

Pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 2(2) of the Law on Defence (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 116/07, 88/09, 88/09 - as amended, 104/09 - as amended, 10/15 and 36/18), and Article 8(1) of the Law on the National Assembly (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 9/10),

The National Assembly has passed

## S T R A T E G Y

### of National Security of the Republic of Serbia

## INTRODUCTION

National security of the Republic of Serbia is an objective state of protection of its national values and interests against all forms of threats, and a subjective feeling of security of the citizens<sup>1</sup> of the Republic of Serbia. It represents a result of the influence of strategic environment and measures and activities undertaken by state bodies and institutions in execution of their security functions, and actions of other subjects in all areas of social life.

The National Security Strategy the Republic of Serbia, hereinafter referred to as the “National Security Strategy” is hierarchically the highest strategic document whose implementation protects the national values and interests of the Republic of Serbia from challenges, risks and threats to security in all areas of social life. Its starting positions are: Preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, military neutrality, care for the Serbian people outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia, European integration and an effective rule of law.

The National Security Strategy fully reflects commitment of the Republic of Serbia to general civilisation and moral values, respect for its state-building tradition, rule of law, social justice, democracy, human and minority rights and freedoms, economic progress, cooperative security and comprehensive international cooperation. The orientation stated in this document especially express readiness of the Republic of Serbia to actively participate in cooperation processes and joint actions with other states and subjects of international relations aimed at building and enhancing national, regional and global security.

The National Security Strategy is based on the implementation of a comprehensive approach that involves the joint engagement of all entities and potentials of the society and the state in countering the security challenges, risks and threats and protecting and pursuing the national interests of the Republic of Serbia. It analyses the strategic environment of the Republic of Serbia, assesses the challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia, formulates national interests and goals, determines the national security policy, then the structure

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<sup>1</sup> The expressions used in this document, with meaning of gender, refer equally to both masculine and feminine gender.

and principles of functioning of the national security system, as well as the way of its implementation.

The National Security Strategy is the starting point for the development of other strategic and doctrinal documents, documents of public policies and normative-legal acts in all areas of social life and the functioning of state bodies and institutions in order to preserve and protect the security of citizens, society and the state.

The positions of the National Security Strategy are operationalised in strategic and doctrinal documents, documents of public policies and normative-legal acts.

This public document presents fundamental strategic orientation of the Republic of Serbia in the field of national security to national and international public.

## 1. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

Political, economic, cultural and security relations in the world are developed in a global multipolar and multilateral environment with ever more pronounced balance of power and complex interdependence of states. Modern notion of global security, which encompasses different spheres of social life, creates a possibility of resolving conflicts in a peaceful fashion, as well as prospects for development of policy of cooperation and understanding at global and regional level.

Integrative processes in the field of security, and ever increasing political, economic and cultural cooperation are significantly reducing risks of interstate conflicts, and possibilities for occurrence of uncontrolled crisis and conflict spill-over from one area to another. However, the world is still faced with numerous, multiply determined security challenges, risks and threats which require timely and appropriate reaction. Mindful of dynamic changes in international relations, challenges, risks and threats to security are changing the character and forms of their manifestation.

Circumstances conducive to emergence of challenges, risks and threats to security at the global level are, primarily, great differences in terms of the level of economic and cultural development, which result in poverty and social endangerment of a considerable portion of population, which causes the emergence of negative demographic and socio-psychological occurrences. Regional and local conflicts, ethnic and religious extremism, terrorism, organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illegal migrations, hybrid threats, cyber threats, limited availability of natural resources, including water, food, sources of energy and raw materials, as well as climatic changes and environmental degradation, threaten the stability of certain states and entire regions, and global security.

Overall state of security in the world is considerably threatened by flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and generally accepted norms of international law, meddling in internal affairs of sovereign states, and the concept and practice of pre-emptive attack and military interventionism. Especially concerning is the trend of building tensions among great powers caused by competition for the achievement of their conflicted interests and shift of the existing spheres of influence. In such circumstances, the risk of military conflict of global scale, though significantly reduced, cannot be entirely dismissed. The greatest threats at international

plane will in the long run continue to be international terrorism, organised crime, strengthening of political and religious extremism, migrant crisis and indirect conflicts.

Long-lasting and devastating ethnic and religious conflicts in the Middle East and north of Africa have affected other parts of the world and created new security and political problems, and threat degree of terrorism has been increased not only in those regions, but in the territory of Europe as well. Apart from that, the number of migrant has considerably increased, whose final destination is some of more developed countries of Europe.

The European Union and/or its member states are faced with the requirement to solve multiple complex issues, such as danger of terrorism, asylum policy and migration management, financial crisis and Eurozone public debt crisis, which requires an institutionalised response of the European Union and its member states to all said challenges.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) strives to overcome the difficulties in terms of providing appropriate budgetary means, in order to be able to continue adapting to the changes in the strategic environment, and build necessary capacities to counter modern challenges, risks and threats.

Against the backdrop of globalised economy, macroeconomic consequences of financial instability of global market functioning, are also reflected in the state of security in the world. The effects of the world economic crisis can in some states lead to political instability, social unrests, and intensified investments in military industry complex and increased armament race.

Slower growth of developed economies adversely affects developing states, while the world trade and investments are in unfavourable position. Having in mind the growing number of all-encompassing contracts on free trade and movement of capital, it is expected that the strengthening of economic interdependence will continue resulting in restricting jurisdiction of national states.

Taking into consideration the climatic changes, and ever more pronounce deficit in natural resources, it is estimated that the number of conflicts in the world will increase, which are caused by competition in ensuring energy sources and other natural raw materials, drinking water and food. Moreover, increased risk of attacks against infrastructure for transport of energy sources will make the states considerably strengthen protection of critical energy infrastructure, including the use of armed forces.

At global level, predominant use of fossil fuels will continue, primarily of oil, while significant growth in demand for natural gas is expected. Non-renewability of the most commercial and most available energy sources of the modern world, coal, oil and gas, adversely affects the prospects of sustainable development, especially because of a slight chance that the energy obtained from renewable sources will significantly increase its portion in global consumption.

In the social sphere, particularly important will be to solve states' problems relating to increased influx of migrants into developed areas and migration of rural population to cities, trend of ageing population, ensuring all-encompassing health protection, increased availability and quality of education, and suitable employment of citizens. Developed states will more and more often face the difficulties of reducing migratory pressures and flows, since the number of migrants from underdeveloped, poor and armed conflict afflicted states will increase.

Extremely fast scientific and technological development, diffusion of modern scientific achievements and technology and their ever greater influence in all areas of social life in the states worldwide, are increasing the complexity of the strategic environment. In this context, there will exist greater potential for effecting a positive impact on agricultural and economic development of states, through implementation of innovative technological solutions that will contribute to advancement of resources usage and accelerated productivity growth. However, despite expectations that the level of responsibility of all involved subjects will be increased in terms of the use of scientific achievements in the general interest and for the wellbeing of the entire mankind, it is estimated that development of science and technology will continue to be subject to different forms of misuse, which will lead to negative security implications.

The dynamics of global development of information technologies will condition further intensification of activities in cyber space, whose security will be primarily threatened by cyber espionage, attacks against critical infrastructure, unauthorised breaches into classified information data bases, and spreading false news and disinformation via social networks.

The states of the South East Europe region are oriented towards democratic values, enhancement of economic and social stability, dialogue and cooperation which may reduce the possibility for outbreak of conflicts and positively influence security environment. There are certain limitations to the stabilisation process in the region, such as ethnic and religious alienation, different interpretation and attempts at revision of history. Nonetheless, regional security is increasingly founded on common and coordinated activities in the field of security, politics and economy and other areas that are directed towards preserving stability and crisis prevention in this region, and towards the common interest of the states of the region to accede to the European Union.

Integration of states aspiring towards membership in the European Union could be slowed down by unresolved institutional and economic problems within those states, lack of readiness to implement necessary reforms and harmonisation with the legislation of this organisation, mutual bilateral disputes, and bilateral disputes with European Union member states from the region of South East Europe. The said disputes can often be an excuse for slowing down of the European integration process, which is against the practice of “good intentions” and provisions of negotiating framework of the European Union which refer to mechanisms for solving bilateral disputes to prevent burdening the process of European integration.

Apart from the political role of the European Union, other regional and great powers exert strong influence in the region of South East Europe. Taking into consideration the geostrategic position of the South East Europe, which is intersected by important energy and communication lines, the confrontations of states’ interests regarding the use of the transit lines and disposal of resources may lead to occurrence of regional crisis and threats to security and stability of the states of the region and beyond. On the other hand, the Balkan region, as the energy sources transit area, might increase its overall geo-economic importance.

The security situation in the South East Europe region is also characterised by the presence of non-military factors that pose threat to security which include separatist aspirations, ethnic, religious and political extremism, economic and social problems, migrations, organised crime, underdevelopment of state institutions and natural disasters.

The regional security situation is greatly influenced by inherited problems of the past, historical contradictions, and consequences of clashes between the peoples and states in the recent past in the area of the South East Europe, especially in the Balkans. The relations among the states of the region are burdened by regulation of the status of minorities, resolution of the issue of missing persons and authority in terms of prosecuting war crimes, and the issues of the return of refugees, expelled and internally displaced persons and restitution of their property. Risks of war outbreak and other armed conflicts in the area of the South East Europe, though reduced, have not been eliminated.

Open disagreements among the states of the South East Europe region, chiefly about the issues of minorities and territory, make regional cooperation more difficult. The issue of status of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, interethnic tensions, and migrant crisis exert the greatest influence on the situation in the region.

Secessionist aspirations in the region represent a real threat to its security. In its difficulty and complexity, and negative implications for internal stability of the regional states and their state of security, particularly pronounced is the problem of illegally, unilaterally proclaimed independence of territory administratively encompassed by the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija by Provisional Self-government Institutions in Priština. In addition, non-implementation of the First agreement on the principle governing the normalisation of relations (the Brussels Treaty) and slow establishment of democratic standards in Kosovo and Metohija, non-compliance with fundamental human rights of Serbian and other non-Albanian population, usurpation and destruction of their property and cultural and historical heritage, and strengthening of radical Islamism, represent a source of long-term instability of the region. Recognition of independence of that part of the Republic of Serbia's territory by some states in direct vicinity, and certain number of state in the world, adversely affects strengthening confidence and cooperation and slows down stabilisation process in the area.

Attempts at revising the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Dayton Treaty) adversely affect the stability and security in the region. The Republic of Serbia, as one of the signatories, is a guarantor of the Dayton Treaty and advocates for honouring and fulfilment of the obligations from that document in the interest of all three constituent peoples and two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In certain states of the region, there are aspirations and attempts to achieve as great as possible degree of national unification of ethnic territory and to realise greater state projects, especially when it comes to creation of "Greater Albania", which would include a revision and change of internationally defined state borders and authorities, and they pose a threat to peace and security at regional level, and beyond. A negative effect on the state in the region is exerted by appearance and manifestations of strengthening of extreme nationalist groups, and destabilisation of political relations and deepening of political divisions. Moreover, religious extremism is also present which primarily results in strengthening of radical Islamic movements, whose activities could cause destabilisation of the region.

An ever more restrictive position of European Union member states on reception of migrants, increases the chances of this region becoming one of reception zones, whereat the Republic of Serbia would find itself in a situation to take over the care of a number of migrants which overcomes its economic and organisational capacities. Illegal migration of people from

the Middle East and Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, together with organised crime, represent a security risk in the region.

Economic situation in the countries of the South East Europe region is still unfavourable notwithstanding positive effects of measures undertaken by almost all governments. General characteristic of economy of all regional states is a poorly developed technological and industrial base. At that, there are evident consequences of the economic crisis that has spilled over from linked markets and economies, lack of investments, poor national demand and low competitive position at markets. Also present are the problems relating to budget planning, difficulties in deficit elimination, and growth of poverty caused by decreased purchasing power of the population. The states of the region are exposed to a risk of long-term public debt increase, negative balance and other kinds of deficits, and high unemployment rate, lack of strategic projects and ever greater energy dependence. Nevertheless, the states of the region endeavour to reduce the public debt and unemployment through implementation of strategic project which are carried out in the framework of European integration process and the process of Berlin.

Diverse degree of economic development of certain areas of South East Europe, in conjunction with their demographic characteristics, could be a source of political, economic, social, ethnic, religious and other tensions. The economic crisis, decelerated economic growth and high unemployment rate are conducive to strengthening of religious extremism, primarily extreme Islamism, which results in spreading of radical Islamist movements, whose activities can cause destabilisation of the region.

Scientific and technological development at regional level will be to the highest degree conditioned by degree of economic development of the states and the level of established cooperation with technologically more developed European states.

Due to the complex security situation in the region, the states of the South East Europe are ever more dependant of their joint efforts to confront negative processes and phenomena that endanger its safety. Activities in the framework of regional initiative have a special significance for strengthening of confidence, cooperation and joint action towards enhancing the stability and security in the region. Also, building common mechanisms for prevention of risks and threats and for crisis management creates conditions for approximation and accession of all states of that region to the European Union, and for realisation of developmental potentials.

In modern state of affairs, no country is capable of independently solving ever more complex problems of preserving and strengthening national security, which becomes more and more connected to the security situation in close and broader environment.

Because of the changed geo-strategic circumstances and ever stronger influence of global developments on security of certain states, the security policy of the Republic of Serbia is based on an integral and multilateral approach to security issues that promotes the concept of cooperative security.

Democratic processes and European foreign policy orientation of the Republic of Serbia are strengthening its international position and have a positively impact on the creation and enhancement of political cooperation and strengthening of confidence measures in the region. On these foundations, the security policy of the Republic of Serbia makes it a reliable partner in international relations and important actor of regional security cooperation.

The progress of the Republic of Serbia in its accession to the European Union positively influences its political, economic and social stability. Development of partnership cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and NATO, on the basis of policy of military neutrality and through the Partnership for Peace Programme, and observer status in the Organisation of the Collective Security Treaty (OCST) contribute to stability of the Republic of Serbia. For the purpose of further development of democracy, stability and prosperity of the region, it is important for the Republic of Serbia to improve relations with the United States of America, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, and other traditional partners and significant factors of the international community.

The Republic of Serbia is still faced with considerable challenges, risks and threats which jeopardise its security and which could cause an unfavourable development of the security situation. The key risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia are separatist tendencies, ethnic and religious extremism, covert activities of foreign factors, organised crime and illegal migration.

The attempt of secession of the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija threatens the national interests of the Republic of Serbia. The security situation in this province is characterised by imposed unilateral resolution of its status, lack of the rule of law, endangering personal and material security of Serbs and other non-Albanian population, religious extremism, risk of terrorist activities and expansion of organised crime, corruption, human trafficking, illegal trade in narcotics and weapons.

State of security in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is burdened by numerous destabilising factors. Security problems in that area are the main source of instability in the Republic of Serbia and region.

Possible conditioning of the Republic of Serbia in the process of accession to the European Union regarding further "normalisation of relations" with Provisional self-government institutions in Priština slow down and aggravate its becoming a full member of the European Union, which is why it is vital that the normalisation process remain neutral in its status.

For the Republic of Serbia, the United Nations play a central role in the protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and status of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. International presence in this Province (UNMIK, KFOR, OSCE and other) plays an important role in securing its stability, and the stability in the region. Attempts by provisional institutions of self-government in Pristina, or any kind of initiative to reduce that presence, and transformation of the armed formations calling themselves the "Kosovo Security Force" into the armed forces, contrary to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, are destabilising factor.

The Republic of Serbia, like all other states of the region, is faced with the danger of terrorism, various forms of organised crime, problems of economic and demographic development, the consequences of natural disasters, as well as with cybercrime.

In certain parts of the Republic of Serbia, there is a radical Islamist core which strives towards getting stronger through conduct of activities directed towards religious indoctrination, strengthening regional ties with like-minded people, recruitment and sending their members to crisis hotspots all over the world, for the purpose of participation in armed conflicts.

Illegal migrants who transit the territory of the Republic of Serbia on their way to the states of the European Union can have manifold negative effect on security situation having in mind the possibility of religious radicalisation, increase of tensions among migrant population, their mutual conflicts and negative reaction of the local population. Apart from that, other security risks are uncontrolled entry of migrants, possibility of hiding their identity, criminal activities in the form of illegal transport of migrants and closure of neighbouring countries' borders for some categories of migrants.

Security of the Republic of Serbia is also adversely affected by the level of its economic development, especially having in mind great regional differences in that regard. Furthermore, ever greater security risk is the state in demographic sphere characterised by low birth rate, intensified migration of population from rural to urban environment, and educated experts leaving the country to live abroad.

The security situation is also considerably influenced by natural disasters which could, in a very short time, cause major effects and make living impossible in certain parts or the entire country. The republic of Serbia is exposed to the risk of floods, with possibilities of droughts, fire, earthquakes, technical-technological and other accidents. Development of assessments and plans for protection and rescue, timely responding, and quality competence and equipment of protection and rescue forces could considerably mitigate the effects of natural disasters and catastrophic events caused by human factor.

Energy resources in the Republic of Serbia are relatively limited, they are of unfavourable composition and they are geographically unevenly distributed. Limited capabilities of import and storage of energy commodities may adversely affect energy security. By signing the Agreement on Establishment of Energy Community, the Republic of Serbia has opted for the establishment of regional electricity market, natural gas, petroleum and petroleum products, and its integration in energy market of the European Union, which should contribute to higher degree of energy security.

Scientific and technological development of the Republic of Serbia will depend on dynamics of its economic development, investment in this sphere, encouraging innovations and increasing capacities for research and development. Development of modern technologies, their presence in all spheres of society, and trend of further expansion influence the increase of cyber threats, scope of high technology crime, and importance of existence of a suitable system of countermeasures and protection in the Republic of Serbia as well.

The modern world is characterised by interdependence, unpredictability, and extremely complex risks and threats to security of states and citizens. In order to predict, prevent or limit such occurrences in real time, and control their effects as much as possible, responsible institutions have to pay special attention, and continuously monitor and analyse the international environment. Accordingly, this documents states challenges, risks and threats to security of the Republic of Serbia, which are subject to amendments, in line with the changes of strategic environment factors.



## 2. SECURITY CHALLENGES, RISKS AND THREATS

The Republic of Serbia is committed to building its security on democratic standards, co-operation policy and European foreign policy orientation.

The Republic of Serbia seeks, as a militarily neutral state, to constantly improve its security system in order to achieve a more efficient response to security challenges, risks and threats. Having in mind that the current challenges, risks and threats are most often manifested in a complex environment and they depend on several external and internal factors, each of them is analysed separately. According to the effects which they may have, the most significant challenges, risks and threats to security of the Republic of Serbia have been identified.

In the forthcoming period, an *armed aggression* against the Republic of Serbia is unlikely, but it cannot be entirely dismissed. Continuation of Euro integration processes and enhancement of cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with the states of the region will contribute to decreased possibility of an armed aggression being initiated against the Republic of Serbia.

*Secessionist aspirations* in the Republic of Serbia are fully displayed in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, which have adversely affected other parts in the south of the Republic of Serbia, but which have no great influence on other parts of the state. Unilateral actions of Provisional Self-government Institutions in Priština, attempts at obtaining membership in international organisations and requests for decreasing and abolishing international presence in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija point to a continuation of efforts to secede that part of territory of the Republic of Serbia, which represents a threat to national interests which will, according to expectations, be displayed in the period to come as well.

*Illegitimate unilaterally proclaimed independence of territory administratively covered by the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija* is not founded on the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, United Nations Charter and UN Security Council Resolution 1244, and, as such, it is unacceptable for the Republic of Serbia since it jeopardises its national values and interests.

*Armed rebellion* can jeopardise the security of the Republic of Serbia, whereat the greatest threat is posed by extremist groups which operate in the area of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Taking into consideration the orientation of the Republic of Serbia to resolve all disputes by peaceful means, and the fact that relations with neighbouring states are not burdened by open issues whose resolution could lead to the use of arms, and that there are not visible military threats to security, the probability of outbreak of different armed incidents is greatly reduced.

*Terrorism* represents a great risk and serious threat to security of the Republic of Serbia. Carrying out acts of terrorism in its territory can make politico-security situation even more complex. The Republic of Serbia and its citizens, in the country and abroad, can be targets of terrorist activities, and its territory can be misused for transit, preparation and execution of terrorist acts in other states, which is unacceptable.

*Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction*, along with accompanying systems, by its implications, presents a potentially the greatest threat to global and regional security, so it can be

a serious threat to security system of the Republic of Serbia. Particular danger lies in the possibility of terrorist organisations possessing weapons of mass destruction.

*Ethnic and religious extremism* occurs in varying intensity in certain parts of the Republic of Serbia and it can destabilise politico-security situation. Concurrently, this form of security threats, in some cases, can generate secession aspirations, particularly if that is supported from abroad.

*Intelligence activity* of foreign subjects which continuously act against political, economic and security actors in the Republic of Serbia, among other through subversive propaganda activities are directed towards attempts at destabilising institutions and causing tensions in society, represents a threat to security of the Republic of Serbia.

Organised crime is one of the most significant threats to security of the Republic of Serbia, especially having in mind the intensity of its manifestation and its transnational character. The most frequent are the following forms of organised criminal activities: production and smuggling of psychoactive controlled substances, arms smuggling and trafficking, human smuggling and illegal migration, economic and financial crime in the form of illegal production and trade in product subject to excise duties and money laundering, corruption, and other less frequent forms. In that respect, a special threat to security is posed by activities of criminal groups in the south of the Republic of Serbia, primarily because of their connection with subjects of terrorist, extremist and secessionist activities.

*Drug addiction*, as ever more pronounced social problem, which gains a character of a security problem and influences the increase in number of severe criminal offences.

*Mass illegal migrations* represent a significant security challenge, mindful that the migrant crisis and illegal migrations combined with organised crime and strengthening of religious radicalism can cause occurrence of threats to security, especially if the Republic of Serbia, as a transit state, is forced to undertake, even temporarily, taking care of the migrants whose number surpasses its economic and organisational capacities.

*Problems of economic growth of the Republic of Serbia* emerge as a consequence of actions of foreign and internal factors. Dynamics of economic growth of leading economies, global trade volume, applicability to international financial and merchandise markets, geopolitical tensions and similar can cause reduction of its exports and deterioration of financial position, downsizing of direct foreign investments and new capital. Such trends can directly influence an increase in foreign and internal macroeconomic imbalance of the Republic of Serbia, and indirectly, the living standard and reduced feeling of security of the citizens.

*Problems of demographic development* of the Republic of Serbia are displayed in the form of low birth rate, unsatisfactory indicators of diseases and mortality of the population, low average life span and quality of life, uncontrolled migrations, and educated, scientific and cultural potential leaving the country. Deepening of difficulties in economic growth could contribute to further decrease in birth rate, ageing of the population, and ultimate jeopardising the very foundations of biological survival of the Republic of Serbia population.

*Infectious diseases epidemics and pandemics* may jeopardise the population of the Republic of Serbia and bear risk of occurrence of more difficult economic and social effects. Infectious diseases epidemics, apart from uncommonness in terms of number, times, place and affected population, can cause an increase in number of diseased with complications, occurrence of severe clinical forms of contagious diseases and death.

*Energy security* of the Republic of Serbia can be jeopardised by disturbing stable and regular supply of energy products from other states. Also, disputes with Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština in the field of supply of electricity can result in jeopardised electricity supply of the northern part of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

*Incomplete delineation process of former SFRY states* influences the security of the Republic of Serbia, primarily in terms of delineation with some of the European Union states, which may present a significant problem in the process of its European integration.

*Natural disasters and technical-technological accidents*, as well as endangering of the environment and health of citizens due to radiological, chemical and biological contamination can considerably impact the security of the Republic of Serbia. Different kinds of natural disasters (floods, droughts, fire, earthquakes, extremely high temperatures and similar), and the presence of large quantities of hazardous materials in the process of production, storage, trade and transport, directly and indirectly influence the risk level and state of security of humans, animals, material and cultural goods and the environment. Technical and technological accidents pose a considerable risk with the effects that can be displayed not only in the territory of the Republic of Serbia but in the territories of other neighbouring states.

*Climate change* have a significant negative effect on the quality of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia, and thus on its security. Except in the ecological sphere, the climate change can have considerable consequences in the field of economy (first of all, in agriculture, water industry and energy), and social changes accompanied by security risks. Risks in domain of the environment are multiple because of the effects on ecosystems and biodiversity. Social risks in that context can occur in the context of public health, and demography but they are also existential. Extreme meteorological circumstances, erosion, soil drying out and fires, due to high temperatures, may lead to lacks of food and water, migration flows, epidemics, increase in radicalism and crime. Climate change poses a demographic risk as well, since the quality of the environment largely influences the health of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

Development of modern technologies and their presence in all social spheres, results in an increase of *cybercrime and threats to information-communication systems*. Trends in commission of an offences in these fields in the Republic of Serbia to the highest degree coincide with the trends at the global level.

Apart from the said, there are other challenges, risks and threats to security which can display a significant influence such as: corruption, misuse of new technologies and scientific achievements, genetic engineering, medicine, meteorology and other scientific areas. They often exert open influence on the security of the Republic of Serbia, so they are difficult to detect and identify the patterns of their action.

### 3. NATIONAL INTERESTS

National interests, as a permanent need and aspiration of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens, are based on universal and national values deriving from the Constitution and the heritage of the Serbian people and all citizens living in the Republic of Serbia. Fundamental national values are: freedom, independence, peace, security, democracy, rule of law, social justice, human and minorities' rights and freedom, equality of the citizens, tolerance,

transparency, solidarity, patriotism and healthy environment. Through achievement of national interests, the national values are protected.

The national interests of the Republic of Serbia are: preservation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; preservation of internal stability and security; preservation of the existence and protection of the Serbian people wherever they live, as well as national minorities and their cultural, religious and historical identities; maintaining peace and stability in the region and the world; European integration and membership in the European Union; economic development and overall prosperity, and preservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia.

*Preservation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity* is a precondition for the survival of the Republic of Serbia as a state. Achievement of national interests is based on the international law, cultural-historical heritage and the fundamental national values. Protection and achievement of national interest enables the right to autonomous execution of legislative, executive and judicial power in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, and preservation of integrity of its territory, security of the population and continuity of economic activities in accordance with the Constitution. The Republic of Serbia realises its aspirations in the framework of this interest in accordance with the international law, and undertaken and ratified international obligations. In this regard, it does not recognise illegal secession of any part of its territory.

*Preservation of internal stability and security* is the condition for continuous development of all segments of society, rational use of available resources and satisfaction of the citizens' requirements. Achievement of that interest ensures the protection of the state, society, citizens and property against threats, which leads to improved quality of life of the citizens and better institutional development and efficiency. Also, that enables enhancement of economy, building confidence and cooperation, and citizens' responsibility, which eventually results in the fact that the Republic of Serbia is a desirable place for life and work.

*Preservation of existence and protection of the Serbian people no matter where it lives, as well as of national minorities and their cultural, religious and historical identity* are conditions for survival of the Republic of Serbia, diaspora and the Serbs abroad, and the Republic of Srpska as an entity within Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Dayton Agreement. By achieving that interest, we enhance demographic potential, strengthen national unity, culture and patriotism, and develop awareness of national identity, along with acknowledging cultural heritage of other peoples. In that manner, conditions are created for cohesion and development of society, enhancement of position and protection of the rights of the Serbs wherever they live, Serbian cultural, spiritual and historical heritage in other states, enhancement of cultural exchange, understanding and acknowledgement of culturological and other differences, and enhancement of position and rights of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia.

*Maintaining peace and stability in the region and the world* is significant for security and stability of the Republic of Serbia, as well as for its overall development. Contributing to maintenance of peace and stability in the region and the world, enhances its overall capability and capacities of the national security system, and its international reputation. Active participation increases possibility of exerting its influence on the actions of international relations subjects and non-violent resolution of important international issues, significant for the

Republic of Serbia, and in accordance with internationally undertaken obligations. Through direct engagement in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms of cooperation, the Republic of Serbia builds confidence and its position of a reliable partner in international relations, and regional stability and good neighbourly relations.

*European integration and membership in the European Union* lead to an overall reshaping of society and economy, raising high standards in all spheres, strengthening of democratic institutions and market economy through research and innovations, growth of exports and investments, growth of employment, improvement of education that would respond to requirements of the market, high degree of protection of human and minority rights, growth in overall level of safety and security of the citizens. In the first half of the 20th century Serbian thinkers participated in building a society based on European ideas, while the Serbian people suffered great sacrifices in building a free and stable Europe. By becoming a member of the European Union, the Republic of Serbia would become a part of an organisation that represents one of the most important global actors and gain the opportunity to influence the decision-making process within that organisation. In doing so, it also enhances its own capacity to protect and pursue other national interests and goals.

*Economic development and overall prosperity* enables improvement of the quality of life of the citizens and certain prospects for future generations. That national interest ensures the enhancement of living standard, resilience and adaptability of economy, rational and responsible relation towards natural wealth and the environment, even regional development, enhancement of education, scientific and technological development, and overall security of the state and citizens. In that manner, social stratification will be reduced as well as economic differences in comparison to developed states, and economic and energy security of the Republic of Serbia will be enhanced.

*Preservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia*, which implies a responsible relation towards the environment in terms of quality of soil, underground and surface water resources and atmosphere, biodiversity, and towards the use of natural wealth and management of hazardous waste, is of extreme importance for the security of the Republic of Serbia. Active monitoring of the situation and taking measures for protection against irrevocable changes to the environment caused by climate, geo-physical, and technological influences, is one of the conditions for a sustainable growth.

A threat to national interests is a threat to security of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian people, wherever they live, and their religious, cultural and historical heritage. Goals, positions, orientations and measures for the protection and achievement of national interests are contained in the policy of national security.

#### 4. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

The National security policy of is a part of the overall state policy and it is a set of positions, principles and commitments directing the decision-making process and activities of the Republic of Serbia for the protection and achievement of national interests. The National security policy is implemented through taking comprehensive and harmonised measures in different areas of social life.

The National security policy, which is founded on implementation of an all-encompassing approach, creates basis for a uniform, harmonised and integral response of the Republic of Serbia to challenges, risks and threats to security.

Implementation of the national security policy, in addition to protecting and fulfilling national interests, creates preconditions for a political, economic, social, cultural and overall social development of the Republic of Serbia.

Basic positions, principles and commitments of the national security policy, or measures taken to implement national security policy, are grouped according to the national interests and goals of the Republic of Serbia to which they directly refer.

#### **4.1 Preservation of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia**

In order to preserve the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, the Republic of Serbia accomplishes the following goals:

- deterring from armed threat and effective defence;
- preservation of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija as part of the Republic of Serbia;
- strengthening reputation and international position of the Republic of Serbia;
- prevention and elimination of secessionist activities.

*Deterrence against armed threats and efficient defence of the Republic of Serbia* is extremely important for preservation of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Maintaining required level of capabilities of defence system and its continuous development will ensure adaptability of defence system to changes of security environment and changes of challenges, risks and threats to security of the Republic of Serbia.

Development of defence system will be based on requirements and capabilities, in accordance with strengthening of economic and demographic potentials of the country, and it will be carried out pursuant to development plans and programmes. Also, necessary conditions are to be created for integral engagement of all defence system subjects. In that sense, the total defence concept is to be developed and implemented while the number of citizens trained for defence of the country is to be significantly increased.

For the purpose of deterrence against an armed threat and effective defence of the Republic of Serbia, the work will be continued on gathering, analysing and assessing data and information about potential and real dangers, activities, plans and intentions of subjects that can threaten sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and security of its citizens.

The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards building strong foreign policy partnerships and friendly relations with other states through an active and peace-loving foreign policy.

*Preservation of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija as part of the Republic of Serbia* represents an important issue for the Republic of Serbia. It is oriented to protect its own interests through dialogue, as well as the interests of the Serbs and other non-Albanian population in this Province. Acting in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and fundamental norms of the international law, it will continue protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity, using all available diplomatic and legal means. The Republic

of Serbia will not recognise unilaterally proclaimed independence of its southern province, however, in the interest of regional stability and as good as possible relations between Serbia and Albania, it will continue the dialogue with Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština with mediation of the European Union, until a lasting, sustainable and mutually acceptable agreement is reached.

The Republic of Serbia advocates for strict and consistent implementation of all reached agreements in the framework of the Brussels Agreement with the bodies of Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština. In collaboration with other states and international organisations, it will work on sustainable return of expelled and displaced persons and enhancement of security. Through an active engagement in international organisations and bilateral cooperation, it will aspire towards preventing membership and affirmation of unilaterally declared independence of the territory administratively covered by the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija in international organisations, and within the system of the United Nations Organisation in particular. By intensifying its diplomatic efforts, the Republic of Serbia will endeavour to ensure as wide as possible international support for the preservation of the southern province within its borders.

Defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Republic of Serbia defends the international law, United Nations Charter, supreme authority of the Security Council in the field of preservation of international peace and security, and its own national and historic identity. Its state bodies, together with international subjects, will continue contributing to creation of preconditions for arriving at a political solution using peaceful means for the issue of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, international law and provisions of Constitution of the Republic of Serbia.

Serbia attaches particular importance to the activities of United Nations mission in the territory of its southern province (UNMIK). UNMIK presence is crucially important for stability and creation of conditions which should lead to a lasting and sustainable resolution of the issue of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. The United Nations framework, based upon that Resolution, is a guarantee of neutral status of international presence in Kosovo and Metohija. In that context, the Republic of Serbia expects that UNMIK, as well as KFOR, will continue implementing their mandate in undiminished scope in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, particularly in the field significant for survival and normal and dignified life of the Serbs and members of other non-Albanian communities.

The Republic of Serbia will continue advocating for more active approach of the United Nations in relation to the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and continued engagement of KFOR in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. It opposes the admission of bodies of Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština to UNESCO and INTERPOL, and transformation of armed formations named "Kosovo Security Forces" into armed forces, as well as to marginalisation of these issues in the framework of the United Nations system, and Security Council in particular. It is of paramount importance that this issue is continuously reviewed in the Security Council, with unreduced regularity and in conformity to the Resolution 1244, especially having in mind the sensitivity of the situation on the ground.

*Strengthening reputation and international position of the Republic of Serbia* contributes to preservation of its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It will pursue a proactive, clearly profiled and conceived foreign policy for the purpose of better placement and strengthening its international position and reputation at regional, European and wider international plane. Accordingly, particular attention is to be paid to building and strengthening an all-encompassing cooperation policy at several levels. This, chiefly, refers to intensive bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation with all subjects of international relations, especially in the field of economy, aimed at improving the citizens' living standard, accelerated integration into European union and preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Republic of Serbia is confident that the stability and security of international order can be effected through cooperation, preservation of democratic values and honouring the international law.

Continuation of cooperation with key actors of international relations and all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council is of strategic significance. Particularly important are relations with the People's Republic of China, Russian Federation and United States of America.

*Prevention and elimination of secessionist activities* are important for preservation of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia. In that regard, through even regional development, strengthening democratic society and institutions, rule of law and respect for human and minority rights, and incessant undertaking other measures in different areas of social life, it will endeavour to prevent secessionist activities and create conditions to become a desirable place for life and work of all its citizens.

The Republic of Serbia advocates for building of society that respects diversity through promotion of ethnic and religious tolerance, understanding and appreciation, and through universal values. In relation to that, it will enhance interdepartmental cooperation and capacities, and cooperation with non-governmental sector and local communities in the area of prevention and elimination of causes of all forms of secessionist activities.

#### **4.2 Preservation of internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its Citizens**

To preserve internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens, the following tasks are carried out:

- protection of human and minority rights and freedom of the citizens;
- rule of law and further development of democracy and democratic institutions;
- enhancement of security of citizens, state and society;
- normalisation of the situation and relations in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija;
- efficient state administration.

*Protection of human and minority rights and freedom of the citizens* represents a basis for internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. The Republic of Serbia belongs among European states with the highest achieved and implemented level of protection of human and minority rights in terms of legislation. Accordingly, it is of utmost significance to continue strengthening institutions and the institution of implementation of achieved level of



human and minority rights protection. Also, social tolerance is to be enhanced, along with understanding and appreciation, and resolute opposition to all forms of discrimination.

The Republic of Serbia will continue developing legislative and institutional frameworks to effect freedom of expression, pluralist manner of information and raising the level of objectivity of media reporting.

Improvement of education conditions is to be continued, as well as equal participation of members of national minorities in all structures of government. The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards honouring constitutional and international provisions on protection of human and minority rights and freedom of the citizens, and towards intensifying cooperation with representatives of minorities and minorities' states of origin. Likewise, in its foreign policy, it will insist on consistent implementation of principle of reciprocity in protection of human and minority rights.

The Republic of Serbia will continue its engagement on resolving the issue of missing persons, return of refugees, expelled and internally displaced persons, and protection of their human rights and freedom.

*The rule of law and further development of democracy and democratic institutions* is one of the fundamental preconditions for the preservation of internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. In that respect, efficiency and transparency of work of legislative, executive and judicial powers is going to be increased. Through reinforcement of professional ethics and preventive anti-corruption activities, confidence of citizens in state institutions will be enhanced and the level of their democratic development. Work procedures will be improved for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the work of courts, public Prosecutor's Office and security agencies. Cooperation of public administration with civil society organisations will be enhanced in the area of framing and implementing public policies.

*Enhancement of security of citizens, state and society* represents one of the most important goals, whose accomplishment contributes to preservation of internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. Relative to that, interdepartmental cooperation is going to be improved and better quality of information exchange and analysis is going to be ensured, as well as of planning and implementation of measures passed.

The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards providing contribution to fight against terrorism in all its manifestations and preventing all kinds of extremism and radicalism. The Organisation of United Nations is considered to be the key international forum for the resolution of the problem of terrorism. In that respect, in coordination with partners worldwide, it will continue contributing to suppressing those threats at national, regional, European and global level. Moreover, it will strive towards building its legal framework and institutional capacity to fight against terrorism in compliance with strategic framework and standards of the European Union.

The Republic of Serbia will advance its own capabilities and capacities for gathering, analysis, assessment, protection and transmission of data and information about international terrorism, and it will take all required measures to prevent terrorist activities in its territory. The focus of the engagement is going to be place on preventive measure.

In collaboration with other states and international organisations, in compliance with law, it will endeavour to prevent encouraging, organising and participation of its citizens in wars or

conflicts in foreign states, and to contribute to containing the growth of violent extremism in the region, especially in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Just like many other states, the Republic of Serbia is faced with refugee and migrant crisis. In that regard, it advocates for finding a coordinated and all-encompassing response at regional and European level. With regard to refugee and migrant crisis, it is ready to give its contribution to arriving at common European solution, and to undertake its share of obligations. Through more intensive cooperation with European Union Member States and states of the region, it will aspire towards more effective and efficient control of migrant flows and ensuring a humane treatment of the migrants, in accordance with international regulations. It, furthermore, supports the efforts of the United Nations, and regional organisations, directed towards encouraging dialogue and reducing tensions in crisis regions in the world.

It will enhance capabilities and capacities for monitoring, prevention and containing the occurrence of national, religious and other forms of extremism, implementation of zero tolerance for all forms of violence, suppressing illegal trade in psychoactive controlled substances, and fight against all forms of corruption and crime. Moreover, it will identify and protect critical infrastructure facilities and carry out measures of early warning and preventive response from the aspect of protection against natural disasters, technical and technological accidents and catastrophic events.

In compliance with international standards, the Republic of Serbia will establish a uniform early alert system and enhance capabilities and capacities of emergency situations headquarters. For the purpose of swift, efficient and coordinated reaction of all emergency services and efficient management on the occasion of protection and rescue in emergencies, a uniform notification system is to be established along with a public alert system.

Counter-intelligence activities are going to be enhanced with a view to improving the overall security and stability.

In the field of cyber-security, it will continue enhancing capabilities and capacities for processing, transfer and protection of information and information-communication systems and defence against techniques of hybrid and information warfare in information and cyber space. Considerable attention is going to be paid to further development of the overall security culture of all citizens aimed at raising awareness on the required increase of security of an individual and society.

Demining activities are going to be continued - clearing areas on land and water contaminated by mines, cluster ammunition, air bombs-missiles and other unexploded ordnance.

*Normalisation of the situation and relations in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija* to a large extent contributes to preservation of internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia will fully support participation of the Serbs in the work of Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština, and continuously and realistically inform national and foreign public about the situation and relations in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. In order to protect Serbian and other non-Albanian population and increase the level of general security of all citizens of the Province, all required measures will be taken in keeping with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

The Republic of Serbia will continue responsibly and constructively participating in the dialogue on normalisation of relations with Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Priština, and providing contribution to implementation of achieved results of the dialogue. Apart from the protection of the Serbian people, and other non-Albanian population, particular attention will continue to be paid to preservation of Serbian cultural and spiritual heritage, protection of state property, and property of economic subjects and citizens in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Also, efforts will continue to be made to ensure cohabitation of all citizens and interethnic confidence in that area, and regional peace and stability. Because of interethnic mistrust, and for the purpose of implementing previously achieved arrangements and agreements in the framework of the dialogue, it is necessary to maintain undiminished international presence.

*Efficient state administration* is especially important for maintenance and building internal stability and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. In relation to that, measures will continue to be taken required for the reform of the public administration in accordance with the principles of European administrative area and undertaken obligations in the framework of the process of joining and accession to the European Union.

Implementation of good governance principle is going to be promoted, while transparency of work is going to be enhanced, as well as efficiency, responsibility to the citizens, work quality check, while degree of accountability of the state administration bodies is going to be raised. Furthermore, measures are going to be taken for a uniform and even modernisation and development of national security system, and introduction and efficient operation of electronic government in the work of all state administration bodies.

#### **4.3 Preservation of existence and protection of the Serbian people, wherever they live, and of national minorities and their cultural, religious and historical identity**

Preservation of existence and protection of the Serbian people, wherever they lived, and of national minorities and their cultural, religious and historical identity, as a national interest of the Republic of Serbia, is carried out by achieving the following goals:

- development of demographic potential;
- national unity and development of cultural, religious and historical identity;
- enhancement of position of national minorities;
- improvement of position and protection of rights and interests of diaspora and the Serbs abroad;
- protection of cultural and historical wealth significant for the Republic of Serbia and its citizens.

*Development of demographic potential* is of primary importance for the Republic of Serbia and all its citizens. Accordingly, it will undertake a systematic action of social subjects in all spheres of demographic development, in particular: increase in birth rate, reduction of death rate and migration of citizens (internal and international) for the purpose of increasing labour and fertile potential necessary for reproduction of new generations, and continuation of socio-economic development and demographic growth of the society.

One of the priorities is going to be to enhance social and health protection of the population, and financial support to underdeveloped municipalities, especially in order to encourage an even regional development, development of villages and border areas. Particularly

important is going to be to encourage young and educated citizens to remain to live and work in Serbia.

*National unity and development of cultural, religious and historical identity* is greatly important for the preservation of the Serbian people and national minorities. The Republic of Serbia will continuously work on strengthening national unity. Measures are to be taken to reinforce the culture as a cohesive and developmental society factor, and for the protection and development of the Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards advancement of modern artwork in all artistic fields, founded on traditional artistic values and high artistic standards. Special attention is going to be paid to continued cherishing of cultural, historical and religious identity, promotion of cultural and historical heritage, protection of cultural wealth of the Republic of Serbia and religious buildings of the Serbian people and national minorities in Serbia and abroad.

Particularly important is going to be to encourage the development of patriotic awareness, and willingness to defend and protect the fatherland in peace, emergencies and war, without ideological determinants and in keeping with achieved civilizational values of a developed society.

*Enhancement of position of national minorities* is one of the priorities of the Republic of Serbia. In its territory, it guarantees all individual and collective rights of national minorities. It concurrently advocates for respect of human and minority rights of the Serbs in other states, through enhancement of relations with those states in conformity with relevant international law documents.

The Republic of Serbia will continue taking measures aimed at increasing mutual respect, understanding and cooperation among all people who live in its territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity. Singular attention is going to be paid to development of cooperation with representatives of national minorities, and countries of origin of the minorities for the purpose of improvement of their status and rights.

Civil society organisations are to be involved in the process of framing and implementation of public policies to regulate the status of national minorities, for the purpose of gaining a realistic insight and expressing their requirements.

*Improvement of position and protection of rights and interests of diaspora and the Serbs abroad* is of the upmost importance for their survival and preservation of cultural, religious and historical identity. Orientation of the Republic of Serbia is to permanently maintain and reinforce its relations with diaspora and the Serbs living and working in the states of the region with their country of origin, and to enhance cultural, economic and other forms of cooperation with them and support preservation of their national, religious and cultural identity.

In the future as well, the Republic of Serbia will advocate for respect and improvement of rights and status of the Serbs in the region, and members of its diaspora, both at bilateral level, with the states in which they live, and in the framework of international organisations, insisting on respect for the principle of reciprocity.

*Protection of cultural and historical wealth significant for the Republic of Serbia and its citizens* is highly important. Rich cultural and historical heritage of the Serbian people and national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, as part of the world cultural

heritage, is of exceptional value, and it is necessary to appropriately present and protect it in international institutions. Special attention is going to be dedicated to protection and preservation of movable and immovable cultural wealth, and to protection and preservation of intangible cultural heritage.

Activities in UNESCO organisation and other international organisations are going to be intensified for the purpose of conservation, restoration, protection and greater visibility of cultural heritage of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian people beyond the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Moreover, there is going to be permanent enhancement and encouragement of cultural creativity and cherishing of historically grounded national culture of remembrance, and Serbian cultural heritage is going to be promoted, along with the cultural heritage of national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

#### **4.4 Preserving peace and stability in the region and the world**

National interest of the Republic of Serbia is preservation of peace in the region and world, and it is going to be achieved through implementation of the following goals:

- contribution to development of international relations in accordance with internationally undertaken obligations;
- contribution to preservation of international peace and security;
- respect of international law and advancement of mutual confidence;
- contribution to strengthening regional stability and improvement of good neighbourly relations;
- strengthening comprehensive bilateral relations with all states, with due regard for mutual interests;
- strengthening active participation in the work of international organisations.

*Contribution of the Republic of Serbia to development of international relations in accordance with internationally undertaken obligations* represents a lasting orientation and goal. The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards active participation in the work of international organisations, consistent fulfilment of its international obligations stemming from ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. Fulfilment of internationally undertaken obligations will positively influence the reputation of the Republic of Serbia as a factor of stability in the region.

*Contribution to preservation of international peace and security* is in the best interest of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. The Republic of Serbia will have a responsible and active relations within the United Nations and with other international organisations in terms of preservation of international peace and security. It has opted for non-violent resolution of open issues in international relations and it opposes all forms of threats to international peace and security, for the purpose of creating a stable and peaceful environment that enables unhindered economic and political development of society.

Through participation of military and civilian capacities in multinational operations and missions led by the United Nations, European Union and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Republic of Serbia is going to improve its position of a reliable partner in international relations, and interoperability of national security and defence system with other states and establish new partnerships. Also, capabilities are to be developed for an integrated

approach to resolving international conflicts, which encompasses participation in civilian crisis management missions.

*Respect of international law and advancement of mutual confidence* is of particular interest for the Republic of Serbia and its interests. It will aspire towards more active affirmation of respect for human rights, including the issue of conditions for membership in international organisation. Its orientation is to actively participate in international multilateral fora in the field of arms control, and to continue with consistent implementation of norms in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to work on further strengthening of its national capacities and enhancement of regulations in that area. It also advocates for transparent security policy, non-interference in internal issues of sovereign states, and for reinforcement and sustainability of international legal order.

Particular attention is going to be dedicated to trade in arms, military equipment and dual-use items. Relative to that, it will permanently monitor and evaluate the trade in such type of items in context of new technological developments, development of international standards and best practices, and new security challenges and risks.

The Republic of Serbia will continue its active participation in international export control arrangements, which it has already signed, and further engagement for the purpose of regulating its status in other arrangements, which is significant for its international reputation and in the interest of its defence industry.

*Contribution to strengthening regional stability and improvement of good neighbourly relations* is a permanent orientation of the Republic of Serbia. This implies an all-encompassing improvement of cooperation and stability in the region through infrastructural, trade and investment connections, both with European Union members, and with potential candidates and candidates for the membership in this organisation.

Regional stability and responsible actions within the region are the primary and lasting interest of the Republic of Serbia whose achievement is going to be continued through building confidence and strengthening economic and other forms of cooperation with the states of the region on partner basis. Economic and infrastructural connectedness of the region is of a first-rate importance, since it reinforces regional capacities and strengthens competitiveness at international plane. That goal is achieved through numerous bilateral and multilateral forms of cooperation on the regional plane, which is going to be done with undiminished intensity, contributing to preservation of regional stability.

The Republic of Serbia is going to continue its active participation in a range of regional initiatives which contribute to accelerated progress of all participants in these initiatives towards the membership in the European Union. Accordingly, it considers as particularly important the regional initiatives and processes that can yield concrete results in areas that are of greatest priority for the region in terms of development and connectedness such as: economy, infrastructure, energy, cooperation of the young, which are being implemented through so called Berlin process and CEFTA organisation.

The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control/Florence Agreement 1996 is actively implemented (Article IV of Annex 1-B of Dayton Agreement), which played a key part in stabilisation of peace, establishing confidence and cooperation enhancement. It is extremely

important that the parties to this Agreement continue its consistent implementation following the finalisation of ownership transfer process in December 2015.

Activities on suppressing illegal trade and accumulation of surplus small arms and light weapons represent a continuous orientation of the Republic of Serbia which is vitally interested in eliminating the consequences of recent conflicts on its borders, and the conflicts with terrorist and secessionist forces in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija in 90' of the last century.

To resolve the issue of refugees and missing persons in the region of former SFRY, it is highly important to intensify bilateral cooperation with the regional states and on international plane with relevant international organisations. In this regard, Serbia will aspire towards improving the status of the Serbian people in neighbouring states through bilateral cooperation and activities within international organisations.

Preservation of the Republic of Srpska is one of foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Serbia. Accordingly, the orientation of the Republic of Serbia is to continue developing special parallel relations with the Republic of Srpska, with due respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Dayton Agreement. Also, the Republic of Serbia is oriented towards establishing better quality and more comprehensive relations with the regional states, along with strengthening regional approach to security.

*Strengthening comprehensive bilateral relations with all states, with due regard for mutual interests* is a priority of the Republic of Serbia. In this respect, a permanent political dialogue is to be maintained and regular visits organised at high and the highest level, bilateral contacts at working level in all areas, and legal regulation of all forms of bilateral relations is going to be sought.

Cooperation with key international actors is to be continued, chiefly with permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The Republic of Serbia is oriented towards strengthening dialogue and many-sided cooperation with traditional partners, economies on the rise, and developed states with which we have a range of joint projects in the field of economy, culture, education, science and sport. In the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with these states, the focus will be placed on maintenance of their principled position of non-recognising unilaterally declared independence of the territory administratively covered by the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

*Strengthening of active participation of the Republic of Serbia in the work of international organisations* is of special importance. In connection with that, all-encompassing preparations are to be conducted to create conditions for more active participation in the work of international organisations. Also, cooperation is going to be strengthened with other member states of international organisations regarding achievement of concrete goals of certain international organisations.

Through development of capabilities for multilateral action and more efficient contribution to multilateral engagement of the Republic of Serbia, international reputation and recognisability of Serbian diplomacy is enhanced which indirectly increases possibilities for exerting influence on development and activities of international organisations, in conformity with generally accepted goals and principles.

To make contribution to global, European and regional stability, the Republic of Serbia cooperates with NATO by means of Partnership for Peace Programme, pursuing military neutrality which implies absence of membership in any military-political alliance. Participation in Partnership for Peace Programme is an optimal form of the cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with NATO. Military neutrality of the Republic of Serbia does not present an obstacle for development of partner cooperation within the Partnership for Peace Programme which is in the interest of strengthening global and European, and especially regional security. The Republic of Serbia does not have any intention of becoming a NATO member, or any other military-political alliance, but it desires to advance mutual confidence and achieve common goals with all partners in the world.

Cooperation with NATO through the Partnership for Peace is complementary to the activities undertaken in the framework of accession process of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union and bilateral relations with NATO members and partner states. At regional plane, cooperation with NATO through the Partnership for Peace contributes to bilateral relations with regional states which are NATO members or candidates for membership, all for the purpose of preserving regional peace and enhancement of stability.

Cooperation with NATO and KFOR and other international presence is highly significant for the protection of Serbian populations, Serbian cultural and religious heritage, and peace and security in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. The only legal military force in this province, in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 1244, are the KFOR forces, which play a key part in security guarantees for the implementation of the Brussels Agreement and maintaining dialogue with Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Priština. Because of that, the Republic of Serbia advocates for undiminished presence of KFOR and opposes the change of mandate and transformation of armed formations named “Kosovo Security Forces” into the armed forces, since it would lead to destabilisation of the situation in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and undermine the security in the region.

The Republic of Serbia expands and deepens the existing level of its cooperation with the CSTO in order to contribute to global stability and security in accordance with the policy of military neutrality. The Republic of Serbia will bolster mutual confidence with the CSTO for the purpose of achievement of common objectives.

As one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Republic of Serbia will continue developing relations with its members. In line with its foreign policy priorities, it has no intention of changing its observer’s status in the Non-Aligned Movement, but it endeavours, while achieving its national interests, to pragmatically ensure its presence within it, which it perceives as a complementary dimension of its overall foreign policy engagement.

#### **4.5 European integration and membership of Republic of Serbia in the European Union**

European integration and membership in the European Union are a national interest and strategic orientation of the Republic of Serbia. This national interest is realised by achieving the following goals:

- shaping a modern and developed society based on common European values which are a part of Serbian national identity and historical heritage;



- achieving internal preparedness for the membership in the European Union;
- improvement of national security and defence through the process of European integration.

*Shaping a modern and developed society based on common European values which are a part of Serbian national identity and historical heritage* is a significant precondition for the process of European integration and membership of Republic of Serbia in the European Union. European integration and membership of the European Union represent an all-encompassing process which implies reshaping of society in harmony with common values and criteria for the accession to the European Union, with due regard for specificities and distinctness of Serbian national identity and cultural, historical and nation-building heritage of the Serbian people and citizens of Serbia. Thus, through membership in the European Union, Serbia builds its authentic values and differences in common values.

The Republic of Serbia fully respects constitutional and legal provisions that relate to democracy, rule of law and protection of human and minority rights, and it is ready to further advance them. To fulfil agreed and undertaken obligations in the framework of accession negotiations for the membership in the European Union, it implements reforms in the field of legislation and fundamental rights, and political and economic system in line with positive law and standards of the European Union.

*Achieving internal preparedness for the membership in the European Union* is an issue of special importance for the European integration. In connection to that, the Republic of Serbia will continue accession negotiations and take all required measures to create conditions for opening and successful closure of all negotiation chapters. In that process, it will harmonise its regulations with *acquis communautaire* of the European Union and implement required reforms in line with defined national strategies and action plans passed on the basis of the harmonised laws, and for the purpose of achieving a high degree of democratisation of society and open market economies. In the scope of those processes, it will continue cooperation with all relevant subjects of society, citizens and civil society organisations, and the public will be informed on planned and undertaken reform activities.

In conformity with its orientation to fulfil high European standards in the areas of rule of law and security of citizens, in the upcoming period, the Republic of Serbia will strive to fulfil as quickly and as successfully as possible the standards identified in the process of negotiation with the European Union within the chapters referring to judiciary and fundamental rights, and freedom, justice and security. Meeting the high standards in those areas, apart from the other, will enable unhindered continuation of the process of negotiations with the European Union in other chapters as well.

*Improvement of national security and defence through the process of European integration* contributes to full membership of the Republic of Serbia in the European Union. In the process of the accession process, it is firmly determined to make contribution to Common foreign, security and defence policy of the European Union, and to integrate itself in the concepts of that European policy.

The Republic of Serbia supports European values and foreign policy goals contained in fundamental documents of the European Union, and the main guidelines of its foreign policy actions based on those values. The Republic of Serbia recognises as its own the main goals of foreign political activities of the European Union, such as respect for international law and

multilateralism in resolving security challenges and threats with the United Nations in its centre, and it uses them as guidance for implementation of its own foreign and security policy. In its foreign political orientation, it will strive for approximation of its policy to proclaimed goals and principles expressed in the Global strategy for foreign and security policy of the European Union, such as: principled pragmatism in achieving goals, accountability for foreign political activities, integrated approach to conflicts, responsible regional activities, cooperation policy, connectedness with other international partners, coordinated fight against terrorism, cooperation in the field of cyber and energy security and conflict prevention.

Participation of military and civilian capacities of the Republic of Serbia in missions and operations of the United Nations and European Union represents an important element of foreign policy. This makes a concrete contribution to world, European and regional security and respect for international law and states the readiness to enhance mutual confidence and sharing responsibilities when facing security challenges. Pursuant to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and Negotiation framework, in the period until the accession to the European Union, the Republic of Serbia will continue gradually harmonising its foreign policy to the positions of the European Union, so that in the moment of obtaining membership, it would be fully harmonised with its foreign policy.

In order to develop more modern and efficient system of national security, the Republic of Serbia will analyse and use good practice of the European Union member states. Also, it will take measures to increase interoperability with security and defence systems of the European Union member states, for the purpose of enhancing its own security capabilities and capacities.

#### **4.6 Economic development and overall prosperity**

Economic development and overall prosperity of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens will be achieved through accomplishing of the following goals:

- improvement of the citizens' living standard;
- economic progress;
- enhancement of education, scientific and technological development;
- enhancement of economic and energy security.

*Improvement of the citizens' living standard* is one of the primary goals of economic growth of the Republic of Serbia. To achieve that goal, conditions will be generated for job creation to reduce unemployment rate and create conditions for reduction of drain of young and educated citizens. In relation to that, through encouraging small and middle sized enterprises and entrepreneurships, the state will strive for increase in number of employees. To stimulate entrepreneurship and self-employment, administrative and legal procedures are to be simplified, and additional financial incentives and mentor support are to be introduced.

Also, more accessible and higher quality education is to be enabled, along with the adaptation of education to labour market. Direct support for the poor will stimulate making proper efforts for overcoming the poverty, while dignified life is going to be enabled to those who are not in a position to do so. Better road infrastructure is to be provided towards rural areas for the purpose of better connectedness with urban areas.

The Republic of Serbia will carry out activities aimed at increasing availability and quality of health-care, especially in domain of reproductive health of mothers, health protection

of women and support for family planning. Special attention is to be paid to prevention and suppressing contagious diseases, and their elimination and eradication. Also, level of social protection is to be increased for affected categories of population and activities are to be carried out on the reform of providing services in the field of health and social protection in accordance with ageing trend of the population.

*Economic progress* is of essential importance for the overall development of the Republic of Serbia. By means of economic reforms programme, economy restructuring is to be done, along with strengthening and diversification of economic growth sources.

All measures will be taken with a view to maintaining macroeconomic stability and improving competitiveness of the economy, which will ensure attraction of investments, and increase in export of goods and services. Investments in economy and infrastructure will generate conditions for foreign and national investments in economy development. Having in mind dependence on global market developments, and possibility for occurrence of major global crisis, the state will endeavour to protect and maximally reduce the efforts of such developments on national economy.

Revision of industrial policy is to be conducted by adoption of new strategies for priority branches of industry with the greatest potential for development for the purpose of increasing export activity of industrial sector, particularly the branches with higher added value. Introduction of corporate governance in public companies will advance their profitability.

Identification of priorities of economic development will create conditions for an even regional development and restoration of villages. To enable economic progress, the Republic of Serbia will actively cooperate with international financial institution, other states, state credit institutions and creditors, in line with its interests. Long-term economic measures and prioritisation of economic growth will enable gradual reduction of public debt. The Republic of Serbia is committed to regional and global economic integration with provision of a balanced foreign trade balance.

Exceptional significance is attached to implementation of sustainable development, starting from a position that it is the essential element of global efforts that should enable sustainability of the planet and prosperous future to the generations to come.

*Enhancement of education, scientific and technological development* represent fundamental preconditions for economic development and overall progress of the Republic of Serbia. In this regard, introduction of dual education, and entrepreneurship modules and contents will enable adaptability of education to development of economy and labour market. Also, encouraging scientific and research work is going to be enabled, for the purpose of mastering and implementation of modern technologies, and improved reputation and status of scientific and teaching personnel.

To improve education, scientific and technological development, a quality check system is going to be introduced through application of a uniform education information system. High quality performance evaluation and assessment systems are to be implemented, as well as for competences advancement, and students' awarding at pre-university level of education.

Requirement for the change of primary and secondary education model is going to be considered, and for reinforcement of pedagogic function of primary school. Availability of primary and secondary education to inhabitants of rural areas is going to be increased. Moreover, availability and quality of preschool education and pedagogy is going to be enhanced,

particularly in the sphere of inclusive practice with children from sensitive social groups. In domain of higher education, the quality and availability is to be enhanced for all population categories.

Possibilities for project financing of education system is going to be under consideration. Furthermore, a suitable model is to be developed and implemented for training of population for defence and taking actions in emergencies. Promoting patriotism in education of population will increase the efforts to develop a sense of loyalty of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia and their determination to meet security requirements.

*Enhancement of economic and energy security* is important for economic development and overall progress and security of the Republic of Serbia. Dependence of national economy is to be reduced with concurrent increase in its resilience to global economic disturbances and unpredictability of the world financial system. Economic security will be enabled through preservation of macroeconomic balance and reduction of social stratification.

The Republic of Serbia advocates for resolution of all open issues and matters of common interest in economic relations through cooperation and negotiations. Particular attention is to be paid to prevention of criminalisation of economic activity and protection against economic espionage.

Construction of electro-energy infrastructure and infrastructure for natural gas, petroleum and petroleum derivatives, and further diversification of sources and directions of energy and energy products supply, and establishment of mandatory energy products reserves, enhancement of energy efficiency and increase in capacities for energy and energy products production will enable energy stability, and reliable, safe, efficient and quality energy and energy products supply of all consumers in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

In relation to that, the use is to be increased of alternative and renewable energy sources, while measures will be elaborated for sustainable use of natural resources together with protection of available non-renewable energy sources, and strategic reserves. Moreover, research is going to be conducted on the energy potential of the Sun, wind and waterways to ensure energy stability in different scenarios of climate changes.

To increase energy security, the Republic of Serbia advocates for regional and global energy integration, but it will intensively work with a view to decreasing energy dependence and sustainable price of electric energy. Energy market is to be developed through establishment of an open and connected energy market with regional and European market.

#### **4.7 Preservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia**

Preservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia is carried out through achievement of the following goals:

- monitoring, assessment and taking measures for mitigation of climate change effects;
- flood and fire protection;
- upgrading environmental quality;
- efficient hazardous waste management;
- enhancement of capabilities and capacities for resources management.

*Monitoring, assessment and taking measures for mitigation of climate change effects* in the Republic of Serbia is of primary importance for a sustainable development in all the areas of social life. In connection with that, organisational capacities and technical and technological

systems are to be upgraded for monitoring the weather, and assessment of climate and hydrological effects on the territory, biodiversity and population of the Republic of Serbia. In order to mitigate effects of climate change, preventative measures will be planned and implemented, as well as the measures for elimination of climate change effects.

*Flood and fire protection* is conditioned by the fact that, because of hydrological changes and effects, a significant increase can be expected of the number of torrential and other floods of great scale, which would result in considerable material damage and loss of human lives. On the basis of conducted analysis, and for the purpose of preventing such effects from happening, it is necessary to intensify building anti-flood constructions, implementation of preventive measures for protection against fire, and measures for environmental protection of the territory.

*Upgrading environmental quality* is going to be conducted primarily through enhancement of legal and institutional mechanisms which will enable improving the quality of soil, water resources, atmosphere and biodiversity. The Republic of Serbia is committed to implementation of norms of the European Union and internationally accepted norms in the field of protection and improvement of environmental quality, and norms for an increase of subventions for the use of technologies that protect the environment.

*Efficient hazardous waste management* will be incessantly implemented through preventive and operational protection against technical and technological accidents, first of all in reprocessing plants and plants for the production of special use matters and facilities for storage of hazardous waste. Also, demining of surfaces on land and water contaminated by unexploded ordnance is going to be carried out. A system for complete destruction and elimination of hazardous waste of all kinds is going to be upgraded, especially of radionuclide content remaining from the previous period, during the exploitation of assets that contained such matters.

*Enhancement of capabilities and capacities for resources management* is in accordance with strategic orientation of the Republic of Serbia for implementation of internationally accepted standards in the field of protection and improvement of environmental quality. In that regard, legal and institutional mechanisms are going to be considerably improved for protection against permanent disposal of natural resources and goods of general interest, and of property of the Republic of Serbia, while their sustainable exploitation is to be ensured, and the use and care in conformity with law.

## 5. NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

The National security system represents a normatively, structurally and functionally regulated entity whose activity provides protection and realisation of the national interests of the Republic of Serbia.

The framework of the National security system provides an all-encompassing and harmonised management and action in the execution of work and tasks on prevention, mitigation and neutralisation of challenges, risks and threats to security and elimination of effects of their manifestation.

### 5.1 Structure of the National Security System

The National security system consists of the governing and executive part.

The National security system is managed by the highest holders of legislative and executive power, in accordance with the Constitution, generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties, law and other regulations.

The executive part of the National security system, through its preventive action, efficient response and elimination of the effects of threats to security, ensures preservation of national values and protection and achievement of national interests.

### **5.1.1. Governing Part of the National Security System**

The governing part of the National security system creates strategic and doctrinal, normative and legal, organisational, material and other conditions for its functioning. Also, it directs its activities relating to the protection and achievement of national interests and countering challenges, risks and threats to security.

The governing part of the National Security System consists of the National Assembly, President of the Republic, Government and National Security Council.

*The National Assembly*, as the highest representative body and holder of constitutional and legislative power in the Republic of Serbia, participates in management of the National security system. It decides on war and peace, declares the state of war and emergencies, decides on the change of borders of the Republic of Serbia, adopts the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia, passes laws and other general documents in the field of national security, oversees the work of the Government and other bodies that report to the National Assembly, in line with the Constitution and law, and it ratifies international agreements. Through responsible boards, it supervises and exercises democratic and civilian control in the National security system.

*President of the Republic* expresses the state unity in management of the National security system, chairs the National Security Council, unifies and directs the functioning of the National security system and commands the Serbian Armed Forces in accordance with the Constitution and law. By means of decrees he promulgates laws and passes acts within his purview in the field of security and defence.

*The Government* defines and carries out the policy of national security, implements laws and passes regulations and other general documents in the field of security. It guides and harmonises the work of state administration and local self-government, and legal entities in the field of national security in line with the Constitution and law. Also, it provides material and financial means for requirements of the National Security System and ensures implementation of international treaties and agreements in the field of national security.

*The National Security Council* represents a body of the Republic of Serbia which reviews issues from the area of security, defence, internal affairs and work of security services. Also, it overviews and coordinates the mutual cooperation of bodies in charge of defence, bodies in charge of interior affairs and services of security and their cooperation with other responsible state bodies, and cooperation with security bodies and agencies of other states and international organizations and it carries out other work and tasks in the field of national security.

### **5.1.2. Executive Part of the National Security System**

The executive part of the National security system executes the tasks depending on the type and manner of manifestation of challenges, risks and threats to security, through the engagement of: military and police forces, security services, fire-fighting and rescue units, civil protection units, community militia, customs, security services in institutions for execution of criminal sanctions, judiciary guard, services and agencies for protection of persons and facilities, large technical and technological system, economic subjects, other legal entities, associations, entrepreneurs and citizens.

Executive Part of the National Security System consists of: the defence system, the internal security system, the security and intelligence system and other entities relevant to national security. The structure of the executive part adapts to the nature of the challenges, risks and threats.

*The defence system* is part of the national security system, representing a uniform entity, normatively, structurally and functionally regulated, whose goal is to realise the defence interests of the Republic of Serbia.

*Internal security system* is a part of the National security system responsible for execution of activities which ensure security of citizens and property, provide support to the rule of law, ensure human and minority rights and freedom defined by the Constitution and law, implement preventive and operational measures and execute tasks of protection and rescue of people and goods from the effects of natural disasters and other calamities, including measures for recovery from those effects. Apart from responsible authorities of state administration, the activities of internal security are performed by legal entities, entrepreneurs and physical entities that carry out activities of private security, in line with the law.

*Security-Intelligence System* is functionally unified segment of the National security system consisting of the Security Information Agency, Military Security Agency and Military Intelligence Agency. Their responsibilities, the purview, mandate, tasks, mutual relations and cooperation, and democratic and civilian control of their work are regulated by law. The work of operational harmonisation of security agencies' work is done by the Bureau for Coordination of Security Agencies' Work.

*Other entities significant for the national security* are bodies of state administration and institutions in charge of foreign affairs, justice, health, demography, human and minority rights, economy, education and scientific work, industry, energy, telecommunications, traffic and transport, infrastructure, environmental protection, culture, and bodies of autonomous provinces and units of local self-government, organisations of civil society, media, legal entities and citizens who contribute to achievement of the national security goals.

## **5.2 Principles of Functioning of the National Security System**

The National security system is under democratic and civilian control, implemented by the National Assembly, the President of the Republic, the Government, other public authorities and the general public, in accordance with the law.

Functioning of the National security system is effected with due regard for fundamental principles: constitutionality and lawfulness, unity, prevention, cooperability, reliability,

adaptability, continuity, efficiency, openness in work, professionalism, and control and supervision, in accordance with law.

*Constitutionality and lawfulness.* Regulations and individual legal documents which regulate the functioning of the security system are in accordance with the constitutional provisions, and subjects of the managing and executive part of the security system act on their responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and the laws based on it.

*Unity.* The National security system functions as a unified unit, within which all its elements cooperate, make connections and mutually adjust their actions for the purpose of reaching the common goal.

*Prevention.* The National security system predicts and pro-actively works on preventing the challenges, risks and threats to security of the Republic of Serbia from occurring.

*Cooperability.* The National Security system is open for cooperation with other subjects at national and international level, as required, for the purpose of accomplishing the identified goal.

*Reliability.* It is certain that the National Security system will function without any major problems in peacetime, emergency and war.

*Flexibility.* The National security system harmonises its functioning with changes in strategic environment.

*Continuity.* The National Security system performs its functions in continuity, in peacetime, emergencies and war, regardless of the circumstances which may occur.

*Efficiency.* While performing its functions, the national security system makes optimal use of the resources for the intended purpose.

*Openness in work.* Openness in work of the National security system is enabled to the extent which does not jeopardise the protection of classified information.

*Professionalism.* The work within the national security system is performed responsibly, conscientiously, ethically, in accordance with the rules of profession and promotion of cooperation in professional relations.

*Control and surveillance.* It has been ensured that the system operates in line with the defined national interests, within the framework of the Constitution and laws.

The specificity of functioning of parts of the national security system is expressed through specific principles established in the normative and doctrinal documents.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Consistent and efficient implementation of the National Security Strategy protects and achieves national interests, as permanent needs and aspirations of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens.

The implementation of the Strategy of National Security is carried out by: citizens, state bodies, bodies of state administration, bodies of autonomous provinces, bodies of local governments, companies and other entities and entrepreneurs, in accordance with the defined



rules and obligations and prescribed responsibilities. To implement this Strategy, the Republic of Serbia cooperates with other states and international organisations, in conformity with its own interests.

Positions, orientations and defined measures of the national security policy are carried out by the national security system through coordinated and uniform action of all of its parts.

The ministry in charge of defence issues will produce the proposal for the action plan for implementing the National Security Strategy, in accordance with the law. Positions and orientations from this strategy are put into operation by producing and adopting the public policy documents, on the basis of the action plan. Furthermore, this ministry will submit to the Government an annual report on the realisation of the action plan for implementing the Strategy. The Government of the Republic of Serbia submits a yearly report to the National Security Council and responsible committees of the National Assembly.

The Government will continuously monitor the implementation of the National Security Strategy, and, as required, undertake corrective measures to ensure the protection and achievement of national interests and goals. The Government will submit an annual report on its implementation, in accordance with the law.

In order to implement the National Security Strategy, appropriate funding of the national security system will be provided, in accordance with the requirements and possibilities of the Republic of Serbia. The main source of funding for its implementation will be revenues from the budget.

The Republic of Serbia will continuously analyse, adjust and advance its action in the field of protection and realisation of the national interests and goals and countering challenges, risks and threats to security, in line with the changes in the strategic and security environment.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The National Security Strategy is the highest strategic document which states the basic positions, orientations and measures to be undertaken by the Republic of Serbia in order to protect and fulfil the national interests and preserve basic national values.

The Republic of Serbia protects and achieves its national interest in a complex, ever changing and hardly predictable strategic environment shaped by activity of a great number of different but interdependent factors. The situation in its strategic environment requires fast adaptation to the emerging changes, pre-emptive and proactive action, as well as a comprehensive response of the state and the society.

The Republic of Serbia faces numerous and significant challenges, risks and threats that jeopardize its security. The majority of risks and threats to its security is of non-military character.

The defined national interests express permanent need and aspiration of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens. They are based upon universal and national values arising from the Constitution, heritage of the Serbian people and all the people living in the Republic of Serbia. By protecting and achieving its national interests, it protects the fundamental national values.

The national security policy is defined in order to preserve national values, and protect and achieve national interests. It sets guidelines for decision making and action of the Republic of Serbia, and is implemented by undertaking comprehensive and coordinated set of measures in different areas of social life. Implementation of the national security policy, in addition to protecting and fulfilling national interests, creates preconditions for a political, economic, social, cultural and overall social development of the Republic of Serbia.

Preservation of national values and protection and achievement of national interest by means of pursuing the defined national security policy, is the primary role of the National security system. The national security system is a normatively, structurally, functionally regulated unit which is composed of the managing and executive part with precisely defined responsibilities.

The National Security Strategy is implemented by the citizens, public authorities and public administration bodies, bodies of autonomous provinces, bodies of local governments, companies and other entities and entrepreneurs, in accordance with the defined rules and obligations and prescribed responsibilities.

Consistent implementation of the National Security Strategy is a precondition for the protection and achievement of national interests, and it represents a basis for development of other strategic documents and public policies documents. In that regard, the competent public authorities will continuously monitor the implementation of the National Security Strategy and take the necessary measures to ensure that it is consistent with the situation and assessments of the security environment.

## 8. THE ENDING PART

On the date of the publishing of this Strategy, the Decision on adopting the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia terminates ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 88/09).

This Strategy shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia".

Republic of Serbia No. 61

In Belgrade, 27 December 2019

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

PRESIDENT

Maja Gojković