



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Ms. Šejla Đurbuzović, Minister Counsellor  
Charge d' Affairs A.I.**

**at**

**the United Nations Security Council meeting on  
„Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina“**

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At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May and wish you and your delegation every success.

We welcome Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and have taken note of the fifty-fifth report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 16 October 2018 to 15 April 2019.

Mr. President,

While it is apparent that numerous challenges lay ahead on our path towards the full-fledged integration into the European Union, our commitment and dedication in facing and overcoming these challenges remains firm. After fulfilling required and necessary obligations for the next step of the process we hope that we will be in a position to achieve the candidature status for the EU membership by the end of this year, after the Commission concludes its analysis and presents its conclusions to the Council of the European Union.

We thank the European Union and its member states for their commitments towards Bosnia and Herzegovina's and Western Balkans states' EU perspective. We are grateful to the EU for its active support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's European path and would like to call both the EU and its member states to further strengthen that support. On our part, we have intensified our efforts in a number of areas relevant in achieving this goal, namely the implementation of the reform agenda, socioeconomic reforms as a matter of priority, but also continue its work in strengthening the rule of law and good governance.

Advancement of friendly and constructive cooperation among the countries of the region on issues of mutual interest remains one of the main priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina's foreign policy. The cooperation of Western Balkan states, within the framework of the Berlin process, remains a key driver for the integration of the region into the European Union, as well as stability within the region. Currently Bosnia and Herzegovina is presiding over the SEECP, MARRI and Western Balkan Fund aiming at promoting regional connectivity and collaboration. We are deeply convinced that these initiatives and fora significantly contribute to the peace and stability in the region.

Mr. President,

In the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to fulfil its international obligations with regard to countering terrorism and violent extremism. The Framework Action Plan and the Strategy for prevention and

combating terrorism for the period from 2015 to 2020 is being implemented. The judicial institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to process individuals involved in fighting on behalf of terrorist organizations, as well as those facilitating the recruitment of terrorist fighters. It is important to emphasize that the Strategy, alongside security measures, includes preventive activities for de-radicalization undertaken by national stakeholders, such as religious communities, educational institutions, civil society organizations and the media.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina's rule of law and security institutions made progress in combating organized crime, human trafficking, drugs, corruption and money laundering. With regard to processing war crimes before domestic courts, we would like to reiterate that fighting impunity is vital for Bosnia and Herzegovina as a complex and multinational State. In that regard, implementing the national strategy for processing war crimes, regardless of the national or religious origin of perpetrators and victims, is essential for reconciliation and long-term stability.

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to contribute actively to the international peace and security by providing its military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions. Presently, we have around 45 personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Mr. President,

With regard to the economic situation, it is always important to stress that Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy, like other countries of the region, has been increasingly dependent on the global economic performance. However, in 2018 Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy has continued to improve on a modest scale, with the growth rate of 3.1 per cent at the annual level. Infrastructural projects on the other hand are being implemented at a relatively slow pace.

An unemployment rate in 2018 has dropped by 2.1 per cent, in comparison to 2017. Our focus and main priority in economic reform program remains the creation of a legal framework to improve the business environment, as well as job creation for youth. Currently, the main concern is a significant outflow of young skillful and educated people. That phenomenon could have a very negative impact on the future economic development. Massive investments in infrastructure, healthcare and education are needed in order to reverse that trend. We would be grateful should we get more FDI for the projects in the abovementioned areas, as well as wider engagement of international financial institutions in order to achieve better success in tackling this burning issue.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also started a very important planning, monitoring and evaluation process in the field of social and economic development, fully in line with the Agenda 2030.

One of those areas of concern is the situation with illegal migrants. The international migrant crisis continues to pose a substantial challenge to the States of the region and their economies. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced a significant increase in refugees and migrants, most of whom crossed the border illegally. According to the most recent data, the number of illegal migrants detected in BiH in 2018 is close to 24.000, most of them without any documents.

In response, Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities have undertaken a set of comprehensive measures, including those in the humanitarian and security areas. In that context, we would like to reiterate that Bosnia and Herzegovina has been implementing its strategy in the area of migration and asylum, along with its plan of action for the period of 2016-2020. The document has specified the Bosnia and Herzegovina's policy on migration and asylum in accordance with the highest European and international standards. Since the question of illegal migration is a cross-border issue we are also exploring possibilities for improved cooperation by police agencies within BiH as well as intensified cooperation with neighboring countries and the EU. We therefore welcome the decision of the European Commission of 29 April 2019 with regard to financial support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities in handling migration and strengthening its capacity in border management.

The European Union-led Operation Althea has been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina for many years. It is important to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina has had respectable and fruitful cooperation with Operation Althea, particularly in the capacity building and training of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, Mr. President,

we would like to express the readiness of Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities to continue their work in securing a better and prosperous future for its citizens. At the same time, we would also like to express gratitude to our international partners for supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina on that path.