



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Željko KOMŠIĆ

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, as well as members of your Team of 68th Session of General Assembly for being elected, and give you my full support in your future work.

Plenary meetings of the General Assembly were always an opportunity for Heads of State to gather and exchange their opinions about the world situation in order to try to find solutions for contemporary global problems.

Mr. President,

My country's strategic goal of establishing a formal relationship and membership in the EU is based upon ambition of Bosnia and Herzegovina to become part of the big family of democratic states and thus assure full functionality of its own institutions and further development on the basis of free market, rule of law and especially human rights.

Based on the direction and foreign policy activities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, our focus remains on furthering our relationship and institutional relationship with the EU, according to the Stabilization and Association Agreement and its full implementation. The aspiration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to become EU member is based upon wide political census.

The fact that the process of European integration demands comprehensive political, institutional and legal adjustments in order to reach European standards in all areas is of essential importance for my country.

We are also fully aware that active participation of all segments of society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is necessary for the expedited process of European integration.

I expect that expediting the remaining activities, implementation of the Sejdic – Finci ruling of the European Court of Human Rights, will lead to fulfillment of requirements for application for accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU.

I am also hoping for positive development of events relating to fulfilling conditions for activating the NATO Membership Action Plan and further integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into NATO security structures.

I would also like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the final negotiation phase for accession to the World Trade Organization.

Please allow me to emphasize again that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very clear stance relating to war crimes: All those accused of war crimes will be held responsible for the crimes of which they are accused of either before international or domestic courts.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina puts strong emphasis on regional and sub regional cooperation and dialogue between neighboring countries whose cultures and traditions have been present in the Balkans for centuries, and who are currently at different stages of transition and democratic reforms.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is turned towards the future and cooperation with neighboring countries on the basis of mutual respect as well as the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The development of bilateral relations with all of our neighboring countries and other countries in the region is focused on several key areas: advancing economic cooperation, the strengthening of regional cooperation and finding constructive solutions for current issues.

Our emphasis in regional cooperation is on the development of communication infrastructure as a basis for better economic, cultural, and scientific ties as well as overall regional development.

The potential for regional economic ties are especially strong in the areas of industry, tourism, agriculture and energy.

I would like to especially emphasize our bilateral relations with Republic of Croatia, which gained new dimension and dynamic with the Croatian accession to the EU and which was marked by eagerness on both sides to find solutions that are in best interests of both our countries.

Mr. President,

I have to state at this time, we continue to live during one of the greatest economic and financial crisis in contemporary history, which is certainly the greatest threat to the global peace and security.

We must do everything in our power to tackle its negative effects and consequences. Although the latest indicators show that that some developing countries are coming out of recession, this is not the case in poor and developing countries, where the consequences of the crisis are very harsh.

Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been strategically working towards the Millennium Development Goal; thus we deem that despite the difficulties caused by the world economic situation, there will be no obstacles to reach our stated targets by 2015. Bosnia and Herzegovina has finalized "Development Strategy for BiH" and "Social Inclusion Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina" while the strategy for poverty eradication has already been designed and implemented.

All of this has been done in cooperation with the relevant UN agencies in BiH, and to whom we would like to thank for their intensive cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to contribute global efforts for defining development framework followed by its implementation in order to readily face economic, social and environmental challenges. Considering that the importance of the above mentioned three aspects of sustainable development are crossing national borders, Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that regional cooperation is crucial for successful preparation for new post – 2015 development framework.

Bosnia and Herzegovina as, well as all the other Western Balkan countries at this integration phase, follow EU policy and views relating to the new development agenda. Bosnia and Herzegovina consistently supports the position that sustainable development is only possible in harmony with nature.

I am of the opinion that either economic or political interests must not be a hurdle to global consensus as the true beginning of the global fight for preservation of the natural balance of planet Earth. It is often forgotten that climate change has direct impact on development, poverty, hunger, and consequently on global peace and security. Short term solutions will have long term consequences, and the steps we take today will be our legacy for generations to come.

Mr. President,

All of us present here agree that the United Nations needs continuous and comprehensive reform, which should be done with great caution, assuring a wide consensus of member states. United Nations reform should provide efficient and coordinated functioning of all segments and bodies of the system. It is widespread opinion that reform of the Security Council is crucial for core reform of the world organization. This reform, done with consensus of the member states, is necessary for reasons of efficiency and credibility, and that is only possible taking into account contemporary geopolitical reality, which differs from the one of 1945. Because only Security Council reformed in that manner can have full authority and respectability in addressing the most important issues of international peace and security, mandate entrusted to the Council by the United Nations Charter.

Dialogue and compromise are the best way to insure the widest possible support, and Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the opinion that Security Council reform should be moved from a standstill as soon as possible. We also believe that reformed Security Council of the United Nations should have another space for a non-member state from the Eastern European group as the number of countries in this group has more than doubled in last two decades.

I would also like to emphasize from this position that more engagement in preventative diplomacy is expected from the Security Council. We believe that more activity in such diplomacy would help solve many problems and crises before they intensify, which would be more efficient way for the Council to work. Encouraging dialogue to resolve critical issues by compromise, while acting against any kind of exclusiveness, especially in the sphere of human rights, is of utmost importance.

Timely and efficient conflict prevention, instead of reaction to already escalated crisis, is definitely a more efficient and less costly approach to international peace and security.

We are eager to share with others, both the good and the bad of our post conflict and peace building experiences. Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that every crisis has to be studied carefully with great consideration for the roots of the conflict, culture, religion, local customs and all the other factors in order to find just and long term solution. There are no universal solutions for any crisis, and every single one should be paid attention to and considered separately.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that it is necessary to take tangible steps to prevent nuclear proliferation in the world.

In spite of visible obstacles of the last decade, new initiatives give new momentum to the process of disarmament and anti-proliferation. Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that nuclear disarmament can be achieved by encouraging member states that joined the Treaty to respect their obligations specified in the Non Proliferation Treaty. Bosnia and Herzegovina will sign the Arms Trade Treaty during the Arms Treaty Event.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is gravely concerned about the continuous violence in Syria that has led to worsening of the humanitarian crisis and caused unacceptable suffering of the Syrian people, and is asking all parties to fulfill all of their obligations in accordance with international law and human rights.

Resolving the crisis in the Middle East continues to be one of the most important priorities of the World Organization. We believe that all possible steps should be made towards creating a

positive climate in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in this area. We expect all sides to refrain from any rushed actions and focus on beginning this very important dialogue.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to play a constructive role in international relations and contribute to self-sustainable peace and security, participates in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports international efforts and actively participated in the UN Missions in Liberia, South Sudan and Cyprus.

I would also like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be very concerned that terrorist attacks around the world take the lives of innocent victims, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to fight terrorism and believes that results in this area could be achieved only through comprehensive cooperation and partnership of as many UN member states as possible.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also following the situation on African continent with great interest. We expect that, in spite of the difficult world financial and economic crisis, most developed countries will continue to increase their contribution to the official development aid necessary for capacity strengthening in poor African countries. That is why we praise UN activities in the New Partnership for Africa's Development and efforts to set Africa on the path of stable and sustainable development, especially in regards to reaching Millennium Development Goals. This particularly applies to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

We also support all efforts of the African Union, African governments, and UN directed at improvement of rule of law, democracy and strengthening of civil society and institutions in order to raise the bar for all aspects of society. We are pointing out that continued financial aid to Africa, in a greater capacity, is just as important as strengthening the efficiency and transparency of using the aid funds for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

In today's world with political and social processes more dynamic than ever, when we are facing challenges so different from those of a just few decades ago, it is becoming clear that only a strong multilateral approach can give good solutions. The United Nations Organization, in more than six decades of existence, has gone through difficult temptations, but was always, and continues to be, the only guide to better future, still the only organization capable of providing solutions to the global problems we are facing. It is up to us to make the World Organization stronger and more efficient, as it is only the UN, the most comprehensive and inclusive organization, that can help bring progress and wellbeing to our planet. If we work together on implementation of all of our agreements reached at this respected place, there is no doubt that we will live in a better and more just conditions than are today. On that path we need to return to the basic values and principles of human right, equality and world peace that are the foundation of United Nations.

Thank you Mr. President.

