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Before I proceed to make my statement, I would like to congratulate you for your election as Chairman of the Bureau. Also, I assure you of the full support of my delegation.

The Republic of Serbia has aligned itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the representative of the European Union. I shall, therefore, make some additional comments from our national perspective.

Serbia is firmly committed to responding to present-day security challenges. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism and radicalism belongs among its priority goals. In cooperation with partners all over the world, my country is ready to make a full contribution to the suppression of these threats at national, regional and global levels. Terrorism and violent

extremism are phenomena of global scope and, in order to counter them, we need continued and

The number of foreign terrorist fighters recruited in the Western Balkans and South-East Europe is not negligible. Almost one thousand persons from the Western Balkans have been engaged in Syria and Iraq. Many of them participated in brutal and suicidal attacks. So far, about 40 persons from central Serbia have taken part in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, percentage-wise the smallest number of foreign terrorist fighters in the region. Speaking of Kosovo and Metohija, the situation is altogether different; percentage-wise, the largest number of foreign terrorist fighters went to foreign battlefields from this Serbian province.

Serbia's Criminal Code provides for incrimination of Serbian citizens' participation in armed conflicts abroad, including the organization thereof.

Countering of Terrorism for 2017-2021 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The Strategy emphasizes the importance of prevention and establishes priority goals: prevention of terrorism; violent extremism and radicalism; protection, identification and elimination of terrorist threats; prosecution of terrorist with full respect for human rights, rule of law and democracy; and the response of the system to a terrorist attack.

Prevention of violent extremism and radicalism leading to terrorism is of great