



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Stalna misija pri Ujedinjenim narodima
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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
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БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Стална мисија при Уједињеним нацијама
Њујорк

STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mr. Željko Komšić
Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

at
the General Debate
of the 66th Session of
the United Nations General Assembly

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ADDRESS BY H.E. ŽELJKO KOMŠIĆ, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 66th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, September 2011

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honor to address the General Assembly today, in the capacity of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Allow me, at the very outset, to congratulate you, Mr. President, as well as members of the Bureau of the 66th Session of the General Assembly on your election, and to express our full support to your future work. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate H.E. Joseph Deiss, on the results achieved during his presiding over the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly, in a period when this body, as well as the international community in general were facing an array of challenges related to current global issues.

I am especially honored to extend congratulations to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, for his unanimous re-election as the UN Secretary General. Over the past five years, Mr. Moon has worked tirelessly to address the various issues facing the world organization. We wish the Secretary General to continue with these activities in his second term.

Mr. President,

Allow me to express my gratitude for all the cooperation and the support we received during Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the UN Security Council, which will expire in few months. Speaking of our membership in the UN Security Council, let me once again reiterate the view that the presence and participation of "small states", such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the work and decisions of the United Nations Security Council is particularly important for maintaining balance within the Council. This way, along with the permanent members of the Security Council and the world powers, other countries also have a chance to express their views and participate in Security Council decisions making on important issues of international peace and security. It was our pleasure and honor to work together with all members of the UN Security Council, during our mandate for 2010 and 2011.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had the honor to chair the UN Security Council during the January 2011. Although chairing the Council is only one segment of the two-year experience in the UN Security Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina once again has proved that it can be an equal partner on the international diplomatic scene, and respond to variety of obligations arising from chairing the UN Security Council.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has played a constructive role in the work of the UN Security Council, through contributing to a better, more efficient and faster response of the Security Council to situations that could threaten international peace. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also aimed to share its own experiences in post-conflict peace-building, and actively contribute to a better and long-lasting understanding and reconciliation. Through its role in the Security Council Bosnia and Herzegovina showed that it can be an equal and competent partner in international relations.

The UN Security Council Thematic Debate on "Post-conflict peace-building: institution building", which initiated by Bosnia and Herzegovina, have reached a number of conclusions. I would like to some of those conclusions at this time:

-To enable the success of peace-building initiatives, a priority must be given to institution building; this will prevent a return to conflict and ensure the survival, renewed credibility and legitimacy of the states.

-However, the purpose of institution building is to progressively reduce dependence on the international community and promote sustainability. In any case, the ownership of the reform process is the main condition for the establishment of effective institutions and ensuring sustainable peace.

-Ultimately, success in post-conflict institution building depends primarily on establishing a partnership between the international community and post-conflict societies, a partnership that is based on a set of common goals.

Bearing in this mind we would like once again, to thank you all for the confidence you have shown us and the support you provided during the non-permanent membership of my country in the UN Security Council.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also continues to provide concrete contribution to the UN peace operations in Liberia, Sudan, Cyprus and DR Congo.

Mr. President,

In Bosnia and Herzegovina we are united in our determination to pursue the path of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards full membership in European Union, and this fact represents a solid basis for the achievement of this goal.

Bosnia and Herzegovina places special emphasis on regional and sub-regional cooperation and dialogue between the neighboring countries, which represent different cultures and traditions, present in the Balkans for centuries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to the future and cooperation with neighboring countries, based on the principles of mutual respect and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are interested to share our experiences with others and to develop mutually beneficial relations in post-conflict peace building, based on mutual respect for differences which in our opinion, represent an advantage.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the issues of neighborly and regional cooperation are closely related to the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU and NATO, a strategic and high priority foreign policy objective for my country.

For us, this is the best and the only way to ensure stability, security, as well as the economic development and prosperity for all citizens of BiH.

The strategic goal of establishing formal relations and EU membership is based on the aspirations of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve the full functioning of our own institutions and further development of society, based on the principles of free market, rule of law and especially the protection of human rights.

Furthermore, my country wants to improve relations with the states of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Australia and Oceania, at the multilateral and bilateral level, in accordance with the common interests and real possibilities. Bosnia and Herzegovina was and still remains dedicated to principle of openness in cooperation with all the countries in the world.

Mr. President,

Many important world events occurred between the two General Assembly sessions. Bosnia and Herzegovina follows the development of the situation in the friendly Arab countries that are affected by deep social and political changes with great attention, preoccupation and concern. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports democratic processes towards creation of free, democratic and prosperous societies.

However, such processes are often followed by tragic consequences. Therefore, we appeal once again to stop violence and create the peace in these societies.

We are deeply concerned by standstill in crisis resolution in the Middle East. Despite optimistic announcements and plans, expected peace process has not yet been revived.

The only way forward is the solution based on the principle of peaceful coexistence of two sovereign states: a viable and independent Palestine and a stable and secure Israel, with respect to the provisions of international law and instruments in the field of humanitarian law and human rights.

So far, the UN has supported and actively participated in creating a positive atmosphere in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that conditions for a lasting and just solution can be achieved with additional political will and responsibility of the negotiating parties.

We are witnesses that international community's determination to deal with terrorism and at the same time to create conditions for peaceful development of Afghanistan offers some results. However, we must conclude that it will take much more effort to establish self sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan. In April of 2010, as a sign of support to the international community activities, Bosnia and Herzegovina has issued a decision on sending an infantry unit to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

I would like to emphasize here that Bosnia and Herzegovina is still very concerned about terrorist attacks, which take innocent civilian victims in many countries around the world. Bearing in mind that the modern world continues to face various forms of international terrorism, I express our support for full implementation of the UN Strategy for Combating Terrorism and the activities of the Committee in the Fight Against Terrorism. In this regard, let me repeat that Bosnia and Herzegovina is unconditionally dedicated to the fight against

terrorism and particularly actively participates in cooperation with the countries of our region to raise the security level and preparedness for effective prevention of terrorist acts. Completing negotiations and adoption of the UN Comprehensive Terrorism Convention would be an important contribution in this field.

Mr. President,

In addition to the crisis of political issues, this year we are faced again with many other problems to which international community still lacks proper and effective responses.

Despite signs of recovery, unfortunately, I must say that the greatest economic and financial crisis in recent history has left visible consequences that are reflecting on global peace and security. It is more than obvious that countries individually cannot cope with this issue, no matter how efficient their governments may be. Global crisis seeks global solutions.

In the context of the United Nations activities, we must face the fact that the greatest economic crisis, since the foundation of the World Organization, has in some degree threatened and even has began to question the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, one of the most comprehensive strategic tasks set by the World Organization since its establishment.

Therefore, individually and collectively it is necessary to do everything in order to prevent further erosion of this key strategic project.

We believe that it is necessary for international community to redouble its efforts, especially the UN, in order to assist primarily the least developed countries.

Mr. President,

The climate change problem caused by human activities leads to natural changes that can have catastrophic consequences for the entire mankind, if the agreement process on environmental protection is not intensified.

Bosnia and Herzegovina shares the concern of the most UN members that droughts, floods, sea level rise, lack of running water and food, deforestation and all other phenomena caused by global warming are a serious threat to the world security, which in the future could be a cause of conflict all over the world.

Therefore, extremely important climate change issue requires urgent action by the international community. Bosnia and Herzegovina has expressed interest to join the countries that support the Copenhagen Agreement, by which our country has joined a large number of UN member states which consider this agreement as a necessary step in relation to Kyoto, until the achievement of the final, legally binding agreement.

Bearing this in mind, it is my opinion that neither economic nor political interests should stand in the way of achieving a global consensus, as the beginning of the global/common struggle to preserve the natural balance of the planet. It is often forgotten that climate changes directly affect the development, poverty, hunger, and consequently the global peace and security. I am convinced that our common interest is to ensure that future generations inherit the best possible conditions on our common home, planet Earth.

Mr. President,

I hope that all of us who are here today agree that a comprehensive United Nations reform system is necessary, which must be carried out with extreme care and ensure the widest possible consensus of the member states.

Bosnia and Herzegovina sees the role of the United Nations and its agencies as a central for resolving key issues of international significance. Therefore, it supports the efforts and proposals for reforms that come from the UN Secretary General.

Through the United Nations reform, it is necessary to ensure efficient and coordinated functioning of all system agencies and bodies, bearing in mind to avoid duplication of activities in a more rational allocation of financial resources.

Regardless of the future configuration of the Security Council, we believe that the East European group of countries must have another non-permanent member, taking into account the fact that over the past two decades the number of countries in this group has more than doubled.

While presiding over the subsidiary body of the UN Security Council - an informal working group for the documentation and other procedural matters - Bosnia and Herzegovina has set the consideration of working methods and transparency of the Security Council, as one of the primary goals. BiH has also organized several informal meetings in cooperation with the partner countries and the UN General Assembly bodies, where the UN members expressed their opinions and visions and concrete proposals for improving the efficiency of the UN Security Council.

Mr. President,

I want particularly to emphasize that it is expected from the UN, particularly Security Council to be more active in preventive diplomacy. In order to make the work of this body much more efficient, we believe that the greater activity in this direction would provide a starting point to resolving many problems and crises in the world, before they flare up. Providing timely and effective action in conflict prevention, rather than reacting once the crisis has escalated, is certainly more efficient and less expensive instrument of action in preserving peace and security.

Mr. President,

During the six decades of its existence, the United Nations has passed through ordeals, but it always was and still is the best framework for seeking and giving adequate responses to a wide range of global issues we are facing.

Therefore, I urge you to work on the full implementation of all our agreements - in order to make the world a better place for our future generations.

Thank you.