INFORMATION

concerning the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 70/160 on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

a) Republic of Serbia was the first among the countries of the former Yugoslavia to become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. We have signed the Convention in 2007, and ratified it in 2011:

b) During the ratification process, Republic of Serbia has accepted the procedures under Articles 31 and 32 of the Convention;

c) Republic of Serbia has not sought the assistance of either the UN Secretary-General or the High Commissioner for Human Rights in relation to the signature/ratification of the Convention;

d) With respect to the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Serbia is actively cooperating with relevant stakeholders at different levels. In this regard, we would like to point out to the following:

- The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances paid a working visit to the Republic of Serbia from 19 to 26 June 2014, following an official invitation of the Republic of Serbia extended by Mr. Veljko Odalovic, President of the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. On that occasion, members of the Working Group had meetings with representatives of state bodies and relevant institutions, including the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission on Missing Persons and EULEX, continuously present in the region, in accordance with their mandate provide assistance to the competent bodies in the region, in order to resolve the problem of missing persons. The international presence and international monitoring are important for addressing the issue of missing persons, especially in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, where without their involvement it would not be possible to realize this process.

- On 16 December 2015, R. Serbia signed the Agreement on the status and functions of the International Commission on Missing Persons, and thus became the ninth signatory to the Agreement (in addition to Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, El Salvador, Chile and Cyprus).

- The Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia is in daily contact with the families of missing persons in connection with the current status of cases and in order to gather more information and facts, which can help in learning about the fate of the missing. The Commission also cooperates with associations of families of missing persons whose projects are financed by public tender. Through these projects the associations carry out activities that contribute to improving the work of the Commission in addressing the problem of missing persons.