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*Стална Мисија Босне
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STATEMENT

by

***H.E. Mr. ŽELJKO KOMŠIĆ, Chairman of the Presidency of
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA***

at

***The general debate of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly of
the United Nations***

***NEW YORK
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Mr. President, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honor to participate in the 62nd UN General Assembly Meeting as a Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would also like to congratulate you on being elected to this position, Mr. President, and would like to express my respect and gratitude to Her Excellency Mrs. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa on a successful presiding of the 61st Annual Assembly Meeting.

Mr. President,

The United Nations as well as all the other organizations depend on the collective strength of their members. The strength should be drawn from the consensus of the member states.

On that note I would like to express my regret for the loss of momentum of the Security Council reform. Last several years, our countries representatives were meeting on a global level and ready to realize the goals of the Millennium declaration, in which the United Nations play a distinguished role.

It is a known fact that in a recent past, my country paid a high price for the imperfect and inefficient UN system. United Nations admitted this mistake and emphasized in their first Report on Srebrenica that saying that "UN experience in BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA is one of the most difficult and painful ones in the history of the United Nations" and that "Srebrenica clarifies the truth the UN and the world learned too late: the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina was as much a moral obligation as was a military conflict" and that "Srebrenica will haunt us forever." On February 27, 2007 UN International Court of Justice made a ruling in the Application of the Convention on the prevention and Punishment on the Crime of Genocide, Bosnia and Herzegovina versus Serbia and Montenegro. International Court of Justice made a decision that genocide was committed against Bosnian Muslims in and around Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina. You will agree, of course, that this is not an isolated case. That is one more reason for our determination and commitment, shared by a prevalent number of the member states, to the necessary reform of the world organization.

In that light, Bosnia and Herzegovina is of the opinion that only a strong UN could be an efficient instrument in regulating international relations and in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. Apart from necessary reforms, it is also necessary to revitalize the UN, including the reform of the General Assembly and its Committees, Economic and Social Council, Secretariat and other bodies.

This would include defining a number of issues like Security Council membership categories and the number of members, new member selection procedures, veto powers, regional representation, working methods, and etc., which brings up the complexity of the ongoing reform. A productive step forward inevitably leads to the essential negotiations in this context, rather than current consultations. I would like to emphasize Bosnia and Herzegovina interest in the reform that would bring a larger Security Council membership, and thus one more spot for the Eastern European Group.

Multi ethnic and multi religious Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its rich historical heritage and having lived thru the failures of the international community, primarily the United Nations, which bore difficult consequences for my country, but also brought positive results in a post war peace building, along with UN representatives, bodies and agencies could contribute greatly to the UN becoming an effective instrument in collective regulating of the international relations. My country believes that there will be no peace or stability without economic and social development. My country continues its support for the Security Council being a crucial body for international cooperation, peace and development of the rights of all nations. Having withstood the historical challenges, Bosnia and Herzegovina is now able to share its experiences with the troubled world. Bosnia and Herzegovina is thus determined to intensify ongoing activities leading to the non-permanent Security Council membership from 2010 to 2012, while expecting the support of the majority member states for this membership.

Mr. President,

I come from a post-conflict country that moved towards modern democratic society, and took a path towards European and Transatlantic integration. That is why my country is truly committed to the strengthening of international cooperation on regional, European and global levels.

It is with great pride that I can state today that Bosnia and Herzegovina is an active participant in all regional South European initiatives and processes. In 2007, Bosnia and Herzegovina was recognized for its pro-active regional stand. The SEECP Summit in Zagreb made a decision to make Sarajevo the Regional Cooperation Council center. Creating the Regional Cooperation Council is the final transformation for the Stability Pact for South Europe, meaning that SEECP member states will take over regional responsibilities. With this decision the capitol of Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes a future regional cooperation center.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will also be a home of Regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative Secretariat, taking a strong regional ownership of Stability Pact of South Eastern Europe initiative. The representative of Bosnia

and Herzegovina will take a leading role in the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center in Zagreb.

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues active regional cooperation in fighting organized crime. We cooperate actively with the South East European Cooperative Initiative Center in Bucharest on trans-border crime prevention. It is with more efficient regional cooperation, electronic ID databases, and efficient border control that Bosnia and Herzegovina was able to reduce the number of illegal immigrants as well as any form of cross-border criminal activity.

We are developing cooperation with the IAEA in Vienna on detection and prevention of radioactive substance transportation and proliferation on Bosnia and Herzegovina territory.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is building relationships with neighboring countries on the basis of equality, complete independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbors are aware that complete development could be achieved only through joining the united Europe. This goal will be achieved by continuing development of all aspects of good relations with the neighboring countries, and democratizations of the entire region and accepting general European standards.

Bosnia and Herzegovina believes in not interfering in internal matters of sovereign countries, and thus believes that the solution for Kosovo is to be reached through dialogue of the interested parties. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, while being eager to help find the solution acceptable to both sides within regional initiatives. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports efforts of the Troiks Contact Group for Kosovo, and hopes that a satisfying solution for future status of Kosovo will be found. Further lengthy delay of the resolution of the status of Kosovo would certainly have a long-term negative impact for the entire Balkan region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also achieved significant successes in a broader international sense.

By the end 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member in NATO Partnership for Peace.

Another recognition came in May of 2007, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of a rather significant new UN body, the Human Rights Commission.

On May 31st, 2007, Bosnia and Herzegovina became a presiding member of the Hague Code of Conduct, signed by 126 UN members. My country and HCC signees, while having a belief in collective safety, are ready to fight against

missile technology proliferation, and are aware of the great danger of those that are owned by non government entities who could abuse them in a destructive manner anywhere in the world. So I urge all the countries that did not sign the HCOC, especially those who have ballistic capacity, to accept this Code. I would also like to urge all UN members to support the draft of the relevant resolution proposed by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Portugal.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has participated and will continue to do so, within its abilities, in international coalition anti-terrorism efforts and made a commitment to join EU anti-terrorism efforts.

Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina approved the Anti-Terrorism Strategic plan for the period of 2006-2009. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Criminal Code reform that is underway will bring more specific anti-terrorism measures that will be in accordance with international conventions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports other UN members in continuing joint efforts in strengthening all human rights: civil, economic, cultural, political, social, development, and other rights.

Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted the Italian initiative to be a co-sponsor of the Initiative for UN Moratorium on the Death Penalty, which will be discussed at the General Assembly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina made significant progress in relevant reporting to the UN High Commission for Human Rights in Geneva.

I would also like to mention that Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with Jordan, promoted the UN Better World Campaign in the last few years. This campaign is geared towards improving timely and effective humanitarian disaster response.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina Authorities continue to be committed to full cooperation with the ICTY. All suspected war criminals from the territories of the Former Yugoslavia must be brought to justice.

Thus far we had positive cooperation with the Tribunal on issues such as processing criminal charges, extradition, contacting relevant authorities, access to documentation, providing working conditions for court representatives and others in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We are creating a legal framework and have a special department of the War Crimes Court to start processing war crime cases. This is one of the conditions for establishing mutual trust and reconciliation in a post conflict Bosnia and

Herzegovina. However, the ICTY should not close down until the most notorious war criminals are brought to justice, especially Bosnian Serb war leaders: Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and others.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports all peace initiatives and activities for conflict prevention. We support and watch very closely the Middle East Roadmap that will lead to permanent and sustainable peace in Middle East. As part of UN peacekeeping operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina has military observers in Congo, Ethiopia, and the civilian police force in Sudan; Cyprus, Liberia, and Haiti. Bosnia and Herzegovina also sent a small de-mining unit to Iraq, as a support to the people of Iraq to help them in establishing a democratic and self-sustainable country.

We are certain that by strengthening multilateralism, the UN can produce efficient armed conflict prevention measures. While doing so, it is necessary to respect the principles of political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and in accordance with the Guiding Principles of International Law and full respect of human rights.

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the Middle East Roadmap as well as initiatives of the Quartet, which creates the basis for the beginning of true Israeli - Palestinian dialogue, brokered by the US, and in accordance with EU guidelines. Bosnia and Herzegovina is asking for overall unconditional and mutual end of all hostilities, releasing of all hostages, and the beginning of a dialogue on a final two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is urging all ethnic and religious communities in Iraq to stop sectarian violence and take an active political role, and along with the international community, encourage overall national political dialogue, with an emphasis on fully complying with the 1949 Geneva convention.

Realizing potential catastrophic consequences in a deepening of the Iranian nuclear development program crisis, Bosnia and Herzegovina encourages Iran's readiness to fully cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency and hold a dialogue with key partners.

The UN role in conflict resolution is crucial. However, the UN did not play the role given to it by the Charter of the United Nations during the world crises, especially in the former Yugoslavia. The Iraqi crisis points out UN weaknesses in dealing with conflict prevention in the world. If the UN does not rise up to its Charter responsibilities, this could lead to a number of unilateral interventions, which would have very negative impact on international stability.

Foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is focused on long-term peace keeping and development, dedicated to the safety and stability of overall development. All Bosnia and Herzegovina international activities are based upon and in

accordance with Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act of the Organization for Security and cooperation in Europe, and internationally accepted principles of international law.

Realizing an enormous threat that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons present to the peace, especially if in the possession of terrorists, Bosnia and Herzegovina took significant steps towards absolute controls over preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified or took over by succession most of the significant documents in this area. Bosnia and Herzegovina is eager to fully cooperate with other countries bilaterally as well as through relevant multilateral organizations and initiatives in order to effectively fight the proliferation and application of weapons of mass destruction. Bosnia and Herzegovina passed the law on implementation of the Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty.

As one of the countries most affected by the consequences of mine stockpiles from the previous conflict, Bosnia and Herzegovina pays close attention to the enforcing Ottawa Treaty.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an active participant in the UN AIDS response and preventions programs. Our contribution in fighting this disease is defined in the AIDS Response and Prevention Strategy for 2004 -2009.

Bosnia and Herzegovina pays its UN and all other organization dues on time and on a regular basis. Bosnia and Herzegovina is urging other countries, especially major contributors, to pay their dues on time as well. I am particularly referring to the ICTY and Peace Operation dues that were not being paid in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

Two days ago, right here, we had a highly constructive exchange of views on one of the most serious and potentially most dangerous phenomena of our time: global warming.

Once again I would like to emphasize the crucial importance of effective and timely action on this issue within the World Organization. My country ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2000, effective in Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 15th of 2007. I urge UN members who did not do it to this day, to do it without further delay.

Thank you very much for your and attention.
New York, September 26, 2007