



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

STATEMENT

by

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at

**Reception “18th anniversary of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the
80th year of the nation's statehood”**

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Excellences,

Dear Friends

In today's world there is so much evil around us, there are so many atrocities, pain, injustice and inequalities that we keep questioning how we can motivate and mobilize ourselves to take a common position and move along a pathway to a better world we want to live in. Together.

Celebrating and marking successes are energizing moments that can give us proper push to keep going faster along the viding road to a better future we wish for all.

In three days our Armed Forces will be 18 years old. Three days ago we celebrated 80 years of modern Bosnia and Herzegovina statehood that was reestablished in the middle of the world war against fascism. That's why we chose exactly this day to convene for reception in here with our friends gathering in UN.

I want to thank you all for coming here today to share our joy and pride of success that we intend to continue.

Last week we entered in 30th year since Dayton Peace Accord was signed – if Peace accord is measured by peacekeepers causalities than there is (has been) no more successful job done under UN flag and with USA leadership. Out of tens thousands of them deployed in B&H between three war armies that overnight stopped shooting at each other, no one single soldier has been even wounded or killed in any combat activities. It also applies to EUFOR present today (ALTHEA Mission) that replaced initial UN SFOR NATO led forces.

But if someone would ask best experts after Dayton which tripartite divided ministries and their stakeholders will be united in war torn country: Education, Health, Agriculture, Defense no one would bet on three armies become one.

At this stage I want personally to thank two people who are today here in UN, that were top senior US and OHR international community diplomats involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina two decades ago and whose commitment and work was among major building blocks of the greatest US led success in post Dayton Bosnia And Herzegovina – creation of our Armed Forces that we are celebrating today.

Rosemary Di Carlo UN USG for Political and Peace building Affairs and Raffi Gregorian Deputy to the USG (and Head) of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

Now it is time for more EU. Among other things time for Education, Health, Agriculture... that we will be coming through our European integrations reform agenda - but 18 years ago we made unexpected, unpredictable and at that time almost impossible: Armed Forces of B&H whose military personnel, where some of them were in our war being in confronting armies, already for years has been participating in most complex conflict operations under UN and /or NATO command.

This is the reason why on a Top 3 list of our Mission next priorities are: first, prevention of violation of Dayton Peace Accord where UN and Peace Implementation Council Roles are indispensable; second, supporting SDG, EU, WB 2030 reform Agenda with our friends and colleagues from EU and WB; and, third, supporting unconditional respect of international law and human rights based on sharing the truth and justice about our war experience as a reconciliation and conflict prevention toolkit. Since we are here on US soil let me quote President Biden letter congratulating people of Bosnia and to our head of state, supreme commander of our Armed Forces, celebrating our Statehood Day

“US remains resolutely committed to B&H sovereignty, territorial integrity, and multiethnic character... Efforts to undermine Dayton Peace Agreement, attack the state and its institutions, or call for secession undermine B&H stability and future... and (it is time) to end the politics of nationalism... By focusing instead on reaching common vision you will be able to secure the peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future your citizens deserve.”

We are here to thank you individually as well as to all of our friends who are helping each other mutually to reach better future in each of member states individually and in one world that is represented by UN.

In the years ahead, I look forward to strengthening the partnership between our nations/states – armed forces and friendship between our people – as our countries continue to make progress toward a better future.

At this gathering I wish you good health and joyful time as we mark our national holiday and armed forces “18th birthday”.

Thank you, Enjoy the evening

