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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE
and other International Organizations in Vienna*

No. EDSO-7813

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE and, has the honour to provide response of Latvia to **the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the year 2021.**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all the Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, April 16, 2021



**To: All Permanent Missions and
Delegations to the OSCE,
CPC of the OSCE**

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

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

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

Latvia is a state party to 16 universal international instruments related to the prevention of terrorism:

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, Tokyo, 14 September 1963,
2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the Hague, 16 December 1970,
3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, 23 September 1971,
4. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973,
5. Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December 1979,
6. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, New York/Vienna, 3 March 1980,
7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, 24 February 1988,
8. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988,
9. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988,
10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montréal, 1 March 1991,
11. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 15 January 1997,
12. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, New York, 9 December 1999,
13. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, New York, 13 April 2005,
14. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 8 July 2005,
15. Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation, London, 14 October 2005,

16. Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, London, 14 October 2005.

Latvia is a state party also to the following regional legal instruments adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe:

1. Convention of Cybercrime, Budapest, 23 November 2001,
2. European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 20 April 1959,
3. European Convention on the International Validity of Criminal Judgments, The Hague, 28 May 1970,
4. European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 15 May 1972,
5. European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg, 27 January 1977,
6. Additional Protocol to the European Convention on the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 17 March 1978,
7. Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 8 November 2001,
8. Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg, 15 May 2003,
9. Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, Warsaw, 16 May 2005,
10. Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, Warsaw, 16 May 2005,
11. Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, Rīga, 22 October 2015.

Latvia has signed the following bilateral treaties on counter-terrorism measures:

1. Agreement between the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in Combatting Crime, Rīga, 14 July 1994,
2. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Finland on Cooperation in Combatting Crime, Helsinki, 21 June 1996,
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on Cooperation in Crime Prevention, 27, June 1996,
4. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, Rīga, 6 March 1997,
5. Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Fighting against International Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, International Terrorism and Organized Crime, Rīga, 4 June 1997,
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes, Jerusalem, 27 July 1998,

7. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and other Organized Crime, Rīga, 24 May 1999,
8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Cabinet of Minister of Ukraine on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organised Crime, Kiev, 24 February 2000,
9. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Czech Republic on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organised Crime, Prague, 14 November 2000,
10. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime, Zagreb, 23 February 2001,
11. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium on Police Cooperation, Brussels, 16 October 2001,
12. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Georgia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, Tbilisi, 26 October 2001,
13. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Tashkent, 17 June 2002,
14. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Chisinau, 29 May 2003,
15. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Organised Crime, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Crime, Madrid, 24 November 2003,
16. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Austrian Federal Government concerning Cooperation between Police Services, Rīga, 20 January 2004,
17. Letter of Agreement on Law Enforcement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the United States of America, Rīga, 27 September 2004,
18. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors and organised crime Astana, 8 October 2004,
19. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Rīga, 11 April 2005,
20. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Swiss Confederation on Police Cooperation in Combating Crime, 23 May 2005,
21. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime,

Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Serious Crimes, Rīga, 13 September 2005,

22. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organised Crime, Baku, 3 October 2005,
23. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime and Other Offences and on Joint Actions in Border Regions, Vilnius, 7 June 2006,
24. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Cross-Border Cooperation in Combating Crime, Vilnius, 7 June 2006,
25. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Terrorism and Other Crime, Minsk, 17 May 2007,
26. Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers to the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Washington, 19 October 2006,
27. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Malta on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Brussels, 24 July 2008,
28. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime, Rīga, 29 September 2008,
29. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Crimes, Yerevan, 10 December 2009,
30. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Tirana, 16 December 2009,
31. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms, Moscow, 20 December 2010,
32. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Turkmenistan on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and other Crime, Ashgabat, 14 May 2013,
33. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and other Crimes, Dushanbe, 10 June 2014.

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

The following legislative acts are the main legislative background for implementation of the norms of the conventions and the legal instruments of the international organizations:

1. The suppression of terrorism falls under Section XI¹ of the Latvian Criminal Law. Articles 79.¹, 79.², 79.³, 79.⁴, 79.⁵ and 79.⁶ establishes the penalty for terrorism, for organization of a terrorist group with certain purpose and for involvement in such a group, the financing of terrorism, recruitment and training for terrorism, traveling for terrorism purpose as well as justification of terrorism, invitation to or threats of terrorism. Moreover, Articles 241, 243–245 establish a penalty for offences committed to cyber safety.
2. The Commercial Law regulates commercial activities as such while the Credit Institution Law determine the legal status of credit institutions, governs the activities, liability and supervision of such institutions, as well as determining the rights, duties and liability of such persons to whom the requirements of this Law apply. There are also related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.
3. Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing, adopted on 17 July 2008 which purpose is to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing and:
 - Ten related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers (e.g. No.408 “Regulation on procedures on reporting suspicious transactions” issued on 27 August 2019; No.138 “Regulations on States and International Organizations that have compiled lists of persons suspected of participating in terrorist activities or production, possession, transfer, use or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” issued on 8 March 2016; No.1092 “Procedure to be followed by State and Municipal Institutions in Providing Information to the Office of the Prevention of Laundering Proceeds Derived from Criminal Activity” issued on 22 December 2008; Order of the Cabinet of Minister No. 576, “On an action plan for the prevention of money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing for the period 2020-2022”, issued on 29 September 2020; Action Plan of the Crime Prevention Council for the period 2021-2026 is currently being drafted and is expected to be adopted as an Order of the Cabinet of Ministers later in 2021),
 - Thirteen Normative Regulations of the Finance and Capital Market Commission (e.g. Regulations No.1 “Regulatory provisions for the management of money laundering and terrorism financing risks”, issued on 3 January 2019),
 - Regulation issued by the Bank of Latvia on July 16, 2019 No.176 “Requirements for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing and Sanctions Risk Management upon the Purchase and Sale of Cash in Foreign Currencies”.
4. Law on Operation of the Schengen Information System, adopted on 14 June 2007, which purpose is to ensure the use of the system for strengthening of public order and security in the Member States, and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers:
 - No.639 “Procedures for the Entering, Correction and Deletion of Alerts in the Schengen Information System, as well as Ensuring Accessibility of Supplementary Information between the SIRENE Latvia Bureau and Procedures for the Exchange of Supplementary Information of Institutions and Authorities” Regulations issued on 18 September 2007,

- No.622 “Procedures for the Request and Issue of Information Regarding a Data Subject that is kept in the Schengen Information System and the SIRENE Information System” issued on 11 September 2007.
5. The Law on Radiation Safety and Nuclear Safety, adopted on 26 October 2000 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, e.g. Regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 4 November 2002, No.508 ”Requirements for Physical Protection of Sources of Ionising Radiation”. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the protection of people and the environment from the adverse effects of ionising radiation and to specify the duties and rights of State institutions, natural persons and legal persons in the field of radiation safety and nuclear safety. The Law prescribes the safety requirements for sources of ionising radiation and activities with these and proposes specific requirements for ionising radiation objects of national significance, and prescribes the division of duties among the State authorities in the field of radiation safety and nuclear safety.
 6. Account Register Law, adopted on 23 November 2016 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The purpose of this Law is to establish and maintain the register and ensure processing of data of a person's account with a view: to prevent the use of the Latvian and international financial system in criminal activities, including money laundering, terrorism financing, financing of production, possession, transportation, use and distribution of weapons of mass destruction, and to ensure international co-operation in this field; to protect State and public security, etc.
 7. Law On the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance, adopted on 21 June 2007, which purpose is to ensure controlled circulation of goods of strategic significance according to the national and international interests of the Republic of Latvia, the requirements of international export control regimes and to deflect the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as deflect the threat of international terrorism and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.
 8. Law on the Handling of Weapons (adopted on 14 March 2019) transposes Directive of the European Parliament and Council No 2008/51/EC, Council Directive No 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, Directive of the European Parliament and Council No 2017/853 amending it and Commission Implementing Directive No 2019/69 laying down technical specifications for alarm and signal weapons under Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. The purpose of the Law is to determine the rights and obligations of State and local government authorities and private individuals in relation to the handling of weapons, ammunition, the parts thereof and special means in Latvia as well as to specify the classification of such objects and the prohibitions and restrictions in respect of these objects in order to ensure the safety of persons and of the public. Law On the Security of Information Technologies, adopted on 28 October 2010 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. Legislation issued based on the Law of Handling of Weapons:
 - Fifteen Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers (e.g. No.210 “Rules on the movement of arms and ammunition” issued on 21 May 2019; No.157 “Regulation on the Procedure for Issuing a Certificate of Deactivation of Firearms and High-Energy Pneumatic Weapons and the State Fee” issued on 16 April 2020; No.182 “Procedures for Marking Firearms, Their Essential Components and Ammunition, High-Energy Pneumatic Weapons, Gas Weapons and Signal Weapons” issued on 30 April 2020).

9. Law on International Sanctions and National Sanctions of the Republic of Latvia adopted on 4 February 2016 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The purpose of this Law is to ensure peace, security and rule of law in accordance with the international obligations and national interests of Latvia, when introducing international sanctions, imposing national sanctions, or in the cases specified in this Law when the sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are being imposed.
10. Regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 3 March 2015, No. 110 “Procedures for Reporting Regarding Explosive Precursors”.
11. Instruction issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 August 2008, No 12 “Instruction Regarding Actions of Responsible Institutions in the Event of Finding a Substance or Object of Unknown Origin if It is Suspected that It Contains Explosive, Radioactive, Dangerous Chemical or Biological Substances, as well as if Indications of Terrorist Attack is Detected”.

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?

The State Security Service (VDD) is responsible for the coordination of activities of State and local government institutions and other legal persons in the field of counterterrorism as well as analysis of implementation of State’s policy in this field.

VDD is counterintelligence and internal security service, which gathers the information from different sources, carries out its analysis, informs senior officials about the threats identified to the national security as well as takes measures to neutralize them. VDD is a subject of operational activities, and it has the right to conduct pre-trial investigations regarding criminal offenses committed in the area of national security (espionage, terrorism, disclosure of state secrets etc.) or in national security institutions, or other criminal offences within its competence and in cases where the investigation has been ordered by the Prosecutor General. VDD is responsible for

- Counterterrorism;
- Counterintelligence;
- Economic security;
- Protection of the constitutional order;
- Protection of the state secrets;
- Protection of the high officials (dignitary protection);
- Prevention of the crimes that threaten national security and the rule of law (espionage, dissemination of state secret, counterfeiting, distribution of radioactive, chemical and other arms, unauthorized distribution of explosive substances etc.).

VDD functions in the field of counterterrorism:

- Counterintelligence and operational activities to fight terrorism;
- Counterintelligence and operational activities to fight illegal distribution of explosive, nuclear, chemical weapons, radiological materials, dual-use goods, firearms;
- Coordination of activities of state and local government institutions as well as other legal entities in the field of counterterrorism and the analysis of implementation of the State policy in this field.

A special department of VDD – the Counterterrorism Centre (CTC), ensures the coordination of functions in the field of counterterrorism.

The main functions of the CTC are:

- Monitoring of terrorism threats (information analysis and assessment of possible threats of terrorism);
- Planning and coordination of counterterrorism measures (preventive and responsive);
- Planning and organization of counterterrorism training and exercises;
- Control of objects (critical infrastructure and soft targets) at risk of terrorism;
- Coordination of terrorism threat level and the implementation of the National counterterrorism plan;
- PNR: Passenger Name Record.

Military:

The principal task of the Latvian National Armed Forces (LNAF) is to defend the sovereignty and ensure the territorial integrity of the Latvian state and its population against aggression. This also includes the participation in the prevention of situations, which constitute a threat to the state in accordance with the procedures specified in regulatory enactments.

The Ministry of Defence and LNAF jointly prepares the Military Threat Analysis, develops the State Defence Concept and State Defence plan, the LNAF Development Plan and the LNAF Mobilisation Plan. The Ministry of Defence is involved in monitoring the international security environment and in elaborating the threat assessment as well as in taking part in the development of the national counter-terrorism system. The Ministry of Defence also ensures the participation of the LNAF in international security/safety and defence measures as well as plans LNAF participation in international operations (that can contribute also to counter-terrorism efforts). Article 6.¹ of the National Armed Forces Law defines that while fulfilling its tasks the LNAF shall provide support to:

1. the State Security Service – in implementing anti-terrorism measures, as well as measures for the prevention or combating of threats of terrorism;
2. the system of civil protection – in implementing preventive and reactive measures, measures for the elimination of consequences caused by emergency situations, as well as performing search and rescue operations;
3. The State Police – in ensuring public order and safety;
4. The State Border Guard – in ensuring the inviolability of the State border;
5. State security institutions - in performing national security measures.

Article 17 of the National Armed Forces Law stipulates that in the case of threat of terrorism, the Minister of Defence upon the request of the Minister of the Interior shall order the Commander of the LNAF to provide support to the measures taken by the State Security Service for the prevention of the threat of terrorism or the combating thereof, determining the tasks to be performed, the time and the place. The leader of the measures referred is responsible for the orders given to the LNAF units involved in the measures for the prevention of the threat of terrorism or the combating thereof.

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.

Taking into consideration the Committee's of experts on the evaluation of anti-money laundering measures and the financing of terrorism (Moneyval) 5th Round Mutual Evaluation Report on Latvia and assessments of experts as well as evaluating the current legal framework, Latvia has decided to take an all-government approach on improving legal framework and the actual effectiveness of applying legal tools to further improve actions, means and capabilities for countering terrorism financing. On 11 October 2018 Cabinet of Ministers passed an order No.512 "About operations plan on prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing for period until 31 of December 2019". Mentioned Plan in regards to terrorism financing includes tasks such as undertaking risk assessment, establishing risk-based supervision approach, improving mutual assistance and information sharing, further educating of experts in competent authorities etc. During 2019 this plan was implemented and VDD in cooperation with other government institutions developed guidelines for the prevention of Terrorism Financing and Proliferation for the subjects of the "Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing" and supervisory authorities. VDD also organized seminar for relevant institutions on implementation of these guidelines. On 23 December 2019 Cabinet of Ministers passed a following order No. 653 "About operations plan on prevention of money laundering and terrorism and proliferation financing for period 2020 – 2022" which expired by adoption of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 576 "On an action plan for the prevention of money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing for the period 2020-2022" on 29 September 2020. This plan includes following appropriate tasks after previous plan in regards to prevention of terrorism financing. Additionally Latvian government authorities developed Strategy for the prevention of terrorism financing for 2019 – 2021.

As there is a possibility (although it remains low) that radicalized persons might use chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear material to commit terrorist acts, but the potential consequences and magnitude, both social and financial could be severe, authorities of the counter-terrorism system cooperate to prevent such materials being used for terrorist purposes. To ensure these measures, international and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms have been established and national response algorithms (Instruction of Cabinet of Ministers No. 12 "Instruction on the action of the responsible services in case of finding a substance or object of unknown origin, if it is suspected that it contains explosive, radioactive, dangerous chemical or biological substances, as well as if signs of a terrorist act have been detected", issued on 5 August, 2008) have been developed in cooperation with the State Police, the State Fire and Rescue Service, radiation control and nuclear safety authorities, for coordinated and effective response to potential CBRN threats.

To prevent illegal entry by terrorists, Latvia is bound not only by national entry bans established in accordance with the provisions of Article 61 of the Immigration Law of the Republic of Latvia, but also by international sanctions (including entry bans) that are included in the Schengen Information System (SIS). To effectively screen persons for potential links to terrorism prior to their entry into Latvia, checks in the SIS are performed whenever a decision on issuance of visa or admission of a person in the country is being adopted but it helps to identify a person only if his/her potential links have been already established and data on this person have been included into SIS. According to the Cabinet of Ministers (26 May, 2008) Regulation No.365 "Procedures by which an Assessment of Accessible Information is Performed in Reviewing the Documents of a Third-country National Requesting a Visa or Residence Permit", every visa or residence permit application that has been submitted by a

person who is a citizen of a country with an increased risk of terrorism, is checked additionally by the competent state security institutions.

Regarding identification (travel) documents, Latvia issues secure breeder primary documents. The passport and eID card are issued on the basis of data entered in the Integrated Migration Information System, such as the fact of a person's birth or of marriage. The Integrated Migration Information System enables authorities to verify the authenticity of the issuer of the identity document. In terms of document security, innovative, multi-level security features are incorporated into identity documents that meet the highest security standards. If an identity document is lost or stolen and the fact is reported to the authorities, the information on the lost or stolen identity document is entered in the "Invalid Document Register" subsystem of the Integrated Migration Information System.

Legal co-operation including extradition most often takes place between EU member states, utilizing the mechanisms established within EU, such as European Judicial Network (EJN) and Eurojust. There is an EJN national contact point in every EU member state therefore it is an effective mechanism for consulting on legal requirements for mutual legal assistance. Latvia has seconded a prosecutor to Eurojust, which is an agency that facilitates preparatory meetings for investigators and prosecutors to plan important transnational joint-operations and is often used as a platform where prosecutors can discuss relevant information on mutual legal assistance. With regard to third countries or countries with which Latvia does not have a bilateral agreement on co-operation in criminal matters, the Office of the Prosecutor-General plays a pivotal role in coordinating such co-operation.

Additionally, the respective state institutions are working in each of the above-mentioned fields to combat and prevent terrorism.

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.

Participation of military personnel or units (contingent) in international operations as well as joint military training of units is regulated by the Law "Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in International Operations".

The Minister of Defence takes the decision on participation of units of LNAF in joint military training, whether in Latvia or abroad, after coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Ministry of Interior. There are two exceptions when the decision is taken by the Cabinet of Ministers: the number of foreign military personnel exceeds 500 persons in joint military training in the territory of Latvia; units of LNAF participate in joint military training in non-EU or non-NATO countries.

The contingent of LNAF shall participate in international operations upon a resolution, recommendation or request of such international organizations of which the Republic of Latvia is a Member State, or with which the Republic of Latvia co-operates, as well as upon a request of the NATO or a EU Member State, or upon a request of such state in the territory of which an international operation is taking place.

The Law "Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in International Operations" stipulates that the contingent of LNAF shall participate in international operations within the scope of a mandate approved by the United Nations (UN) or another international organization, or in accordance with the international agreements binding to the Republic of Latvia and laws of the Republic of Latvia, as well as a decision of the *Saeima* (The Parliament), the Cabinet of Ministers or - in the case specifically provided for in the law - the Minister of Defence on participation of the contingent of LNAF in international operations.

Article 5 of the Law "Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in International Operations" provides that upon a request of a foreign country for the need of first aid, the Minister of Defence may approve the participation of a specially trained contingent. This decision allows LNAF contingent to participate in international rescue operations and international humanitarian operations in member states of NATO or EU.

LNAF continued their participation in international operations in 2020 in accordance with the appropriate decisions by the Parliament. Throughout the year Latvia was engaged in NATO training and assist mission Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan. Additionally starting from November 2020 LNAF joined NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) in Iraq.

In 2020 Latvia participated in two EU military operations - EUNAVFOR MED operation "Irinia" (ex Sophia) in the Mediterranean region and EU Training Mission Mali (EUTM Mali).

LNAF continued their participation in the international coalition against terrorist organization "Daesh" participating in Joint Forces military operation "Inherent Resolve" in Iraq, and participated in the UN-led Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali "MINUSMA". Additionally, Latvia has contributed to the NATO Response Force, European Union Battle Groups and the United Kingdom led Joint Expeditionary forces (JEF).

Taking into account that the Republic of Latvia is a member of NATO and has acceded to NATO basic treaties (i.e., the NATO SOFA) the provisions of these international treaties have been implemented.

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.

Arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures are significant elements of Latvia's security policy. Latvia works closely with its partners bilaterally and multilaterally, including in OSCE and NATO. Latvia is a member of all of the main international treaties, conventions and initiatives on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament:

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty;
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Biological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;
- Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;
- Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

Latvia is also the Subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Latvia follows the principles of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and also supports the Proliferation Security Initiative and Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Latvia's national legislation is adapted accordingly.

Latvia supports relevant non-proliferation and disarmament resolutions at the UN General Assembly First Committee.

Latvia has developed and implemented a strict and effective export control system to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and of sensitive dual use and strategic goods and technologies. The national regulations and practices of import, export and transit of arms complies with the principles and norms of the EU.

Latvia participates in the main international export control regimes: Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement. Latvia chaired the NSG for the period from June 2018 to June 2019 and was chairing the Experts Group of the Wassenaar Arrangement in 2019-2020. Latvia also is interested to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Latvia submitted its original application for membership in the MTCR in 2003, and provided an updated version of Latvia's application to the MTCR on 22 July 2015. Latvia's export control policy is in full compliance with the MTCR guidelines. Latvia pays particular attention to the concerns posed by illicit trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Latvia is a State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and held the chairmanship of the ATT from August 2018 to August 2019. Latvia is contributing to the efforts in making export control of legal transactions of arms a harmonized practice within the UN. Latvia submits annual reports on arms export and import to the UN Register of Conventional Arms, and to OSCE on the implementation of Code of Conduct on Politico-Military aspects of Security, and OSCE Document on Principles Governing the Conventional Arms Transfers. In addition, Latvia took up the chairmanship of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems in 2020.

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.

Latvia actively participates in the OSCE Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures evaluation visits and inspections as well as implements the bilateral transparency arrangements (e.g. with Belarus according to the *Declaration on Additional Confidence and Security Building Measures*). Latvia is also a member of the Open Skies Treaty.

Latvia is in the process of establishing a fully digital National Weapons Register to improve capability of combatting illicit trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons as well as to improve ability to control lawful handling of small arms and light weapons. The register is expected to be implemented by mid-2023 and will provide law enforcement and other competent authorities with effective tools to trace light weapons and ammunition through the lifecycle and throughout the market.

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?

Latvia has an effective defence planning system that is compatible with NATO planning process and requirements. It is based on the overarching state defence principles and NATO recommendations, and provides a framework for annual planning cycle. National defence capability objectives, as set out in the LNAF Development Plan, are synchronized with NATO Capability Targets contributing to a well-coordinated capability development across the Alliance. Consequently, it ensures that the available resources deliver the maximum defence capabilities. Moreover, Latvia executes its defence planning to fulfil its commitments towards international security and stability. Regular reviews allow adjusting the resource allocation taking into consideration the changes in the security environment and the economic development of the country.

The defence planning system is based on a hierarchy of defence planning documents that are split between the different levels of security policy, defence policy and defence planning.

The key planning documents at the security policy level are:

The National Threat Analysis is a comprehensive assessment, which identifies the existing and potential specific military threats or risk factors to national security. Analysis is prepared by the Constitution Protection Bureau in cooperation with the Latvian State Security Service and the Military Intelligence and Security Service, coordinated by the Council of State Security. It is examined by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Security Council.

The Concept of National Security is prepared based on the National Threat Analysis. This document determines the basic strategic principles and priorities for the prevention of military threats to the State. The last Concept of National security was approved on September 26, 2019.

The defence policy documents are as follows:

The Military Threat Analysis is an assessment of the possibility of military aggression against Latvia that is prepared by the Military Intelligence and Security Service, examined by the National Security Council and is noted annually by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The State Defence Concept is a document drawn up on the basis of the Military Threat Analysis, and determines the basic strategic principles within mid-term and highlights long-term priorities and measures of State military defence during peacetime and in case of crisis. *Saeima* (The Parliament) adopted the last State Defence Concept on September 24, 2020.

The defence planning documents are:

The National Security Plan is based on the strategy and principles determined by the Concept of National Security, it includes specific measures for neutralisation and prevention of military threats to the State and is drawn up and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers within a year after the approval of the Concept of National Security.

The State Defence Plan is prepared based on the Military Threat Analysis and the principles determined in the State Defence Concept. It determines specific State defence measures, priorities and necessary resources, as well as the necessary readiness and activities of the LNAF, institutions exercising State authority and administration, local governments, and natural and legal persons in regards to State defence. The State Defence Plan is drawn up by the Ministry of Defence in co-operation with other ministries and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Counter-terrorism strategy of Latvia for 2021-2026 is currently being drafted and is expected to be adopted by mid-2021. The strategy is a policy planning document where seven strategic counter-terrorism directions have been identified based on the analysis of the terrorism threat situation. The actions are expected to be taken in the following areas: enhancement of international cooperation, prevention of radicalization, freedom restriction of terrorists, improvement of protection of terrorism risk objects, development of counter-terrorism plans. Trends of the terrorist threats in Europe and in Latvia as well as the terrorist threat forecasts for the situational development in Latvia and Europe of the VDD and partner services have been taken into account to determine the strategic directions of the activities. All counter-terrorism areas of action are equally important and complement various elements of the counter-terrorism system.

The Ministry of Defence draws up and implements the State policy for defence, plans resources necessary for State defence and submit relevant proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers.

The LNAF Development Plan determines objectives, development priorities in terms of capabilities and actions, tasks and performance which are linked to the aspired defence budget within mid-term (4 years) and long-term 12 (years). The Cabinet of Ministers approved the last LNAF Development Plan on December 14, 2020.

On the basis of the development plan of the LNAF, the Joint Headquarters of the LNAF shall each year develop the annual development plan of the LNAF in which the tasks and measures

of the LNAF for the next year shall be determined in accordance with the funds allocated. The annual development plan of the LNAF shall be approved by the Minister of Defence.

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

Latvia actively participates in a broad range of global and regional multilateral organizations aimed at strengthening international security, cooperation and rule of law including the UN, NATO, the EU and the OSCE.

Units or soldiers of LNAF in compliance with the Charter of the UN and documents of the OSCE, shall participate in international operations upon a resolution, recommendation or request of such international organizations of which the Republic of Latvia is a Member State, or with which the Republic of Latvia cooperates, as well as upon a request of a NATO or an EU Member State, or upon a request of such state in the territory of which an international operation is taking place.

Participation of the LNAF in international operations is possible only in accordance with political decisions of the *Saeima* (The Parliament), the Cabinet of Ministers, or in special cases - the Minister of Defence. This constitutional and legal framework provides transparency and clear division of power between the President, the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers including the Minister of Defence.

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?

(i) Military Forces

The legal basis for democratic control is embedded in the Constitution and in legislative acts that determine the responsibility of the armed forces thus ensuring democratic control over the LNAF.

Participation of the LNAF in international operations is possible only in accordance with political decisions of the *Saeima* (The Parliament), the Cabinet of Ministers, or in special cases - the Minister of Defence. This constitutional and legal framework provides transparency and clear division of power between the President, the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers including the Minister of Defence.

The Minister of Defence performs civil control over the LNAF. The Minister of Defence is a civilian, who symbolizes and executes the democratic control over the LNAF. The Minister of Defence is politically responsible for his or her actions. The management of LNAF is exercised by the Commander of the LNAF who is subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

The division of responsibilities is laid out in the National Security Law and in the National Armed Forces Law.

The civilian control of the activities of the LNAF within the scope of their competence is performed by the Minister of Defence, the State Audit Office, the Cabinet of Ministers, the President and the Parliament. The internal control of the activities of the LNAF is performed by the Commander of the LNAF.

(ii) Paramilitary Forces

In the territory of the Republic of Latvia there are no forces defined as paramilitary forces.

(iii) Internal Security Forces

The National Security Law defines that the Constitution Protection Bureau (SAB), the VDD and the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIDD) are State security authorities, and their competence is governed by special laws and regulations.

(iv) Intelligence Services (Security and Intelligence Services)

The national security system contains three separate intelligence services as mentioned above.

The MIDD is a state security authority and it operates under the supervision of the Minister of Defence. The VDD operates under the supervision of the Minister of Interior and the SAB is supervised by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The National Security Council has the right to request State security institutions all the existing information at their disposal, which concerns national security interests. The National Security Committee of the Parliament performs parliamentary control of the activities and use of budgetary resources of these State security institutions.

(v) Police

The legal basis for police activities is provided in the Constitution, the Law on Police, the Investigatory Operations Law, as well as other laws and regulations and international treaties regulating the protection of the national security and economic sovereignty.

According to Article 38 of the Law on Police, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Minister of the Interior and local government institutions control the activities of the police within the scope of their competence.

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

Please refer to the information provided to question 2.1 in Section II.

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?

(i) Military Forces

Article 6 of the National Armed Forces Law, regulates the tasks of the LNAF. The main tasks of the LNAF are the following:

- to ensure the inviolability of the land, airspace, and territorial waters;
- to participate in international military operations according to the procedures specified in the laws and international agreements;
- to participate in the prevention of situations that constitute a threat to the State in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations.

The units (sub-units) of the LNAF may become involved in the performance of other tasks not provided for in this Law, but established by an order of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Minister of Defence controls the execution of the above mentioned tasks and missions by the LNAF. The Ministry of Defence has an assisting structure to ensure the legality of actions of the LNAF – the Audit and Inspection department of the Ministry of Defence. In order to ensure rule of law within LNAF, the Military Police has operational rights of the investigating authority.

(ii) Paramilitary Forces

Not applicable.

(iii) Security Forces

The National Security Law specifies the State security institutions. Also State Police and State Border Guard can be named as the State Security forces. The competence of the State Security Forces and the control over them is determined by such laws as the Law on State Security Institutions, the Law on Police, the Law on Career Course of Service of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prisons Administration, the Law on State Border of the Republic of Latvia, the State Border Guard Law and other legal acts.

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?

(i) Military

The LNAF are formed by regular forces, the National Guard and reserve of the National Armed Forces. In peacetime, personnel of the regular forces of the LNAF shall be formed by professional service soldiers and civilian employees. The National Armed Forces' reserve is composed of reserve soldiers and reservists. In peacetime units are recruited from Latvian citizens who are accepted into professional service and Latvian citizens who are employed in civil positions provided for in the staff list.

As of January 2007 Latvia has a volunteer military service system. Professional service soldiers fulfil service in accordance with a contract. Civilian employees perform a specific job (work) on the basis of an employment contract in units (sub-units) in civil positions of staff in accordance with regulatory enactments regulating employment legal relationships.

In accordance with the Military Service Law (MSL), Latvian citizens from 18 years of age may be accepted into professional service if they meet the requirements stipulated by the Minister of Defence for the state of health, education, professional and physical preparedness, knowledge of the official language, and moral and psychological characteristics, and if such persons, except for specialist officers, specialist non-commissioned officers, and specialist soldiers, may serve not less than five years until the attainment of the maximum age determined for professional service in this Law. MSL sets out the principle of equality without seeking to differentiate soldiers according to their gender. MSL states, that norms of the laws and regulations governing employment legal relationships shall not apply to a soldier, except, e.g. for the norms that determine a prohibition of different treatment. The Labour Law states principle of equal rights, e.g. everyone has an equal right to work, to fair, safe and healthy working conditions, to fair work remuneration and this rights shall be ensured without any direct or indirect discrimination – irrespective of a person's race, skin color, gender, age, disability, religious, political or other conviction, ethnic or social origin, property or marital status, sexual orientation or other circumstances.

By December 2006, the last conscripts finished their military service, and on 1 January 2007, Latvia became country that has solely professional armed forces. NAF are formed by regular forces, the National Guard and reserve of the NAF.

(ii) Paramilitary Forces

Not applicable.

(iii) Security Forces

The Law "On State Security Institutions", the Law "On Police", Law on the Career Course of Service of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prisons Administration and other legal acts regulate the recruitment procedures for the police and other interior security institutions.

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

There is no compulsory military service in Latvia and no alternative service. However, volunteers may apply to the National Guard, which is a component of LNAF, and its objective is to involve the citizens of Latvia in the defence of the State territory and society and it participates in the planning and execution of the State defence tasks in accordance with the tasks determined in the Law. These includes e.g. participating in international operations and rapid reaction forces, providing host nation support, participating in emergency, fire-fighting and rescue work and measures for elimination of the consequences of events that have caused emergency situations, as well as destroying explosive objects and performing blasting work and providing support to State and local government institutions in crime prevention, guaranteeing of public order and security.

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

Legal and administrative procedures protecting the rights of all military personnel are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, MSL, the National Guard of the Republic of Latvia Law, the National Armed Forces Law, the Law on Service Pensions for Military Persons, the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities, the Law on National Referendums, Initiation of Laws and European Citizens' Initiative, Internal rules of the Ministry of Defence No 21-NOT "Rules of Procedure of the Military Service System", as well as various governmental regulations on provisions catering, insurance and compensation for military personnel.

The principles of gender equality are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia which requires all persons within Latvia to be equal before the law and the courts and human rights shall be implemented without any discrimination.

The same principles also provides the Labour Law – everyone has an equal right to work, to fair, safe and healthy working conditions, as well as to fair work remuneration. This right shall be ensured without any direct or indirect discrimination.

MSL provides that regulatory enactments regulating employment legal relationships shall not apply to a soldier, except for provisions governing the prohibition of differential and some periods of leaves.

A soldier in LNAF is under the protection of the State. His or her life, freedom, honor and dignity are protected by law. A soldier has the right to be a member of such associations and foundations, which do not have a political nature, as well as to establish associations and foundations for soldiers and participate in other non-political activities if such activities do not interfere with the performance of service duties.

Soldiers have the right to nominate a representative in each unit from amongst their number to protect the interests of soldiers and to solve practical issues in relationships with the unit commander (superior officer) and higher officials. The representative of soldiers shall exercise his or her powers in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Minister of Defence.

A soldier has the right to appeal the decisions of officials taken in respect of him or her to a court if such decisions restrict his or her rights or infringe upon his or her honor and dignity without grounds and if he or she has utilized all means to dispute the decision in accordance with subordination procedures to higher officials, including the Minister of Defence.

A soldier has no right to refuse to perform military service on religious grounds, and to utilize his or her service position to impose his or her religious conviction on others. A soldier's private property and its administration shall not be an obstacle or impediment to the performance of military service or to the transfer of the soldier from one unit to another.

Professional service soldier's remuneration, as remuneration for officials (employees) of State and local government authorities, are governed by the Law on Remuneration of Officials and

Employees of State and Local Government Authorities. The amount of monthly salary for soldiers shall be determined in accordance with the service rank and term of service. A soldier shall receive special additional payments, regulated by the Cabinet of Ministers, for participation in international operations, and some other special additional payments.

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

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

Latvia is a state party to all Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols. Moreover, Latvia is a party to many other international legal instruments in the field of humanitarian law, such as the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its five Protocols. Latvia is also a state-party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

International rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict are incorporated in the national legal acts.

IHL aspects are included in all career-training programs in the National Defence Academy as well as in training programs for soldiers before the deployment to NATO operations.

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?

According to MSL each soldier shall be personally liable for the compliance with military discipline. Violations committed by a soldier shall be examined in accordance with the procedures set out in the law, Rules of Procedure for the Soldier and National Guardsmen Military Discipline and other laws and regulations.

Units to be deployed abroad are also briefed on international humanitarian law, war crimes, individual responsibility and command responsibility.

Please refer to the information provided to question 4.1 in Section II.

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?

Please refer to the information provided to questions 2.1 and 2.3 in Section II.

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?

As stipulated in Section 15 of the Military Service Law, soldiers are prohibited from:

1. Engaging in political activities, joining trade unions, organizing strikes and participating in them;
2. Combining the performance of military service with another position or work not permitted by law;
3. Being a representative of another person in matters related to a unit (institution) in which he or she holds a position;
4. Taking part, personally or through the intermediation of another person, in transactions, upon the entering into or the fulfilment of which soldiers may unlawfully utilize their service position or come into a conflict of interest.

Soldier's rights to vote, to be nominated as candidates are set in laws listed in question 3.3 in Section II. A soldier may participate in the activities of an association or foundation during free

time of the service, has a right to freedom of religion and belief in faith. The commander of a unit may release a soldier from the duties of direct service to participate in religious activities if it does not interfere with the performance of the tasks of the unit (sub-unit).

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

According to the place of international law in the Latvian legal system, the Latvian international obligations prevail the national law in case of any collision of legal norms. International law and the international obligations that the Republic of Latvia has undertaken are considered when drafting defence policy and doctrines (i.e. international humanitarian law, arms control treaties, human rights conventions, the UN Charter and customary international law).

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

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

The Ministry of Defence of Latvia and National Armed Forces do not provide any specific information on the Code of Conduct. General information on cooperation with the OSCE as well as link to the organization's website is published on the official website of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia.

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?

Please refer to the information provided to question 1.1. in Section III.

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

Public access to information on LNAF is organized according to Freedom of Information Law and the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media.

Among the main activities of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia and LNAF in order to ensure public access to information are:

- Website of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia www.mod.gov.lv (in Latvian and English);
- Website of the National Armed Forces www.mil.lv (in Latvian);
- News portal of defence sector www.sargs.lv/ (in Latvian);
- Social media activities:

National Armed Forces

twitter.com/Latvijas_armija

www.facebook.com/pages/Latvijasarmija

www.flickr.com/photos/latvijas_armija

www.youtube.com/LatvijasArmija

www.instagram.com/latvijas_armija

vm.tiktok.com/GptVJI/

Ministry of Defence

twitter.com/Aizsardzibasmin

www.facebook.com/Aizsardzibasministrija

www.flickr.com/photos/aizsardzibas_ministrija

News portal of defence sector

www.facebook.com/Sargs.lv

2. Contact information

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

Defence Policy Department

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia Phone: (+371) 67335096

IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY” IN THE LATVIAN NATIONAL ARMED FORCES

I. Prevention

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

Gender equality aspects are covered by the international laws of war that are included in the Latvian National Armed Forces (LNAF) training program for soldiers before the deployment to international operations.

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 girls' human rights.

Members of the armed forces receive both regular training and even more specifically pre-deployment training in international law and humanitarian law, issues of violation of rights of women and girls being one the training subjects. The principles of the international law related to the protection of women and girls' rights are integrated in all levels of national law, including the laws, policies and procedures regulating military service.

In addition, LNAF and Ministry of Defence staff regularly participates in the United States Defence Institute of International Legal Studies seminars on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

– Number and percentage of directives for peacekeepers issued by head of military components and standard operating procedures that include measures to protect women's and girl's human rights.

Please refer to the information provided above.

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 defence.

– Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces.

The number of women in the units of the LNAF in 2020 reached 1005, which equals to 15,25% of total number of Latvian soldiers.

– Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (Targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc.).

2019 was the first year when LNAF carried out targeted campaign to attract women to not only supporting function roles (e.g. recruitment and personnel planning), but in combat roles as well.

– Establishment, promotion, maintenance and use of specialized rosters of female profiles in the military fields.

Specialized rosters of female profiles in the military fields are not established.

– Number and percentage of women in the military forces disaggregated by rank.

Rank	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
OF-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
OF-4	3	3.6	3	3.3	4	4.5	6	6.3	8	0.8
OF-3	35	19.0	35	15.6	41	15.9	43	16.0	49	4.88
OF-2	69	21.9	73	20.1	74	21.5	70	20.8	72	7.16
OF-1	43	31.6	43	22.2	50	22.8	57	25.7	62	6.17
OF-0	19	25.6	21	21.2	20	19.8	19	17.8	15	1.49
OR-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
OR-7	31	31.9	29	21.9	32	19.5	35	18.2	35	3.48
OR-6	100	34.3	98	23.6	111	26.0	120	26.1	126	12.54
OR-5	152	30.5	152	21.7	142	19.7	139	18.4	134	13.33
OR-4	149	20.4	143	15.2	139	14.1	141	13.6	158	15.72
OR-3	128	13.2	139	12.1	154	12.1	166	12.3	182	18.11
OR-2	88	9.9	92	8.5	114	10.2	125	11.3	162	16.12

– Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

Complaints of the discrimination and sexual harassment have not been received.

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

Information on personnel development is not analyzed by gender.

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

– Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank.

In 2020 there were 5 women deployed in NATO operations, which equals to 3.5% of total number of Latvian soldiers serving in NATO operations.

Rank	Number
OF-2	1
OF-1	1
OR-7	1
OR-5	1
OR-4	1

– Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed.

Gender advisors have not been appointed to international missions.

– Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

No information.

III. Protection

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.

Information of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by Latvian uniformed peacekeepers has not been received.

IV. Other information

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

In 2020, the Government approved Latvia's National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in Latvia for the term of 2020-2025 (hereinafter – the Plan). The Plan was drafted under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Plan envisages three main tasks: (1) raising public awareness of gender equality issues and the elimination of gender-based violence, especially in the younger generation; (2) training for the Defence and Home affairs sector, including the establishment of a gender adviser's position; and (3) transfer of Latvia's experience and knowledge.

The tasks are implemented in cooperation with the line ministries and non-governmental organizations. Training on gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence in the Latvian Defence and Home affairs sector will involve cooperation with Canada and the Nordic countries.

The principles of UNSCR 1325 are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia which requires all persons within Latvia to be equal before the law and the courts and human rights shall be implemented without any discrimination. This also refers to gender equality. The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia provides equal rights for both – men and women – to participate in the activities covered by this Resolution.

The principles of UNSCR 1325 are incorporated in regulatory provisions, and gender equality at the Ministry of Defence and its subordinated institutions including the LNAF is fully respected.

– Information on best practices and lessons learned.

LNAF received NATO proposal to learn Gender issues in specific courses provided by Joint Advanced Distributed Learning and participation is under consideration.

