standpoints after a discussion and determine the proposals of acts and report to the Parliament accordingly.”

The manner of work at sessions of the Committee is laid down in paragraph 1 of Article 56 of the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament reading:

“Sessions of the working body of the Parliament should be attended by a member of the Government, deputy minister or assistant minister where the subject-matter of the session is a proposal or opinion of the Government, and by the head of the body of public administration where the subject-matter discussed at the session is within his scope of work.”

In accordance with Article 127 of the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament,  
“the Parliament or its working bodies may request a report and data from ministers and officials managing the work of other public administration bodies, and upon the submission of the request they are obligated:

- to report on issues and events within the scope of work of the ministry or other state administration body,
- to submit a report on the performance and implementation of laws and other acts or tasks for whose performance they are responsible,
- to submit data at their disposal or which they are obligated to collect as part of their scope of work and record such files and other as necessary for the work of the Parliament or the working body
- to respond to any questions raised.”

## **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?**

Article 7 Paragraphs 1 and 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia state that:  
“The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia are to safeguard her sovereignty and independence and to defend her territorial integrity...

In cases set forth in Articles 17 and 101 of the Constitution the Armed Forces may be used, if so required by the nature of the threat, as an aid to police and other state authorities.”

Article 39. Paragraph (1) and (2) of the Defence Act further define the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia:

(1) The Armed Forces protect the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Croatia and protect its territorial integrity.

(2) The Armed Forces may, subject to the conditions stipulated in the Constitution, international treaties and law:

- take part in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad,;
- provide support in the defence of allies in the case of armed attack against one or more of them in accordance with any international treaties concluded;
- take part in joint efforts of the European Union in the spirit of solidarity should any member be exposed to a terrorist attack or fall victim of a natural or man-provoked disaster,;
- use for assistance the institutions of civil authority, organizations and services for protection and rescue and the population in the case of disasters, great major accidents and accidents, search and rescue operations, transport of injured or sick persons.“

Article 46 Paragraph (1) of the Defence Act regulates the use of the Armed Forces as follows:

“(1) The Croatian Parliament, the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence decide about on the use of the Armed Forces in accordance with the Constitution and this Act.”

In addition to regulating the use of Armed Forces in a state of war and state of imminent threat, an entire Section of the Defence Act is dedicated to crossing the state border and cooperation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 49 of the Defence Act regulates the decision making process concerning deployment and operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia as follows:

“(1) The Armed Forces may cross the borders of the Republic of Croatia and act across its borders pursuant to a decision of the Croatian Parliament proposed by the Government subject to a prior consent of the President of the Republic.

(2) Further to a decision of the Croatian Parliament referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the President of the Republic of Croatia orders the use of the Armed Forces.”

The provisions of the Defence Act regulate the use of the Croatian Armed Forces( for the following purposes:

- use of the Armed Forces in providing assistance in the defence of allies (Article 51);
- use of the Armed Forces in providing assistance in the defence of the Member States of the European Union (Article 52);
- use of the Armed Forces in accordance with the European Union solidarity clause (Article 53);
- use of the Armed Forces in building international security (Article 54),; and
- use of the Armed Forces in providing international humanitarian assistance (Article 56).

In addition to the above uses, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia may provide assistance in fire-fighting protection and search and rescue tasks, as well as in supervision and protection of the rights of the Republic of Croatia at sea in accordance with Article 61,

paragraph 1, and Article 62 of the Defence Act, as follows:

“The Armed Forces may be used as assistance in fire-fighting protection and search and rescue if the bodies responsible for fire-fighting protection and the bodies responsible for search and rescue do not have adequate forces and capacity, and for the transport of injured or sick persons.” (Article 61, paragraph 1).

“The Armed Forces may be used as assistance in the supervision and protection of the rights and interests of the Republic of Croatia at sea.

The use of the Armed Forces in paragraph 1 of this Article is regulated by the Act on the Coastal Guard of the Republic of Croatia.” (Article 62, paragraphs 1 and 2).

### **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 obligation to serve in the military is the duty to undergo training, preparations and to take part in defence in an organized manner, by joining the Armed Forces, of all able-bodied citizens of the Republic of Croatia. The military obligation occurs in the calendar year in which a citizen of the Republic of Croatia turns 18 years of age. The military obligation of a citizen of the Republic of Croatia terminates: at the end of the calendar year in which he turns 55 years of age (man) or 50 years of age (woman); if he or she is declared unable to do military service; and further to release from Croatian citizenship.

The military obligation consists of the recruitment obligation, the obligation to serve in the military or take part in civilian service and to serve in the reserves of the Armed Forces. Women who fall under military obligation are not subject to the recruitment obligation and the obligation to serve in the military. Men under military obligation are subject to the recruitment obligation and the obligation to serve in the military or civilian service whenever an obligation is in force to serve in the military. When there is no such obligation in force, men under military obligation are still subject to inclusion in military records. During their recruitment, conscripts are subject to inclusion in military records, medical and other examinations and psychological examination, recruitment, military service or civilian service, and response to a general or individual call-up. Inclusion in military records is performed for citizens of the Republic of Croatia in the calendar year in which they turn 18 years of age. Medical and other examinations and psychological examinations of those under military obligation are carried out in medical institutions or in the competent organizational unit of the Ministry of Defence. At the recruitment, the person under military obligation receives a grade of his capacity for military service and is assigned a branch or profession for serving in the military. Recruitment is carried out by recruitment commissions established by the Minister of Defence.

Serving the military service or civilian service is compulsory by force of law in the case of an immediate threat or war. The Croatian Parliament may issue a decision stipulating the obligation to serve in the military or to perform civilian service. If the state authorities are prevented from regularly performing their duties prescribed by law, the President of the Republic may issue a regulation with legal force concerning the obligation to serve in the military or civilian service at the proposal of the Prime Minister and with his co-signature. The upper age limit of those under military obligation subject to military service or to take part in civilian service is 27 years of age. Serving in the military lasts six months. The time and the manner of assigning conscripts to serve in the military and their release from the Armed Forces



are set out by the Minister of Defence in a decision, at the proposal of the head of the General Staff. As of 2008, in the Republic of Croatia conscripts have not been assigned to serve in the military.

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

In the Republic of Croatia conscientious objection is allowed and regulated by Article 24 of the Defence Act as follows:

“(1) Conscientious objection is allowed to those who for religious or moral reasons refuse to take military duties in the Armed Forces.

(2) Request for civilian service are to be submitted by recruits upon their registration with conscript register.

(3) Conscript who invokes conscientious objection civilian service may be granted.

(4) Civilian service is to be regulated by a separate Act.

In accordance with Article 5 Paragraph (2) Subparagraph 6 of the Defence Act Croatian Parliament passes the decision not to call up conscripts.”

The proposal referred to in Paragraph (2) Subparagraph 6 of Article 5 is proposed to Croatian Parliament by the Government, in accordance with Article 8 Paragraph (1) Subparagraph 5 of the Defence Act.

The conscripts who desire so may enlist for voluntary service in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Defence Act as follows:

(1) Voluntary military training is carried out whenever the obligation to serve in the military is not in force in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) Conscripts who are citizens of the Republic of Croatia and who report to the competent organizational units of the Ministry of Defence may be assigned to voluntary military training by the end of the calendar year in which they turn 29 years of age.

(3) Women may also be assigned to voluntary military training in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Article 122 of the Defence Act regulates civilian service during the time conscripts are not called up as follows:

“During the time, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the conscripts are not called for military service, there is no obligation to participate in civilian service in accordance with the provisions of a separate Act.”

The legal basis that enabled Croatian Parliament to put conscription into abeyance by its decision was Amendments to the Defence Act passed by the Croatian Parliament on 05 October 2007 that entered into force on 01 January 2008. No conscripts have been called up since summer 2007.

“Consequently, and considering that for now there is no obligation to participate in the civilian service, the Republic of Croatia has not passed a separate Act on the Civilian Service.

Conscripts enlisted for voluntary service during their military training, that lasts eight weeks, acquire basic military knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the defense of the Republic of Croatia and conscripts are prepared and trained to carry out tasks in the units of the

Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia. It is also a requirement for admission to active duty military service or the contractual reserve. Upon successful completion of the training program, in accordance with the results achieved, selected conscripts will be offered to conclude an agreement on training to become active duty personnel.

The basic regulation concerning the general conditions, rights and obligations, and other matters relating the voluntary military training is the Regulations on Voluntary Military Training("Official Gazette" No. 158/13).

In accordance with Article4 of the Regulations on Voluntary Military Training a candidate may be referred to voluntary military training by the end of the calendar year in which he/she turns29 years of age if he/she fulfills the following conditions:

- That he/she is an adult Croatian citizen,
- That he/she is medically fit for military service,
- That no criminal proceedings are instituted against him/her,
- That he/she has not been sentenced to unconditional prison for more than six months for any criminal offense,
- That he/she has not completed military service in the country or abroad,
- That he/she has not applied for release or renunciation of Croatian citizenship.

In accordance with Article12 of the Regulations on Voluntary Military Training the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia coordinate and propose the number of candidates and date and place of sending the candidates to voluntary military training by submitting the necessary elements to develop a Draft decision of the Minister of Defense on sending candidates to the voluntary military training. The Human Resources Directorate, based on those elements, drafts the Decision of the Minister of Defence that is passed no later than 30October of the current year for the following year.

During the voluntary military training, in accordance with Article 27 of the Regulations on Voluntary Military Training, conscripts are entitled to:

- Reimbursement of travel costs from the voluntary military training during the prize weekend (for outstanding results in training) and special leave(departure and return to the place of residence) at a price of the cheapest public transport,
- Financial compensation in the amount of 36% of the base amount for the calculation of fees and other income, prescribed by the Act on Execution of the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, for each month of the successfully executed training program,
- Basic and supplementary health insurance,
- Insurance against accidents,
- Accommodation and food,
- Military uniforms and sports equipment,
- Special leave up to five days for the reasons set forth in the Regulations (death of a close family member, serious illness of a close family member, birth of a child, marriage, necessary help to the family in the event of natural or other disasters or other legitimate reasons due to which conscripts are not able to participate in the voluntary military training. In cases early termination of the voluntary military training maybe requested).”

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

Article 113 of the Defence Act states:

- (1) Senior and junior civil servants and active duty personnel will be assigned to the Ministry of Defence to organizational posts as defined by the Regulations on the internal order in the Ministry of Defence.
- (2) Active duty personnel and senior and junior civil servants will be assigned to the Armed Forces, to organizational posts as defined in the organization documents of the Armed Forces commands, units and institutions.
- (3) The rights, duties and responsibilities of the personnel assigned to duty in the Armed Forces are regulated by a separate Act.” (That is, the Act on Service in the Armed Forces, published in Official Gazette No 73/2013, 75/2015).
- (4) The meaning of this provision is that those decisions are subject to the Act on General Administrative Procedure (Official Gazette No 47/2009) and the Act on Administrative Disputes (Official Gazette No. 20/2010, 143/2012 and 152/2014).

According to Article 214 paragraph 1 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces, ”Deciding on recruiting, termination of service, status in service, as well as the rights and obligations for which provisions of this Act stipulates the adoption of a decision are administrative matters.” The meaning of this provision is that those decisions are submitted to the Act on General Administrative Procedure and the Act on Administrative Disputes (with the provisions on appeals procedure and initiating the administrative dispute before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia by an injured party).

„The Act on General Administrative Procedure regulates the rules under which governmental bodies and other state bodies, local and regional self-governmental bodies, legal persons with public powers(bodies vested with public authority), act and decide on administrative matters within the framework defined under the law (Article 1 of the Act).

In administrative proceedings on the rights, obligations or legal interests of natural or legal persons or other parties the laws, regulations and general acts governing the appropriate administrative area are directly applied (Article 2 of the Act on General Administrative Procedure).

The Act on Administrative Disputes regulates jurisdiction, composition of the court and the rules of procedure used by the administrative courts while deciding on the legality of the decisions of the bodies vested with public authority concerning rights, obligations and legal interests of natural and legal persons and other parties and the legality of the procedures in the field of administrative law (Article 1 of the Act).

The purpose of the Act on Administrative Disputes is to ensure the legality and judicial protection of the rights and legal interests of natural and legal persons and other parties injured by the decisions or actions of bodies vested with public authority (Article 2 of the Act).

In addition to the appeals procedure and initiating the administrative dispute before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia, based on the provisions of the above stated Acts, the injured party may also address the Ombudsperson that is, in accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No 85/2010-consolidated text and 05/2014) a commissioner of the Croatian Parliament responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, laws and international legal instruments on human rights and freedoms ratified by the Republic of Croatia.

Everyone may lodge a complaint to the Ombudsperson if he/she deems that his/her constitutional or legal rights have been threatened or violated as a result of any illegal or irregular act by governmental bodies and the civil service, local and regional self-governmental bodies and bodies vested with public authority.

The Croatian Parliament shall elect the Ombudsperson for a term of eight years. The Ombudsperson shall be autonomous and independent in his/her work.

Conditions for the election and dismissal of the Ombudsperson and his/her deputies, their authority, and the method of their work shall be regulated by law. By law, the Ombudsperson may also be vested with certain powers with regard to legal and natural persons in order to protect the fundamental constitutional rights.

The Ombudsperson and other commissioners of the Croatian Parliament responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms shall enjoy the same immunity as deputies in the Croatian Parliament.“

#### **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?**

As regards the International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed Conflict they are made widely available as, according to Article 141 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No 85/2010-consolidated text, 05/2014) “International treaties which have been concluded and ratified in accordance with the Constitution, published and which have entered into force shall be a component of the domestic legal order of the Republic of Croatia and shall have primacy over domestic law... ”

Accordingly, this procedure also applies to international conventions in the field of International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed Conflict. Those international conventions are published in Official Gazettes-s International Treaties and so made available in printed version (in English and Croatian languages) as well as on its web site.

Each member of the Armed Forces, in addition to familiarization with national laws and regulations, acquires a basic grounding in International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed Conflict during regular training activities provided at the various stages of Croatian military service. Training levels are: soldiers; NCOs; officers; participants in international activities (NATO/PfP, UN, EU) and legal advisers. Methods of education are: education in military educational institutions; seminars; practical training - exercises and written documentation (manuals, handouts etc.).

The education curricula of the officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia include topics relating to the treatment of civilians in armed conflicts. Within this education the following issues are dealt with:

- General principles and starting points of the Geneva and the Hague conventions;
- Basic prohibitions concerning the objective, weapons and tactics of the Armed Forces;

- Proper treatment of prisoners of war and other prisoners and members of protected categories.  
The Croatian peacekeeping forces are given special training that reflects Croatian desire to dispatch qualified personnel on peace missions. The civil rights and special needs of persons as individuals or representatives of groups in armed conflicts are an integral part of the training program which is conducted in the International Military Operations Centre of the Croatian Armed Forces (IMOC). Its task is:
  - Training of participants in international activities;
- Preparation, training, sending, replacement, observation of participants in international activities;
- Peace keeping/peace support operations, joint exercises in NATO/PfP, humanitarian aid operations, natural disasters etc. and
  - Cooperation with similar centres in other countries.

The Croatian Ministries, Offices of the Government and State Administrative Offices as well as professional groups working with and for the peace keeping/peace support operations, joint exercises in NATO/PfP and humanitarian aid operations including NGOs, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the 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?**

During their regular national military training as well as training prior to their deployment to the international activities each member of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia becomes familiar with the national laws and regulations and acquires a basic grounding in the International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict. This includes the relevant provisions of the Defense Act and Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia that are regulating individual accountability under national and international law for their actions.

Article 40 of the Defense Act stipulates that "Members of the Armed Forces shall, always and in all circumstances, in combat and non-combat actions comply with the rules of the Law of Armed Conflict and the International Humanitarian Law. A member of the Armed Forces shall refuse an order by which he/she is required to act contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and the rules of the Law of Armed Conflict and the International Humanitarian Law."

Article 167 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia reads as follows: "While participating in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad, persons sent to the operation shall, inter alia:

- Worthy represent the Republic of Croatia,
- Act in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Croatia,
- Respect the decisions, orders and tasks as well as the principles and rules of the Law of Armed Conflict and the International Humanitarian Law, and specific rules of the concrete operations or other activities in which they are participating,
- Respect military discipline,
- Respect the cultural and religious practices, and other values of the host country. "

Article 170 of the Law on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia reads

as follows: "Members of the Armed Forces are responsible for criminal offenses under the provisions of the Penal Code and other laws."

Criminal Code of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 125/2011, 144/2012, 56/2015 and 61/2015) in its Chapter IX specifically regulates criminal offenses against humanity and human dignity to include offenses against the values protected under the international law.

Article 172 of the Law on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia reads as follows: "Members of the Armed Forces are responsible for misdemeanors pursuant to the general provisions on misdemeanors."

Articles 170 and 172 of the Law on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia stipulates that criminal (or misdemeanor) liability does not exclude the disciplinary liability if act which is the subject of a criminal (or misdemeanor) process represents a breach of military discipline.

#### **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?**

Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, during their deployment to all international activities, shall act in accordance with the above mentioned Article 167 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia.

On the national territory of the Republic of Croatia the Armed Forces may be used, in accordance with Article 39 Paragraph (2) of the Defense Act and subject to the conditions stipulated by the Constitution and law, for assistance to the civil authorities, organizations and services designated for protection and rescue and to help the population in cases of disasters, major accidents and accidents, search and rescue and transport of injured or diseased.

Pursuant to Article 60 of the Defense Act, while providing stated assistance, Armed Forces coordinate their actions with the plans, policies and procedures established by the central governmental body responsible for the protection and rescue, as Armed Forces do not act independently in those activities.

#### **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?**

Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No 85/2010-consolidated text, 05/2014) provides that the Croatian Parliament shall: „ - exercise civilian control of the Armed Forces and security services of the Republic of Croatia...”

Article 93 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia regulates the issue of protection of civil rights, including those of the individual service members, as follows:

“The Ombudsperson shall be a commissioner of the Croatian Parliament responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, laws and international legal instruments on human rights and freedoms ratified by the Republic of Croatia.

Everyone may lodge a complaint to the Ombudsperson if he/she deems that his/her constitutional or legal rights have been threatened or violated as a result of any illegal or irregular act by governmental bodies and the civil service, local and regional self-governmental bodies and bodies vested with public authority. ”

Article 1 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 73/2013, 75/2015) provides that:

“This Act primarily regulates the service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as: Armed Forces), admission, appointment to the formation positions, ranks and promotions in ranks, duties, rights and responsibilities, separation and termination of service as well as other matters concerning the members of the Armed Forces.”

According to the Article 2 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia:

Expressions in this Act referring to a particular gender, regardless whether they are used with reference to the male or female gender, include equally both male and female gender.

Article 15 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia in its Paragraphs: “(3) Military persons, officials and employees are not permitted to be politically active in the Armed Forces.

(2) Active military persons are not permitted to have membership in any political parties and to nominate themselves to representative bodies of citizens, representative bodies of local and regional self-government and the Croatian Parliament...”

Article 16 of the Act on Service in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia in its Paragraphs (1) and (3) regulates the matter of making public statements as follows:

“(1) Active military persons, officials and employees shall not make public statements in connection with the state and relations in the Armed Forces without an approval by the Minister of Defence or a person designated by the Minister of Defence;

(3) Active military persons, officials and employees may make public statements referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in peace support operations, crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and other activities abroad if that is permitted by the rules of the international organisation within which the activities take place.

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

All Croatian legislation, including defence policy and doctrine documents, are consistent with international law as a result of their regular and thorough review with regard to domestic constitutional and legal arrangements as well as their compliance with international legal obligations of the Republic of Croatia.

All Croatian legislation, including defence policy and doctrine documents, are consistent with international law as a result of their regular and thorough review with regard to domestic constitutional and legal arrangements as well as their compliance with international legal obligations of the Republic of Croatia. As a liable member of the international community, the Republic of Croatia highly appreciates the role that international legal norms have in regulating relations among states and other subjects of the international law. This is regulated by the Article 141. of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia in which it is stated that international treaties which have been concluded and ratified in accordance with the Constitution, published and which have entered into force shall be a component of the domestic legal order of the

Republic of Croatia and shall have primacy over domestic law... ”

During the drafting and adoption of defence policy documents (and all other policy and legal documents), transparent and multi-step procedures of adoption and discussions are applied, through which harmonization with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia is assured, as well as harmonization with domestic legal framework and provisions of the international law. The key role in this is given to the Legislation Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, a national expert body which gives opinion on the harmonization of the proposed laws and other acts made by the Government with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and legal order of the Republic of Croatia. They also prepare and draw drafts of the documents that are brought by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian Parliament.

### **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?**

Relevant links to the OSCE are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, [www.mvep.hr](http://www.mvep.hr). The representatives of the relevant state authorities participate and support all activities related to the promotion and analysis of the Code of Conduct within the academic and other circles, in particular through the activities of the Centre on Security Cooperation, RACVIAC.

In its activities the Ministry of Defence uses a proactive approach in work with representatives of the media, at the same time taking advantage of all modern communication tools, and tries to be as much open to the public as possible. The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces report about on the provisions connected with the Code of Conduct of the OSCE on reporting, if necessary, through its website, and the Code itself is available to the public through a link at [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr).

Publicly available information about the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia can be accessed through the website at [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr) and [www.osrh.hr](http://www.osrh.hr) (in Croatian and English), and in the magazine “Hrvatski Vojnik” in Croatian (bi-weekly) and the magazine “Cromil” in English (bi-annually). Other than that, in 2014 the Ministry of Defence responded to 1, 926 individual queries from both journalists and citizens. It is necessary to point out that in accordance with the Act on the Right of Access to Information, citizens are entitled to request access to information and, provided that the criteria set out in law are met, such information should be provided.

The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces regularly organize, several times a year, exhibitions on armament and technology in various parts of the Republic of Croatia, and they also organise “Open Days”, when citizens can visit the barracks. In the course of promoting the military profession, members of the AFRC visit schools and inform secondary school students about the AFRC. In cooperation with other organizations, the scientific and professional public and non-governmental organizations, they organize topical seminars, workshops and presentations connected with various topics in the field of defence.



The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia regularly report to the media about their activities. For example, in 2014, they published a variety of 714 various notifications, pieces of news, announcements and other information on the website [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr), and published 4,121 photographs.

Internet publications:

- [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr), (annually more than 713,000 clicks 2,64 mil page views)
- [www.osrh.hr](http://www.osrh.hr)

Magazines:

- 'Hrvatski vojnik' (26 issues), available also at [www.hrvatski-vojn timer.hr](http://www.hrvatski-vojn timer.hr)
- 'Cromil' (2 issues), available also at [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr)

Other issues:

- Five books
- Approximately 25 video editions.

## **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?**

Through the OSCE link, this information is publicly available.

The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces report on the provisions connected with the Code of Conduct of the OSCE, if necessary, through its website.

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

- The Act on the Right of Access to Information regulates the right of citizens to access to information.
- The Act on the Protection of Data Secrecy defines classified and unclassified data and classification and declassification procedures, as well as protection and supervision over the implementation of this Act.
  - The Personal Data Protection Act regulates the citizens' right to personal data protection.

The Ministry of Defence reports about its work regularly and in accordance with the regulations to the Parliament. The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia publishes its annual plan of work. The budget of the Republic of Croatia defines the amount of funds intended for the field of defence. The plan of procurement of the Ministry of Defence is publicly available at the website [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr). The Ministry of Defence regularly organizes Open Days, so that citizens might visit barracks. Public Relations and Publishing issues releases (2015-541 communications, news, announcements and notifications). The Ministry of Defence ensures the functioning of the following websites: [www.morh.hr](http://www.morh.hr), [www.osrh.hr](http://www.osrh.hr), [www.hrvatski-vojn timer.hr](http://www.hrvatski-vojn timer.hr).

A proactive approach to work with the media is manifested in everyday work. The Public Relations and Publishing Department with the Ministry of Defence organises activities with representatives of the media and issues magazines "Croatian Soldier" and "Cromil". Along

with written materials, the Ministry of Defence also provides to the public with photographs, as well as and audio and video materials. The Ministry of Defence participates in various workshops and seminars organised by the academic community and non-governmental organizations. The Public Relations Strategy of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia is in line with NATO's policy (MC 0457/1 NATO Military Policy on Public Affairs).

## 2. Contact information

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

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
 DG FOR MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
 Trg N.Š. Zrinskog 7-8, 10000 Zagreb  
 Phone: 385 1 4569 952, 385 1 4569 839  
 Fax: 385 1 4597 416  
 e-mail: [multilateral@mvep.hr](mailto:multilateral@mvep.hr)

#### ATTACHMENT - LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to preventing and combating terrorism and related co-operation in criminal matters. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing interministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.) Name of the treaty	Party by: ratification P(R), accession P(a), succession P(s), acceptance P(A), approval P(AA), or Not a party	Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, or acceptance, or approval
Universal legal instruments		
1.	Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963)	
2.	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)	
3.	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)	
4.	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons (1973)	
5.	International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979)	
6.	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1979)	

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT  
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

I. Prevention

1. Measures to increase armed forces personnel understanding of the special needs and contributions of women in conflict

- Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women’s and girl’s rights in the basic education of armed forces:

Topics on gender issues, especially UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions, have been included into all levels of education and regular training.

A topic “The implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Republic of Croatia” has been added to the curriculum at the Croatian Defence Academy “**dr. FranjoTudman**” as a component of a course “Military Ethics and Religious Culture” since the school year 2012/2013 (2 hours per course).

**Additional to that, since the school year 2015/2016, topic “Gender equality and gender perspective in military operations ” has been added to the curriculum at the Command and Staff College of the CDA as a component of a module “Human Resources Management“ (2 hours per course).**

Number	T raining/Education	Short description/Main topics	Target groups
1	First level military officers education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 to the Officer’s School Students</li> <li>- Familiarizing with the reasons of the UN Resolution 1325 adoption</li> <li>- Recognizing and overcoming gender inequality</li> <li>- Informing about four pillars of Resolution (participation, protection, prevention and relief and recovery)</li> <li>- Recognizing why women need to be important actors in peace building</li> <li>- What is Croatia’s role in implementing the Resolution 1325 (NAP)</li> </ul>	First level - students of the Basic Officer School

2	Second level military officers education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution of women in the context of peace and security</li> <li>- Integration of gender perspective in all peace and security initiatives</li> <li>- Informing about four pillars of Resolution</li> <li>- National Implementation of the Resolution</li> </ul>	Second level-students of the Advanced Officer School
3.	Command and Staff College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender equality and gender perspective in military operations (NATO Bi-SCD 40-1)</li> <li>- Debate concerning the national implementation of 1325 and related resolutions</li> </ul>	Third level military officers education -students of the Command and Staff College
4	NCO Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 to the Officer's School Students</li> <li>- Familiarizing with the reasons of the UN Resolution 1325 adoption;</li> <li>- Recognizing and overcoming gender inequality</li> <li>- Informing about four pillars of Resolution (participation, protection, prevention and relief and recovery)</li> <li>- Recognizing why women need to be important actors in peace building</li> <li>- What is Croatia's role in implementing 1325 (NAP)</li> </ul>	Senior NCO's

CAF consumed in recent years individual trainings on gender (courses) organised by Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM), Kungsängen, Sweden and trained 24 instructors for gender in military operations and 4 gender field advisers so far. With regard to that, CMA „DrFranjo Tuđman“ has 4 lecturers trained as „gender instructors“ which is important in order to achieve military education goals: “gender perspective incorporated in all core military functions“; to become „a routine“ in planning, executing and evaluating processes in military operations.

- Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the

pre-deployment training for international peacekeeping missions:

Training for international military operations includes the areas of international humanitarian law and the law of war, ethical and cultural diversity, code of conduct, human rights, human trafficking, gender equality, sexual abuse and exploitation, child protection etc. Gender related topics have been included in pre-deployment training for NATO, EU or UN peace support operations.

- Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the pre-deployment training for international peacekeeping missions:

Training for international military operations includes the areas of international humanitarian law and the law of war, ethical and cultural diversity, code of conduct, human rights, human trafficking, gender equality, sexual abuse and exploitation, child protection etc. Gender related topics have been included in pre-deployment training for NATO, EU or UN peace support operations.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Training/ Education Provided</b>	<b>Short Description/ Main Topics of the Training/Education Provided</b>	<b>Target Groups</b> (Personnel who received the Training/ Education)	<b>Phase</b> (When was the Training/ Education Provided)
1.	Prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict	- Sexual violence in PSO - UNSCR 1325 - Legal aspect - Scenario-based exercise	Participants of - "UN Protection of Civilians in PSO Course"	IMOC, Rakitje - 4 hours - 1 course/year
2.	Women, Peace and Security, Protection of Children	- UNSCR 1325 - Legal aspects - UN SOPs (CPTMs) - Protection of children	Participants of - "UN Military Observers Course" - "UN Staff Officers Course"	IMOC, Rakitje - 1 hour / course - 1 course/year
3.	Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	- Legal aspect - UN SOPs (CPTMs) - Sexual abuse of women in conflict	Participants of - "UN Military Observers Course" - "UN Staff Officers Course"	IMOC, Rakitje - 1 hour / course - 1 course/year
4.	Gender Awareness on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security	- NATO gender perspectives - UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs in NATO operation KFOR - Lessons learned	Participants of - "Pre-deployment Course for Liaison Monitoring Teams in KFOR"	IMOC, Rakitje - 2 hours / course - 3 courses/year
5.	Introduction to UNSCR 1325	- UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs - Legal aspect	Participants of "Fundamentals of Peace Support Operations Course"	IMOC, Rakitje - 1 hour / course - 1 course/year
6.	Gender Issues	- NATO gender perspectives - UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs in NATO operation	"Participants of NATO Staff Officer Course"	IMOC, Rakitje - 1 hour / course - 1 course/year

7.	ADL 169 Improving Operational Effectiveness by Integrating Gender Perspective	- NATO gender perspectives (Bi-SCD 40-1) - UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs in NATO operations	“Participants of pre-deployment training for NATO Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan”	IMOC, Rakitje - 2 hour / course- 2 pre-deploymen t courses/year
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- Availability of plans to address and gather information from local women populations in areas at risk of conflicts:

Members of the Croatian military participate in international missions and operations within larger contingents and follow standard operating procedures of that particular mission since the Republic of Croatia do not head missions on its own.

- Inclusion of systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflicts, including gender disaggregated socio-economic indicators and power over resources and decision making:

In accordance with NATO BI-Strategic Command Directive (BISCD) 40-1.

In order to enhance “gender perspective – related” capacity development in CAF and MoD the first training on gender perspective for „high level of decision making authorities“ in MoD/CAF organized in October 2015. The seminar „Integrating Gender Perspective for Operational Effectiveness,, promoted awareness on the integration of gender perspective into military operations in support of an operational effectiveness, as well as increased Key Leaders’ knowledge of how gender perspective can be effectively integrated into their own daily business on operational/strategic level. Seminar organized by CAF for 26 participants (8generals/admirals, 2 assistants of minister, 16 other high officials) and executed in cooperation with guest lecturers as of NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security (Amb. MarriëtSchuurman), former ISAF/RSM COM GENAD (generalGordanaGarasic) and NCGM Commander (Cmdr Jan Dunmurray).

2. Measures to address the violation of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards

- Number and percentage of military manuals, guidelines, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures/protocols of national security forces that include measures to protect women’s and girl’s human rights:

In September 2013 the Ministry of Defense introduced “Gender Mainstreaming Policy in the MOD and CAF”. The Chief of the General Staff made an order for the implementation of this document together with the “Action Plan for Promoting and Establishing Gender Equality in the MOD and CAF”, and also assigned responsibilities in the CAF with the special focus on: increasing the number of lectures on human rights at all levels of military education and training, including pre-deployment for PSOs, with a special focus on gender-related topics – violence against women and preventing discrimination, lectures on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions; investigation of reports on possible violation of gender equality, gender- based discrimination or violence against women.

## II. Participation

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defense

- Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces:

10% of candidates selected for voluntary military service are women. In 2015, 1000 candidates were enlisted for voluntary military service, 100 of them were women (253 women applied). At the moment, 30% of cadets are women.

- Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc.):

The attraction of candidates is conducted through promotion in the media and direct presentation of military vocation to target groups, regardless of gender, cadets of both genders participate equally in the promotion.

The requirements for the admission into the Armed Forces are the same for men and women. The only difference in the evaluation of the results during the selection process is in the evaluation of functional-physical abilities (lower criteria for women).

There has been a constant increase in the number of women in the military and the latest data show that today in the CAF we have 10,67% of women in active duty (data as of 31 December 2015).

- Number and percentage of women in the military forces disaggregated by rank:

Female active duty military personnel:

	TOTAL		OF-6 and higher		OF-3 to OF-5		OF-1 to OF-2		OR-5 to OR-9		OR-1 to OR-4	
	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	broj
Army	3,64%	16	0,00%	0	18,75%	3	37,50%	6	25,00%	4	18,75%	3
Air Force	0,23%	1	0,00%	0	0,00%	0	100,00%	1	0,00%	0	0,00%	0
Navy	1,14%	5	0,00%	0	0,00%	0	40,00%	2	60,00%	3	0,00%	0
SC	0,46%	2	0,00%	0	0,00%	0	0,00%	0	100,00%	2	0,00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,47%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0,00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,50%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37,50%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37,50%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12,50%</b>	<b>3</b>

\*CDA – Croatian Defence Academy; SC – Support Command

(Figures reflect the situation on December 31, 2015)

**- Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon:**

1. Gender Equality Committee and Committee for the Protection of Military Person's Dignity received no complaints in 2014 and 2015. No proceedings were instituted at the Military-Disciplinary Court regarding sexual harassment or discrimination in 2015.

- Development of regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces.

Following general regulations, we are obliged to show gender statistics in different reports. Retention and promotions are regulated by the law and apply equally to men and women.

2. Measures to increase the number of women in peacekeeping forces.

- Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank:

sp		TOTAL		OF-6 and higher		OF-3 to OF-5		OF-1 to OF-2		OR-5 to OR-9		OR-1 to OR-4	
		%	No	%	Noj	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Z	Army	6,13%	916	0,00%	0	5,90%	54	21,72%	199	33,62%	308	38,76%	355
Z	Air Force	0,91%	136	0,00%	0	13,97%	19	28,68%	39	50,74%	69	6,62%	9
Z	Navy	0,96%	144	0,00%	0	12,50%	18	38,19%	55	34,03%	49	15,28%	22
Z	CDA	0,46%	69	0,00%	0	28,99%	20	15,94%	11	43,48%	30	11,59%	8
Z	SC	1,59%	237	0,00%	0	13,08%	31	35,86%	85	40,08%	95	10,97%	26
Z	Others	0,62%	92	1,09%	1	53,26%	49	19,57%	18	25,00%	23	1,09%	1
Z	TOTAL	10,67%	1594	0,06%	1	11,98%	191	25,53%	407	36,01%	574	26,41%	421

(Figures reflect the situation on December 31, 2015)

- Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed:

In 2014 Brigadier General Gordana Garašić was appointed a Gender Advisor for Operation Commander ISAF, Afghanistan. She has been the first female officer of the CAF assigned to a general post in ISAF and at the same time the first woman to be promoted to general officer in the CAF.

Since 2015 there has been an Advisor for Female Training in the Resolute Support Mission.

1. Increased access to justice for women whose rights are violated.

- Number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed peacekeepers that are referred, investigated and acted upon:

There have been no reported cases so far.

#### IV. Other information

1. Information on the development, implementation and evaluation of a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325.

##### A. Development

In order to ensure the implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions in a more comprehensive, consistent and coordinated manner, the Croatian Government adopted in 2011 the *National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and Related Resolutions* for the period 2011-2014. The basic objective of the NAP is to support implementation of the UNSC Women, Peace and Security Agenda - at the national level through strengthening the gender awareness and integrating the gender perspective in the national security policy, as well as at the international level through Croatia's active involvement in the international efforts on promoting women's role in the field of peace and security. The NAP was prepared by the inter-ministerial working group led by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of Health, Ministry for War Veterans, Government's Office for Human Rights and Government Office for Gender Equality. The civil society organizations were invited to participate in the working group meetings and were actively involved in the whole process of preparing and drafting the NAP. Furthermore, the draft was posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs for civil society and general public comments.

In the process of developing its NAP, Croatia closely followed the general principles and recommendations contained in the relevant UN documents related to Women, Peace and



Security Agenda. At regional level, Croatia drew the inspiration particularly from the *EU Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security*, as well as from the *OSCE's 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*.

#### **B. Implementation**

The Croatian NAP covers the main relevant principles of UNSCR 1325 and elaborates specific measures in the area of participation of women, protection against and prevention of gender-based violence and women's role in conflicts and post-conflict recovery, with measurable indicators (table of indicators is its part) for the implementation.

For the implementation of the specific measures envisaged by the NAP, responsible are following ministries and agencies: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Ministry of Social policy and youth, Ministry of Health, Ministry for War Veterans, Government's Office for Human Rights, Government Office for Gender Equality and the Office of the National Security Council. Alongside with the implementation of the measures within its area of responsibility, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs has also the coordinative role regarding the overall implementation of the NAP. The majority of specific measures envisaged by NAP are suitable for implementation in cooperation with civil society organisations, and their involvement has been particularly encouraged.

#### **C. Evaluation**

There is a monitoring and evaluation matrix included within the NAP, with all measures linked to a responsible facilitator, indicator and time-frame. Individual facilitators/responsible ministries tasked with implementing the NAP's measures are required to provide annual implementation reports. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs consolidates these reports in a single annual report. Working Group for drafting NAP is acting as the supervisory mechanism and once a year submits a report on the implementation of the NAP measures to the Human Rights Commission of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The current NAP includes the four years period between 2011 and 2014, following which it will be evaluated and revised in accordance with its performance. A final evaluation report is due to be issued by the end of 2014. Based on this final report, the inter-ministerial working group, in close consultation with the civil society organisations, will formulate a list of recommendations and revise the NAP for the next four years period.

#### **2. Information on best practices and lessons learned.**

The preliminary analyses show that measures which has been implementing so far under the Croatian NAP significantly contributed to gender mainstreaming in general. Through the implementation of the NAP, Croatia has integrated gender perspective in its foreign and security policy and actions. Regarding the specific goals, the annual reports for 2011 and 2012 indicate that gender perspective in national security sector has been strengthened, with an increased number of women involved in the activities of the security system and their increased presence on decision making levels. The increased level of awareness about the role of women in the area of peace and security may be also seen as an important result of numerous educational activities conducted so far under the NAP. The NAP also contributed to appropriate (gender integrated) training of troops to be sent to peace-keeping missions and operations, and encouraged the deployment of women in international peace-keeping missions. Furthermore, several development assistance projects with a gender perspective, such as assistance for

schools for girls in Afghanistan, were conducted under the NAP. Finally, collaborative work on NAP development and implementation improved coordination among responsible ministries and helped them develop new capacities and a more comprehensive understanding of security

Development and enactment of NAP on 1325 should not be an aim in itself, but rather the beginning of a process aimed at effecting real and meaningful change. It stands as an entry point for enhanced respect for women's rights and empowerment and for acknowledging commitment to Women, Peace and Security related issues. In order to get meaningful change, implementation should seek the opportunities to effect changes in the everyday lives of women, girls, men and boys throughout the country and in external actions. In this regard, the consultation with civil society is of crucial importance.

Women should be considered as active agents in security governance, conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict recovery. Therefore, meaningful participation should be promoted not only as an objective, but also through the selection of adequate means for promoting participation by women. In this regard, incorporation and further operationalization of NAP objectives in other legislation and strategies, as well as further operationalization in NAP of other strategies and legislation could be recommended. For example, Croatia harmonised Women, Peace and Security agenda with its foreign policy priorities, and makes efforts to provide development assistance with a gender perspective, such as assistance for schools for girls in Afghanistan.

- Any other relevant information.

Also related to Women, Peace and Security agenda, Croatia organized in September 2013 - during its Chairmanship of the United Nations Peace building Commission, and jointly with UN Women - the High- Level UNGA Event on "Women's Economic Empowerment for Peace building". The Declaration adopted at this occasion renews commitment and sharpens global focus on women's role as agents of positive change and transformation in the countries emerging from a conflict.