

# GEORGIA

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## NATIONAL POLICY

Georgia strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and considers it as a serious threat to international peace and security.

Although Georgia does not belong to the number of countries with high risk of terrorist attacks<sup>1</sup>, the region-wide processes have a significant impact on the country. The developments taking place in the North Caucasus, Middle East and Central Asia have posed different types of threats to Georgia at various times.

Georgia is a part of the European security architecture, hence, over the recent years Georgia and a large number of European countries have been facing similar threats in terms of terrorism. However, as a result of effective preventive measures carried out by the Government of Georgia (GoG), Georgia is not a favorable location for the terrorist activities.

While discussing the existing security environment in Georgia in terms of terrorism, the territories occupied by the Russian Federation should be especially emphasized. The situation in the occupied Tskhinvali region and Abkhazia, where the Government of Georgia cannot exercise its jurisdiction, with the high level of corruption, crime and illegal migration on the ground, makes favorable environment for terrorist activities.

The GoG has been actively working to detect continuously transforming landscape of terrorism and to develop efficient, coherent and coordinated ways of responding to them.

At the international level, Georgia is actively involved in global efforts against terrorism. Georgia has

become an active member of the Global Coalition against Daesh from the very beginning and as a responsible member of international community has been significantly contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security through its participation in multinational operations. Throughout years, shoulder to shoulder with the Allied forces, the Georgian Defence Forces actively participated in the US-led Iraqi mission and the NATO-led operations in Afghanistan – the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Resolute Support (RS) mission.

In the US-led mission in Iraq, with more than 2000 troops, Georgia became the third largest contributor to the coalition forces, working primarily within the U.S. area of operations. In the ISAF, by deploying the second battalion under the U.S. Command in the Helmand province, Georgia's contribution to the mission amounted to 1600 military personnel (without national caveats) that made Georgia the largest non-NATO and the largest per-capita contributor after the U.S. As part of the RS mission, Georgia had 857 troops on the ground under different Allied commands without national caveats that made Georgia the largest per-capita and the single largest non-NATO contributor to the mission. From 2004 to 2021, more than 22,000 Georgian servicemen participated in NATO-led ISAF and RS missions in Afghanistan as part of 118 rotations at various levels. In total, 32 Georgian soldiers were killed in the course of NATO-led missions in Afghanistan.

Moreover, Georgia is an Operational Partner to the Operation Sea Guardian (OSG), which is NATO's maritime security operation in the Mediterranean, *inter alia*, covering the maritime counterterrorism tasks. Since September 2023, Georgia started the deployment of the NATO certified Boarding Team to the OSG Focused Operations (FOCOPS) on a rotational basis.

Besides, Georgia has established itself as a reliable security partner of the EU by contributing to the EU-led crisis management missions, *inter alia*, encompassing counterterrorism direction.

Active participation in the global counter-terrorist efforts clearly demonstrates that Georgia is not only consumer, but also effective security provider for international community.

<sup>1</sup> According to the Global Terrorism Index 2024 released by "Institute for Economics and Peace" (IEP), Georgia ranks last position - 89 (among the various safe countries) and the impact of terrorism in Georgia is assessed as having "no impact". (Available at: <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GTI-2024-web-290224.pdf>).

Furthermore, according to the recent U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Terrorism, there were no reported terrorist incidents in Georgia (available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2018/#Georgia>; <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2019/georgia/>; <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2020/georgia/>; <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2021/georgia/>; <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2022/georgia/>).

In addition, the latest CoE Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) 2020 Report on Georgia states that: "Georgia is not amongst countries with a high risk of terrorist attacks" (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

At the national level the GoG continues to take effective and comprehensive counter-terrorism measures, including upgrading legislative framework, carrying out law enforcement measures, active domestic and international coordination and cooperation, as well as implementing prevention-oriented various projects and programs with the aim to reduce the threat.

Georgia has taken significant steps to establish counter-terrorism strategic documents. On January 25, 2022, the GoG approved the second national policy document - National Counterterrorism Strategy of 2022-2026 and its corresponding Action Plan<sup>2</sup>. The high level of inclusiveness was ensured during the drafting process. The Strategy was elaborated with the initiative and leadership of the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG), as well as with the engagement of all other relevant state authorities. The outline and then the final draft of the document was shared, presented and deliberated to the civil society organizations and relevant Committees of the Parliament. Their recommendations were duly reflected.

The National Counterterrorism Strategy aims at establishing the vision of Georgia in terms of prevention and the fight against terrorism and extremism. The document is based upon the whole-of-society approach and various stakeholders, including central and local authorities, public-private organizations, as well as civil society are engaged in the implementation process.

The Strategy provides the definitions of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization for the purposes of the policy, reviews current terrorism-related situation, outlines the terrorist threats and challenges faced by Georgia and defines the following seven basic directions: collection and analysis of the terrorism-related information, prevention, protection, preparedness, prosecution, development of legal framework and international cooperation.

The strong monitoring mechanism is in place for the implementation of the documents. The implementation process of the Strategy and its Action Plan is overseen by the Permanent Interagency Commission<sup>3</sup> responsible for the prevention and fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Within the frame of the Permanent Interagency Commission four interagency thematic

Working Groups<sup>4</sup> are created for the purposes of facilitating the implementation of the documents. The agencies are accountable to the Permanent Interagency Commission and they are obliged to submit the reports on conducted activities once a year or in case of necessity.

In response to the threats emanating from the foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) phenomenon, Georgia constantly carries out counter-terrorism measures in a complex format, starting from upgrading the national legislation, continued with dedicated operational measures, *inter alia* strengthening the border security<sup>5</sup>. The state agencies carry out 24/7 counterterrorism screening of persons through the databases, which also include up-to-date INTERPOL data and data shared by partner countries and other relevant international organizations. The lists of designated terrorists by respective United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) are regularly provided to the border personnel. Moreover, in order to effectively implement the UNSCR 2396 (2017), the GoG has taken important steps to launch the functioning of the Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) system in Georgia. A Passenger Information Unit is functioning, which consists of the representatives from the SSSG, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Revenue Service. In 2023, Georgia joined the UN Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) program „goTravel“.

Considering the aforesaid, Georgia is currently not attractive for FTFs<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, in recent years, attempts of transit movement by terrorism-affiliated individuals have been considerably reduced and not a single fact of travel to conflict zone for joining terrorist organization by the citizens of Georgia has been observed, due to the actions taken by the authorities.

The complex and efficient measures applied by the GoG in terms of updating national policy and legislative framework, conducting law enforcement and preventive activities, ensuring border security, carrying out international cooperation and interagency coordination with regard to combatting terrorism were positively assessed by a number of international organizations and partner countries, among them the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the CoE Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering

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<sup>2</sup> The first policy document was the National Strategy of Georgia on **Fight against Terrorism of 2019-2021**, adopted in January 2019, which was successfully accomplished.

<sup>3</sup> **The Permanent Inter-Agency Commission**, composed of Ministers/Heads of all relevant agencies and chaired by the SSSG, was established by the GoG in September 2018 with the aim of elaborating and further monitoring the implementation of national counter-terrorism strategy and its action plan (for more information please see chapter "Institutional Framework" below).

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<sup>4</sup> WG on information gathering and analysis; WG on supporting the measures in the direction of prevention; WG on supporting the measures in the directions of protection and preparedness; WG on developing legal framework and supporting international cooperation.

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. Department of State in its latest Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - positively assesses Georgia's efforts in ensuring border security (available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2022/georgia/>).

<sup>6</sup> The CoE MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia further notes that: "Georgian territory is not considered to be a favorable transit route for foreign terrorist fighters and the incidence of Georgian nationals fighting in Iraq and Syria has sharply reduced due to action taken by the authorities" (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), the European Union and the US Department of State.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### General information

Georgia has established wide range of counterterrorism legislative instruments constituting the country's national legal framework.

In order to comply with the international obligations taken under the instruments of international law, as well as with the requirements of respective UNSCRs, Georgia implemented the provisions of these instruments and the requirements of the resolutions into Georgian legislation by adopting new laws and regulations and by amending the existing legislation.

Georgia has substantially enhanced its counterterrorism and terrorism financing legislation over the years<sup>7</sup>. Chapter on Terrorism under the Criminal Code of Georgia (CCG) has been largely amended to criminalize terrorism-related activities to a greater extent, in line with international standards. Moreover, Georgia is among the first UN Member States to criminalize FTF travel in 2015, in accordance with the UNSCR 2178 (2014)<sup>8</sup>.

Strengthening and upgrading legislative framework has resulted in effective law enforcement and criminal justice measures to address and prosecute perpetrators connected with international terrorism.

### Criminal Law

The Criminal Code of Georgia (CCG) provides comprehensive criminalization of terrorism-related crimes. It criminalizes all acts of terrorism, determined as such by the UN international anti-terrorism conventions or CoE relevant conventions and other instruments of international law and establishes respective criminal liability for individuals and legal entities.

Terrorist offenses are envisaged in Chapter XXXVIII (Terrorism) of the CCG under the title of Offenses

against the State. The CCG defines what type of activities should be considered as a terrorist act<sup>9</sup>. The list includes explosion, arson, attack on a person, use of weapon, or any other act that threatens human life, creates risks of substantial damage of property or resulting in other serious consequences. To classify these acts as terrorism, they should be committed with terrorist purpose. These purposes are as follows: the intimidation of population or compulsion of the state authority, foreign state authority or an international organization to perform or abstain from performing certain action, or destabilization or destruction of fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country/foreign country/international organization.

As a result of amendments to the CCG, the definition of a terrorist act was broadened and the threat of terrorism was criminalized.

The CCG criminalizes the following terrorism-related acts:

- Terrorist Act (Article 323)<sup>10</sup>;
- Unlawful purchase, storage, carrying, manufacturing, transportation, transfer, sale or use of firearms, ammunition, explosives or equipment for terrorist purposes (Article 323<sup>11</sup>);
- Participation in International Terrorism (Article 323<sup>12</sup>);
- Technological Terrorism (Article 324)<sup>13</sup>;
- Cyber terrorism (Article 324<sup>14</sup>);
- Assault on a Public Political Official of Georgia (Article 325)<sup>14</sup>;
- Assault on a Person or an Institution Enjoying International Protection (Article 326)<sup>15</sup>;
- Membership in a Terrorist Organization, Participation in its Activities or Establishment or Management of Terrorist Organizations (Article 327);
- Recruiting a Person as a Member of a Terrorist Organization or for Carrying Out Terrorist Activities (Article 327<sup>1</sup>);
- Joining a Foreign Terrorist Organization or a Terrorist Organization Controlled by a Foreign State or Supporting this Organization in Its Terrorist Activities (Article 328);
- Taking a Hostage for Terrorist Purposes (Article 329)<sup>16</sup>;

<sup>7</sup> The latest MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia states that: "Georgia has made substantial amendments to the legal framework with regard to the criminalization of terrorism and TF. There is now a sound legal basis for the investigation and prosecution of these offences." (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

Moreover, according to the 2023 Communication on EU Enlargement policy about Georgia released on 8 November 2023 by the European Commission, "Anti-terrorism legislation is largely aligned with the EU acquis and relevant international law, including UN Security Council Resolutions." ... "Georgia has a comprehensive legal framework in place to criminalize terrorism financing and has adopted a law on facilitating measures to counter money laundering and terrorism financing." (Available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD\\_2023\\_697%20Georgia%20report.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_697%20Georgia%20report.pdf))

<sup>8</sup> This positive development of the country was further noted during the CTED follow-up visit to Georgia in 2018: "Georgia was also among the first countries to explicitly criminalize FTF travel back in 2015." (available at: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/cted-conducts-follow-assessment-visit-georgia>).

<sup>9</sup> Article 323 of the Criminal Code of Georgia criminalizing terrorist act provides imprisonment up to 15 years. If the aggravating circumstances are met, imprisonment up to 20 years or lifetime imprisonment is applied. A legal entity is punished by liquidation or deprivation of the right to conduct activity and by fine. In general, sanctions related to terrorist offences are relatively high.

<sup>10</sup> This Article also criminalizes any threat of committing a terrorist act.

<sup>11</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing acts defined by this Article.

<sup>12</sup> This Article inter alia criminalizes crossing or attempt of crossing the state border of Georgia with the aim of perpetration, preparation of or participation in terrorist activity or in terrorist training. Article 323<sup>2</sup> was expanded by amendments of 12 June 2015 in order to address the FTF phenomenon.

<sup>13</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing an act defined by this Article.

<sup>14</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing an act defined by this Article.

<sup>15</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing an act defined by this Article.

<sup>16</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing an act defined by this Article.

- Unlawfully Taking Possession of an Aircraft or Water Craft, Railway Rolling Stock or of Other Public or Cargo Transport for Terrorist Purposes (Article 329<sup>17</sup>);
- Taking Possession of or Blocking Strategic or Other Facilities of Special Importance for Terrorist Purposes (Article 330);
- Public Support of Terrorist Activities and/or Terrorist Organization or Public Incitement to Terrorism (Article 330<sup>1</sup>);
- Providing Training and Instruction for Terrorist Activities (Article 330<sup>2</sup>)<sup>18</sup>;
- Theft for the Purpose of Committing One of the Offenses Defined in this Chapter<sup>19</sup> (Article 330<sup>3</sup>);
- Extortion for the Purpose of Committing One of the Offenses Defined in this Chapter<sup>20</sup> (Article 330<sup>4</sup>);
- Making of Forged Official Documents for the Commission of One of the Offenses Defined in this Chapter<sup>21</sup> (Article 330<sup>5</sup>);
- False Notification on Terrorism (Article 331);
- Financing of Terrorism, Provision of Other Material Support and Resources to Terrorist Activities (Article 331<sup>1</sup>);
- Failure to Take Measures to Prevent Acts of Terrorism (Article 331<sup>2</sup>).

In addition, for the purposes of implementing other respective crimes envisaged by the International Counter Terrorism Instruments to which Georgia is a party and/or covering those crimes which are relevant in the context of combatting terrorism, the CCG criminalizes the following acts:

- Taking a Hostage (Article 144);
- Illegal Seizure of Aircraft, Water Vessels or Railway Rolling Stock (Article 227);
- Endangering the Navigation of Water Vessels (Article 227<sup>1</sup>);
- Illegal Seizure, Destruction or Damage of a Stationary Platform (Article 227<sup>2</sup>);
- Posing Danger to Aircraft (Article 227<sup>3</sup>);
- Explosion (Article 229);
- Illegal Handling of Nuclear Material or Equipment, Radioactive Waste or Radioactive Substance (Article 230);
- Seizure of Nuclear Material, Radioactive Substances or Other Sources of Ionizing Radiation (Article 231);
- Unlawful Demand of Nuclear Materials (Article 231<sup>1</sup>);
- Threat to Illegally Seize or Use of Nuclear Substance (Article 231<sup>2</sup>).

Moreover, the CCG expands the scope of the approaches to the serious problematic issue connected with the violent extremism and envisages

the criminal punishment for the crime of the Public Incitement to Acts of Violence (Art. 239<sup>1</sup>).

There are comprehensive ancillary offences under Articles 18 (Preparation of a Crime), 19 (Attempted Crime), 23 (Complicity in a Crime), 24 (Types of Accomplices), and 25 (Liability of the Principal and Accomplice) of the CCG that are applicable to the abovementioned offences. All forms of ancillary offending are covered, including preparation, attempts, and forms of complicity such as organizing, instigating and aiding a criminal offence.

Terrorism-related offences are punishable with proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. The commission of an act of terrorism is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 10 to 15 years, rising to a term of imprisonment of 12 to 17 years in aggravating circumstances when the act is committed jointly by more than one person, repeatedly or using weapons of mass destruction and to a term of imprisonment of 15 to 20 years or to life imprisonment when an act of terrorism results in death or other grave consequences.

Any threat of committing an act of terrorism is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 6 to 12 years. The membership of a terrorist organization is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 10 to 12 years and establishment or management of a terrorist organization is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 15 to 20 years. For the commission of terrorism-related crimes, a legal person shall be punished by liquidation or by deprivation of the right to carry out activities and a fine.

### Procedural Rules

Georgia does not have the special procedural legislation or rules for terrorism-related crimes. In those cases, as in any other criminal offences, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia (CPCG) shall apply.

The CPCG defines in detail each and every stage of investigation and criminal prosecution on any action punishable under the CCG, as well as defines types and rules of application of covert investigative measures.

There are a plenty of effective investigative tools available to the law enforcement agencies under the CPCG for investigating and prosecuting any crime, including terrorism-related crimes<sup>22</sup>. Investigative actions envisaged by the CPCG are the following:

<sup>22</sup> According to the latest MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia, Georgia's efforts in TF investigation and prosecution are positively assessed, as having achieved a substantial level of effectiveness. The Report on Georgia further states that: "Georgia has a sound legal and institutional framework for investigating and prosecuting TF. Cases are dealt with by investigators at the SSS and the supervising prosecutors at the GPO who are adequately resourced and have high levels of expertise. There are no legal or structural impediments to taking forward TF cases" (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

<sup>17</sup> This Article also criminalizes a threat of committing an act defined by this Article.

<sup>18</sup> This Article also criminalizes the receipt of training and instruction (passive aspect).

<sup>19</sup> Chapter XXXVIII (Terrorism) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

<sup>20</sup> Chapter XXXVIII (Terrorism) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

<sup>21</sup> Chapter XXXVIII (Terrorism) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.



- interview;
- examination of a person as a witness during an investigation;
- examination of a witness during a hearing on the merits;
- search and seizure;
- personal search;
- monitoring of bank accounts;
- inspection of a crime scene and other locations;
- examination of a corpse;
- investigative experiment;
- presenting a person and object for identification;
- exhumation;
- real-time collection of internet traffic data;
- obtaining of content data;
- etc.

Covert investigative actions envisaged by the CPCG are the following:

- the covert wiretapping and recording of telephone communication;
- the retrieval and recording of information from a communications channel (by connecting to the communication facilities, computer networks, line communications and station devices), computer system (both directly and remotely) and installation of respective software in the computer system for this purpose;
- real-time geolocation identification;
- the monitoring of a postal and telegraphic transfer (except for a diplomatic mail);
- video and/or audio recording, photographing;
- electronic surveillance through technical means the use of which does not cause harm to human life, health and the environment.

There are comprehensive rules and procedures provided by the legislation for the conduction of the abovementioned activities/measures. They are conducted in due observance of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia and in full conformity with the relevant procedure, meaning that the rights may be restricted only in accordance with law for ensuring national security or public safety, or for protecting the rights of others, insofar as is necessary in a democratic society, based on a court decision or without a court decision but under a reasoned decree of a prosecutor in cases of emergency provided by the law. In cases of emergency, a court shall be notified of the use of covert investigative measure no later than 24 hours from the time of initiating it, and the court shall examine the lawfulness of the applied measure no later than 24 hours after receiving of the notification.

Furthermore, there are a number of effective oversight and control measures over law enforcement agencies exercised by the Parliament, Government, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Personal Data Protection Service.

## Other relevant legislation

Georgia has a comprehensive legislation in place, which regulates and/or covers terrorism-related issues.

In this regard, the Law of Georgia on Combating Terrorism should be especially noted, which determines the forms of organization and legal basis for combating terrorism in Georgia, as well as the rule of coordinating governmental bodies in combating terrorism, and the grounds for participation of public associations, organizations, governmental officials and citizens in combating terrorism, their rights, obligations and their social protection guarantees. The Law defines the terms of "terrorism", "terrorist", "terrorist act", "terrorist purpose", "terrorist activity", "international terrorism", "terrorist group", "terrorist organization" in accordance with the international standards;

Apart from the CCG, the CPCG and the Law of Georgia on Combatting Terrorism, among the other laws and by-laws, which *inter alia* deal with terrorism-related issues, are the following:

- Law of Georgia on Facilitating the Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing - creates a legal mechanism for prevention, detection and suppression of money laundering and terrorism financing, as well as financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Law of Georgia on Nuclear and Radiation Safety - prohibits any form of non-peaceful use of nuclear or radioactive materials on the territory of Georgia;
- Law of Georgia on Operative-Investigative Activities - defines the system of measures carried out by special services of state agencies within the scope of their authority through application of open or covert criminal intelligence methods envisaged under this Law in order to protect human rights and freedoms, the rights of legal entities and the public safety from criminal or any illegal conduct;
- Law of Georgia on International Law Enforcement Cooperation - the purpose of the Law is to ensure effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies of Georgia and foreign countries, or between law enforcement agencies of Georgia and relevant international organization bodies in preventing, detecting and suppressing crimes, including terrorism, as well as to define rules and procedures for international cooperation in law enforcement based on bilateral or multilateral international agreements of Georgia, and to create stable legal grounds for such cooperation in the

absence of such agreements. The Law underlines that international law enforcement cooperation shall be carried out on the basis of protecting and respecting human rights and freedoms;

- Law of Georgia on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters - defines the rules of mutual legal assistance and extradition issues;
- Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection - defines provisions on ensuring protection of human rights and freedoms in the course of personal data processing;
- The Decree of the GoG on approving the "Rules of Organizing Counterterrorist Activities in the Country and of Coordinating the Activities of the Subjects in the Fight against Terrorism"<sup>23</sup> - obliges the subjects in the fight against terrorism, as well as other state authorities to provide any terrorism-related information to the Counterterrorism Center of the SSSG (main agency in combatting terrorism);
- The Decree of the GoG on approving the "Rules of Organization and Activities of the Emergency Management Operational Command Center"<sup>24</sup> - determines the activities of the Command Center, which is created on *ad hoc* basis in emergency situation resulting from the terrorist act.

The state devotes special attention to the development of legislative framework on border security and control, as well as on civil aviation safety. In this regard, the Law of Georgia on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons, the Law of Georgia on International Protection, other relevant laws and bylaws are worth mentioning, which envisage relevant restrictions on entering the country by a foreigner and granting relevant legal status to the foreigner, whose presence in the country represents a threat to the state security and/or public order of Georgia, including when there is the information, with high degree of probability, indicating the individual's link to terrorist and/or extremist organizations.

Furthermore, in order to properly implement the UNSCR 2396 (2017), significant legislative amendment has been undertaken, on the basis of which air carriers conducting international flights are required to provide API and PNR to the competent authority. In this regard, the Decree of GoG on Approval of the "Procedure for Transferring, Processing, Storing and Destroying Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records by Air Carriers"<sup>25</sup> should be noted. The API and PNR

system has become operational since the beginning of 2022.

### **Witness protection**

The legislation of Georgia envisages the special measures applied for the protection of witness, a participant in criminal proceedings.

Under the CPCG, a prosecutor may, with the consent of the Prosecutor General of Georgia or his/her deputy, apply a special measure of protection to a participant in criminal proceedings, or to a person who may become a participant in criminal proceedings, or any other person related to the person, and/or his/her close relative and include them in a special protection program, with their consent. Special measures of protection may be applied if:

- the proceedings concern the commission of an act, the public hearing of which, due to its nature, substantially harms the personal life of the participant in criminal proceedings;
- making public the identity and the involvement in the case of the participant in criminal proceedings considerably endangers his/her or his/her close relative's life, health or property;
- the participants in criminal proceedings are dependents of the accused.

Types of special measures of protection are the following:

- inclusion of a participant in criminal proceedings in a special protection programme;
- taking measures preventing the location (of participant in criminal proceedings) – replacing or removing from the Public Registry or any other public record the data that make it possible to recognize and identify a participant in criminal proceedings, in particular, his/her name, address, work place, occupation or other relevant information;
- changing the identity and issuing new documents – assigning a pseudonym, changing the physical appearance, classifying as secret the procedural and other documents that make it possible to recognize and identify the person;
- taking safety measures (personal protection, emergency call, etc.);
- changing temporarily or permanently the place of residence;
- removing (relocating) to another state.

### **Victim support system**

<sup>23</sup> The Decree of the GoG № 254, adopted on March 26, 2014.

<sup>24</sup> The Decree of the GoG № 662, adopted on December 5, 2014.

<sup>25</sup> The Decree of the GoG №384 of 27 July 2021 (which modified the GoG Decree № 174 of 10 April 2018 approving the Rules of providing API and PNR by the air carrier to the competent authority).

The separate chapter under the Law of Georgia on Combatting Terrorism addresses the issues related to the compensation of damage resulted from terrorist acts and social rehabilitation of affected persons.

According to the mentioned Law, the damages inflicted to individuals or legal entities as a result of a terrorist act or its suppression, as well as the social rehabilitation of persons affected by terrorist acts are compensated from the State Budget of Georgia.

According to the Decree of the GoG,<sup>26</sup> social rehabilitation for persons affected by a terrorist act or for persons participating in the fight against terrorism are carried out in accordance with the social state program, approved by the GoG. The services provided by the program envisage specific types and volumes of rehabilitation measures, which are necessary for the social rehabilitation of the mentioned persons.

In addition, the CPCG envisages the provisions related to the rights of the victim. Within the frames of a criminal proceeding, a person can be granted the procedural status of a victim by the decision of a prosecutor. The CPCG provides the detailed list of the rights of the victim, which *inter alia* cover the right of the victim to request the application of special measures of protection if his/her or his/her close relative's or family member's life, health and/or property are endangered and to be informed on the progress of the investigation and review the materials of the criminal case.

### **Prevention of financing of terrorism**

In recent years, Georgia has made significant improvements to its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) system. According to MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia, Georgia's efforts in TF investigation and prosecution are positively assessed as having achieved a substantial level of effectiveness.

Georgia has a comprehensive legal framework in place to criminalize terrorism financing (TF) as a standalone offence under Criminal Code<sup>27</sup>. In 2019, Georgia adopted a new Law on Facilitating the Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT Law), which creates legal mechanism for prevention, detection and suppression of ML&TF, as well as reforms the regime for implementing UNSCRs. The new Law aims to approximate Georgia's legal framework to FATF standards, respective EU directive and other international requirements.

In 2023, the GoG approved its second National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment Report (NRA), thus, making considerable efforts to consolidate and articulate its knowledge and understanding of ML/TF risks. Moreover, Chapter IV of the NRA analyzes and assesses TF risks in the country and concludes that the terrorism financing risk in Georgia is low.

In 2023, the GoG approved the new Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Terrorism Financing and Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategy of 2023-2026 and its corresponding Action Plan, which acknowledge the high-level commitment to approximating Georgian legislative framework to FATF standards, MONEYVAL report recommendations and the respective EU directive.

### **Implementation of the UN targeted sanctions**

Georgia has established an adequate legal framework and strong national mechanism for freezing terrorist assets pursuant to the UNSCR 1373 (2001).

The Governmental Commission on the Implementation of the UNSCRs (Governmental Commission) is the main contact point for the UNSC Sanctions Committees and other UN structures in terms of undertaking measures for the purpose of prevention, detection and suppression of the financing of terrorism. The Governmental Commission chaired by the Justice Minister, brings on board all relevant state institutions/agencies under its mandate and guarantees the high-level representation in order to ensure the effective implementation of targeted sanctions. The International Relations and Legal Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice serves as a Secretariat of the Governmental Commission and provides the technical and substance-wise assistance to the Governmental Commission and its thematic working groups.

Since March 2021, UN targeted sanctions are directly applicable on the territory of Georgia. More specifically, the AML/CFT Law of Georgia provides that the changes in the UN sanctions list (listing, de-listing, and amendments) are legally in force on the territory of Georgia upon its promulgation on the official web-page of the respective UN Sanctions Committee. The Governmental Commission carries out general supervision on the process of the implementation of the targeted sanctions by requesting the verbal and written periodic and *ad hoc* reports from the respective institutions and agencies.

The Governmental Commission is responsible on proposing the names for designations to the respective UN Sanctions Committee. Moreover, the Governmental Commission is mandated to consider

<sup>26</sup> The Decree N253 of the GoG of 26 March 2014 on approving the "Rules Related to the Social Rehabilitation for Persons Affected by a Terrorist Act or for Persons Participating in the Fight against Terrorism".

<sup>27</sup> Article 331<sup>1</sup> of the CCG criminalizes - Terrorism Financing, other Material Support of Terrorist Activities or Provision of Resources.

and decide on subjecting individuals or entities to financial sanctions, in accordance with UNSCR 1373 (2001). The technical and substance-wise support necessary for the national designations are done by the Task Force and the Secretariat of the Governmental Commission. The Task Force includes the representatives from the State Security Service, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance (Customs) and guarantees to collect, process and disseminate information necessary for the implementation of the Governmental Commissions' functions.

In 2023, The Governmental Commission adopted "Rules and Procedure for Compiling Lists of Persons Involved in Terrorism and/or Terrorist Financing". This is significant instrument for implementing the UNSCRs, providing a unified system for compiling lists of individuals involved in terrorism, terrorist financing, or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In May 2022, the Governmental Commission adopted a national sanctions list and sanctioned 2 citizens of Georgia under the UNSCR 1373 (2001). In April 2023, the Governmental Commission imposed sanctions against 2 more terrorism-related individuals and put them on the national sanctions list.

In addition, the Governmental Commission's mandate covers considering and deciding on applications submitted by interested parties and relating to full or partial unfreezing of the assets, exemptions to the sanction measures, informing the interested parties on their rights and applicable defensive procedures. Moreover, the Governmental Commission is a body drafting and approving the Guidelines on implementation of the targeted sanctions, organizing and carrying out informational meetings, workshops and trainings for the institutions and agencies involved in the process of sanction's implementation.

## **Countering violent extremism and radicalization**

Prevention of radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism remains one of the main priorities for Georgia.

In parallel to the enactment of strong legal framework and carrying out effective counter-terrorism law enforcement measures in line with the protection of human rights and promotion of rule of law, Georgia devotes special attention to the protection of identity and civic integration of residents who live in the country.

Preventive measures are a priority under the National Counterterrorism Strategy. The Strategy

strongly supports and emphasizes the importance of preventing the radicalization, as well as issues of deradicalization and resocialization, further applying the whole-of-society approach.

Various programs and projects are successfully implemented by the GoG<sup>28</sup> for ensuring minorities' full-fledged participation in all spheres of public life and for strengthening resilience of youth vulnerable to extremist ideologies and organizations, including in the field of education. Specifically tailored and state funded civic integration policy mechanisms and instruments, considered to be as a unique practice, are under intense implementation. Respective initiatives are carried out not only by relevant state agencies but also with the active engagement of civil society and international partners.

Georgia pays significant attention to the development of a tolerant environment in penitentiary establishments by promoting equality and equal access to benefits, as well as ensures access to vocational training programs (training course, module) for convicts for their re-socialization.

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The GoG conducts the organization of the country's fight against terrorism, and provides this effort with various resources, while the following agencies are directly involved in the fight against terrorism:

- State Security Service of Georgia (main agency in combating terrorism);
- Ministry of Defence of Georgia;
- Intelligence Service of Georgia;
- Special State Protection Service of Georgia;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
- other public agencies and organizations playing an important role in the fight against terrorism within their scope of competence in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.

The State Security Service of Georgia is a lead agency in the unified system of the country's fight against terrorism, ensuring detection, prevention,

<sup>28</sup> Georgia's efforts were positively noted during the CTED follow-up visit to Georgia in 2018: "With respect to measures aimed at countering violent extremism, CTED welcomed Georgia's efforts to ensure comprehensive integration of ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as other foreign or stateless persons" (available at: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/cted-conducts-follow-up-visit-georgia>).

Moreover, the MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia notes that: "Georgia has made impressive efforts to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism". (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

Georgia's efforts were positively noted in the U.S. Department of State Report on Terrorism of 2022: "In 2022, Georgia continued efforts, including CVE, focused on minority integration, education, media access, youth, and cultural diversity". (available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2022/georgia>).

According to the EU Commission Opinion on Georgia's application for membership of the European Union, released on 1 February 2023, "Georgia has adequate resources to address terrorism preventively." (Available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/SWD\\_2023\\_31\\_Georgia.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/SWD_2023_31_Georgia.pdf)).



suppression and investigation of terrorist crimes, through the application of special and criminal intelligence activities, collecting information on the activities of international terrorist organizations and conducting the systemization of this information. The SSSG coordinates the activities of the other agencies involved in the fight against terrorism through its structural entity – the Counterterrorism Center. The Center is directly responsible for ensuring implementation of counter-terrorist measures.

The SSSG regularly monitors new global tendencies and treats the identification of threats at an early stage as a priority. As a lead agency, the SSSG attaches huge importance to strengthening its capabilities of readiness and response. The SSSG constantly works on enhancing material-technical base of its structural entities responsible for the fight against terrorism, and to further advance professional capacity of its personnel.

The other state agencies are engaged in prevention and fight against terrorism within their scope of competences. There are various platforms set-up for coordination and cooperation both at a policy and operational level.

In September 2018, under the GoG Decree №469, the GoG established the Permanent Interagency Commission, which is composed of the heads/ministers of 21 agencies<sup>29</sup> engaged in the prevention of and fight against terrorism. The Permanent Interagency Commission is the national cooperation and coordination mechanism responsible for determining Georgia's unified policy in the field of fight against terrorism, which is tasked to develop and monitor the implementation of National Counterterrorism Strategy and its Action Plan.

The Permanent Interagency Commission has created four inter-agency thematic working groups<sup>30</sup> according to the main objectives of the Strategy, where high-level experts of relevant agencies are engaged. Several meetings of the WGs have been organized to facilitate proper implementation of the documents. Moreover, the participating agencies have developed their intra-agency mechanisms.

In terms of meaningful participation of civil society in prevention and fight against terrorism and violent extremism, in June 2021, as a result of cooperation between the Permanent Interagency Commission and civil society organization - Georgian Center for

Strategy and Development (GCSD), the Public-Private Dialogue Platform was formed. The Platform consists of all member agencies of the Permanent Interagency Commission, as well as of eight thematic non-governmental organizations. The aim of the Platform is to promote the effective policies through the sharing knowledge and practices between the public and civil sectors in the field of prevention of violent extremism and combating terrorism.

Several meetings and awareness raising activities were conducted within the frame of Public-Private Dialogue Platform. A cycle of trainings, aimed at promoting awareness raising and capacity building in the field of prevention of radicalization, violent extremism and combating terrorism, with participation of representatives of all agencies of Permanent Interagency Commission was organized by the GCSD, in coordination with the SSSG.

In case of emergency situations resulted from terrorist activities, a temporary authority – Emergency Management Operational Command Center is formed, with the leadership of the Head of the SSSG. The main objective of the Operational Command Center is to carry out special activities with the aim of suppressing terrorist crime, as well as ensuring public security, neutralizing terrorists and preventing or reducing to the minimum the expected outcomes from the act of terrorism and/or other crimes conducted with the terrorist purpose.

According to the Law of Georgia on Combatting Terrorism, when performing counter-terrorist operations, the Operational Command Center may use the necessary forces and means of executive and local self-government authorities in order to suppress terrorist acts. After the commencement of a counter-terrorist operation, each participant of the counter-terrorist operation shall be subordinate to the head of the Operational Command Center.

Furthermore, there are many examples of good coordination and cooperation activities on terrorism issues that have achieved results, based on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)<sup>31</sup> and formal gateways<sup>32</sup>, close contacts and cooperation that exists amongst respective authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

<sup>29</sup> **Permanent Interagency** Commission is composed of ministers/heads of the following agencies: State Security Service (chair agency), Administration of the Government; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Justice; Office of the Prosecutor General; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Finance; LEPL - Financial Monitoring Service; Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; LEPL - State Agency for Religious Issues; Special State Protection Service; Georgian Intelligence Service; Office of the National Security Council; National Bank of Georgia.

<sup>30</sup> For more information, please see chapter "National Policy" of this document.

<sup>31</sup> The MoU on Raising the Effectiveness of Inter-Agency Cooperation in the Law Enforcement Field (signed in 2015 among the SSSG, Office of the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Financial Monitoring Service) continues to serve as a solid mechanism for exchanging information at the operational level, and it also envisages the creation of joint investigative teams.

<sup>32</sup> At an operational level, the GoG Decree №254 on the Rule of Organizing the Counter-Terrorist Activity and Coordinating the Actions of Counter-Terrorist Agencies determines the detailed procedure for providing information to the SSSG Counterterrorism Center by the agencies involved in the fight against terrorism.

## Mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition

### Mutual Legal Assistance

Law of Georgia on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters is the primary national framework for the mutual legal assistance. International treaties, such as the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its additional protocols, complement the domestic law.

The central authority for receiving and transmitting requests for international mutual assistance is the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia. Requests can also be transmitted through Interpol or diplomatic (not recommended) channels.

Request can be either electronically signed (any e-signature that is allowed under the local law of requesting state is acceptable) or electronic copies of paper documents.

Double criminality is not generally required to be met. However, requests are checked against double criminality (*in abstracto*) where search, seizure, production of stored electronic communication data or interception of communications is sought.

For requests of search, seizure, production of stored electronic communication data or interception of communications requesting state must provide sufficient factual and evidentiary background of a case to establish probable cause.

Necessity of the assistance sought must be clearly demonstrated in the request. It must also be shown why it is probable that the data subject or the search/seizure subject possesses the data/items sought. Overly broad and disproportionate requests cannot be complied.

### National Procedures for Mutual Legal Assistance on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime (ETS 141)

#### Procedure for search (asset-tracing) and seizure

When requesting search, seizure or freezing, the requesting state must demonstrate the existence of reasonable grounds for believing that pertinent assets are instrumentalities of crime, proceeds of crime or equivalent property (property subject to confiscation).

According to the Law of Georgia on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, court warrant is required for the production of electronic data (including bank records), electronic surveillance and interception.

#### Procedure for confiscation/Recognition of foreign decisions, recovery of confiscated assets.

The following documents and information must be attached to the request for confiscation:

- Original or a certified copy of the confiscation order (not necessarily the judgment) issued by the competent authority of the requesting state;
- An attestation by the competent authority of the requesting state that the confiscation order is final and immediately enforceable;
- Information as to the extent to which the enforcement of the order is requested;
- Information as to the necessity of taking additional measures at the time of execution of the foreign confiscation order;
- Information whether the third parties have had the opportunity to claim their rights.

If the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia considers that the documents and information referred to above are sufficient, it applies to the relevant court within a reasonable time with the motion to confiscate the property based on the confiscation order of the requesting state. The court makes decision on confiscation within one month. This period can be extended in case additional information is required from the respective foreign state.

The decision of the first instance court may be appealed within 15 days after its pronouncement by the prosecutor or the person/persons claiming the property rights over the property at the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court also makes decision on confiscation within one month, which may be extended, in case additional information is required from the respective foreign state.

The decision of the Appellate Court may further be appealed within 15 days after its pronouncement by the prosecutor or the person/persons claiming the property rights over the property at Supreme Court of Georgia. The decision of the Supreme Court, which is also delivered within one month, is final and after this, the property can be confiscated. The confiscated property is temporarily retained at the National Bureau of Enforcement, Ministry of Justice of Georgia until sharing with the respective foreign state.

When confiscation is requested in the context of money laundering, at least it should be demonstrated that assets in question are not derived from the legal sources (concept of unjustified assets).

As a rule, confiscated property is shared with the respective foreign state on a 50/50 basis. When making decision on sharing the confiscated assets, the interest of the legitimate owners and the victims are also taking into account.

Georgia does not share the confiscated property, if:

- the respective foreign state waives its claim over it;
- the value of the confiscated assets is less than 40 000 GEL (approximately 10 000 Euros).

Despite the regulations referred to above, on a case-by-case basis Georgia can enter into *ad hoc* arrangements with the requesting country and make the decision on return and sharing of assets in a different way.

## **Extradition**

Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia is the central authority for extradition requests. Requests can also be transmitted through Interpol or diplomatic (not recommended) channels.

The Constitution of Georgia prohibits extradition of Georgian nationals unless international treaty provides otherwise.

Double criminality is a mandatory requirement in extradition proceedings. However, Georgia applies *in abstracto* approach when examining foreign extradition requests.

Required documents for extradition request are the following:

- Extradition request;
- The original or an authenticated copy of the conviction and sentence or detention order immediately enforceable or the warrant of arrest or other order having the same effect and issued in accordance with the procedure laid down in the law of the requesting country;
- A statement of the offences for which extradition is requested. The time and place of their commission, their legal descriptions and a reference to the relevant legal provisions set out as accurately as possible;
- A copy of the relevant enactments or, where this is not possible, a statement of the relevant law;
- A description of the person concerned, together with any other information that will help to establish his identity and nationality;
- Where relevant facts are only described in a very long indictment or judgment, Georgia requires abridged version of the statement of facts of a case.

### Ordinary extradition procedure

In case the ordinary extradition procedure is concerned, the Chamber of Criminal Cases of Tbilisi City Court examines the admissibility of extradition based on the motion filed by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia. The ruling on the

admissibility of extradition issued by Tbilisi City Court may be appealed by the parties within 7 days after its pronouncement at the Chamber of Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The Supreme Court appoints the first hearing on the examination of the appeal within 5 days after its submission. The Ministry of Justice of Georgia is notified regarding the court decision on the admissibility of extradition within 5 days after it is delivered. In case the extradition is found admissible by the court, the Minister of Justice of Georgia issues an order on granting or refusing the extradition of the person concerned. On the other hand, in case the court finds extradition of an individual to a foreign state inadmissible, the Minister of Justice of Georgia issues an order on refusing extradition.

### Simplified extradition procedure.

Georgian legislation provides a simplified extradition procedure. Namely, extradition of a person can only be carried out through the simplified procedure if the person subject to extradition consents to such procedure in the presence of a judge. In particular, the prosecutor files a motion to the court on scheduling a court hearing with the purpose of obtaining the consent from the person subject to extradition regarding the application of simplified extradition procedure. The relevant court schedules a hearing within 24 hours after receiving the motion. The consent expressed by the person is final and cannot be revoked.

Within 15 days after the expression of the consent to the simplified extradition procedure, the prosecutor files a motion to the court on the admissibility of extradition. The motion is examined within 24 hours after its submission and the Ministry of Justice is immediately notified about the decision of the court. The Minister of Justice then issues an order regarding the extradition within 20 days after the person subject to extradition expresses consent to the simplified extradition procedure.

The requesting country is notified about the decision of the Minister of Justice within the same period (20 days after the expression of the consent). The surrender of the person concerned is preferable to take place within 10 business days from the date of the notification of the extradition decision to the authorities of the requesting state.

### Detention

Before the receipt of the extradition request, the person concerned may be held in custody no longer than 40 days starting from the moment of the arrest when the European Convention on Extradition is applied. The maximum period of detention for extradition purposes is 9 months.

Alternatively, depending on the specific circumstances of the case any constraint measure other than detention (e.g. bail) can also be applied with respect to the fugitive.

### Measures at international level

Georgia is actively involved in international efforts and will continue to pursue the fight against terrorism in all its manifestations, alongside the international community<sup>33</sup>.

Georgia has become an active member of the Global Coalition against Daesh from the very beginning and has been significantly contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security through its participation in counter-ISIL working groups<sup>34</sup> and multinational operations.

Georgia has a sound legal framework for international cooperation and has mechanisms in place to conduct it. Georgia carries out effective cooperation in providing and seeking information on terrorism with a wide range of foreign jurisdictions.

Georgia is a party to the fourteen (14) UN anti-terrorism conventions and the relevant CoE conventions. Georgia further continues enhancing international law framework in law enforcement and security areas. Overall, Georgia has already concluded over 30 cooperation agreements with partner countries in the field of fight against crime, *inter alia* addressing terrorism, as well as the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation with Europol and the Agreement on Cooperation with Eurojust.

Furthermore, in terms of enhancing secure information exchange capabilities, Georgia has concluded agreements on exchange and mutual protection of classified information with 24 partner countries (*most of them are NATO and EU Member States*), as well as with the NATO, the EU and EUROPOL.

Based on respective MOUs with Europol, the Georgian liaison officer was deployed at the Europol's Headquarters on 1 September 2018, and

secure communication line has become operational between Georgia and Europol since May 2019. In June 2020, Georgia deployed its liaison prosecutor to Eurojust. Also, Police/security attaché channels are widely applied for sharing the information, thus, enhancing the cooperation with international partners in strengthening joint efforts to fight against terrorism.

Georgia is actively engaged in counter-terrorism activities within the framework of INTERPOL, as well as sub-regional organization GUAM, making effective use of their available tools, *inter alia*, applying secure channels for exchange of information.

Georgia is a member of Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) and has designated 24/7 point of contact to share terrorism related information through the network established within the frame of CDCT.

Recently, Georgia further expanded cooperation with Europol through associating with the Europol's 4 operational CT analysis projects<sup>35</sup> on counterterrorism and joining the Counter Terrorism Joint Liaison Team (CT JLT).

Furthermore, Georgia remains committed to enhancing cooperation with the UN, NATO, EU, CoE, OSCE and other regional international organizations, including being actively engaged in cooperation dialogue therein, sharing experience and best practices as well as carrying out joint projects, trainings and measures in the fight against terrorism.

<sup>33</sup> According to MONEYVAL 2020 Report, Georgia's efforts in international cooperation are positively assessed. CoE MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia states that: "Georgia has a sound legal framework for international cooperation and has mechanisms in place to conduct it. Georgia demonstrated effective cooperation in providing and seeking information, using both formal and informal channels, with a wide range of foreign jurisdictions". MONEYVAL 2020 Report on Georgia further states that: "Competent authorities of Georgia can rapidly provide international cooperation, and exchange both spontaneously and upon request a wide range of information in relation to ML, TF and predicate offending". (Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2020-20-5th-round-mer-georgia/1680a03271>).

According to the 2023 Communication on EU Enlargement policy about Georgia released on 8 November 2023 by the European Commission, "Georgia is involved in international efforts to fight against terrorism and is an active member of the Global Coalition against Daesh." (Available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD\\_2023\\_697%20Georgia%20report.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_697%20Georgia%20report.pdf)).

<sup>34</sup> Georgia is actively engaged in the Global Coalition Communications, Counter-ISIL Finance and FTF Working Groups.

<sup>35</sup> Georgia is associated with the EUROPOL's operational CT analysis projects, namely, AP "Check the Web" (from December 2022), AP "TFTP" (from December 2022), AP "Travellers" (from December 2022) and AP "Hydra" (from December 2023).

<b>Relevant Council of Europe conventions – Georgia</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Ratified</b>
Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism [CETS No. 198]	25/03/2013	10/01/2014; in force for Georgia since 01/05/2014
Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism [CETS No. 196]	14/12/2005 <sup>36</sup>	
Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism [CETS No. 217] <sup>37</sup>	-	-
Convention on Cybercrime [ETS No. 185]	01/04/2008	06/06/2012 ; in force for Georgia since 01/10/2012
Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems [ETS No. 189]	-	-
Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime [ETS No. 141]	30/04/2002	13/05/2004 ; in force for Georgia since 01/09/2004
European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes [ETS No. 116]	-	-
European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism [ETS No. 90]	11/05/2000	14/12/2000 ; in force for Georgia since 15/03/2001
Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism [ETS No. 190]	15/05/2003	08/12/2004
European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters [ETS No. 73]	-	-
European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters [ETS No. 30]	27/04/1999	13/10/1999 ; in force for Georgia since 11/01/2000
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters [ETS No. 99]	07/11/2001	22/05/2003 ; in force for Georgia since 20/08/2003
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters [ETS No. 182]	25/03/2013	10/01/2014 ; in force for Georgia since 01/05/2014
European Convention on Extradition [ETS No. 24]	22/03/2000	15/06/2001 ; in force for Georgia since 13/09/2001
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition [ETS No. 86]	22/03/2000	15/06/2001 ; in force for Georgia since 13/09/2001
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition [ETS No. 98]	22/03/2000	15/06/2001 ; in force for Georgia since 13/09/2001
Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition [CETS No. 209]	14/04/2014	-
Fourth Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition [CETS No. 212]	-	-
<b>Relevant United Nations conventions – Georgia</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Ratified</b>
Convention on Offenses and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 1963)		September 14, 1994
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (the Hague, 1970)		April 20, 1994

<sup>36</sup> Georgia has signed the CoE Convention, although country has not yet ratified it, still this has not precluded Georgia from fully implementing the provisions of the convention on national level. The criminal legislation of Georgia thoroughly reflects actions and requirements set by the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism in terms of terrorist activities. More precisely, the provisions of this convention, which criminalize terrorist acts (Public provocation to commit a terrorist offence, Recruitment for terrorism, and Training for terrorism), have already been incorporated in the CCG in Article 330<sup>1</sup> (Public Support of Terrorist Activities and/or Terrorist Organization or Public Incitement to Terrorism), Article 330<sup>2</sup> (Provision of Training and Instruction for Conducting Terrorist Activities) and Article 327<sup>1</sup> (Recruitment for the Membership of Terrorist Organization or Conducting Terrorist Activities).

Furthermore, national legislative framework and level of international cooperation in connection to the prevention of terrorism fully responds to the objectives and requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

<sup>37</sup> Georgia has designated the 24/7 contact point within the frame of Additional Protocol to the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism which is actively involved in the work of the network.



Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 1971)		April 20, 1994
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 1988)		March 17, 1999
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (New York, 1973)		February 18, 2004
International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (New York, 1979)		February 18, 2004
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 1979)		October 7, 2006
Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 2005)		May 8, 2016
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 1988)		November 9, 2006
2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (London, 2005)	-	-
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 1988)		November 9, 2006
2005 Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (London, 2005)	-	-
Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1991)		June 24, 2000
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 1997)		February 18, 2004
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 1999)		October 27, 2002
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 2005)		April 23, 2010