



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

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Josip Brkić

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

at

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Mr. Secretary General, Madame President of the ECOSOC, distinguished ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In recent four years we have witnessed so many events, phenomena, tragic natural and man made disasters, that are having such a negative impact on many aspects of our lives, and thus a significant setback to our efforts to achieve sustainable development goals in the timeframe we defined during the Summit in September 2015. The devastating Pandemic Covid-19, conflict in Ukraine and consequent high inflation, global energy crisis and food prices rise, disrupted chains of supply are among the most prominent ones. If we analyze the whole period of the MDG and SDG implementation process, we will find some other hindrances triggered by the global financial and economic crisis, various conflicts worldwide, consequent waves of forced migrations etc. In front of us are slightly over 7 years for the SDG accomplishment, and frankly speaking, it is very hard to imagine that we are going to avoid sometimes even strong headwinds in our efforts regarding the Agenda 2030.

Bosnia and Herzegovina presented its Second Voluntary Review on Friday at the beginning of the HLPF, explaining some good practices and lessons learnt, but besides that weaknesses that are negatively preventing us from significant breakthrough in many areas. Among the most serious ones are brain-drain, caused by very high demand for skilled and well-educated workers in the most developed western countries, followed by difficulties in accurate data collection, lack of sufficient fundings etc.

We firmly believe that we should concentrate our efforts towards finding innovative ways of financing SDG related projects, strengthening the private sector and improve still underdeveloped public-private partnership. Our Bosnia and Herzegovina' Working Group on Financing after more than two years of intensive consultations will soon give us some recommendations. Just to mention that we are having a side event on financing together with Indonesia, Serbia, Sweden.

Introducing healthy competition among private enterprises, we have launched in 2018 Business Pioneer Award for those companies that have been most successful in creating decent jobs, improvements in environmental protection and thus incorporating SDGs in their business policies. Similar certificates of recognition are given to the most advanced local communities in Agenda 2030 paving the way for further raising awareness, best practices and experiences share.

There is no doubt that the localization process in the SDG implementation is of paramount importance to effectively tackle the main Agenda's goal, which is leaving no one behind. All stakeholders in local communities should streamline their efforts in order to address needs of the most vulnerable groups and make their services more accessible to them. Synergy with the civic society activities is crucial.

Significant increase of investments in science, technology, digitalization could bring in some areas even a leap in the SDG performance. We are also recognizing the opportunity in green energy and green economy transformation in our country.

Let me now commend European Union for presenting the first Voluntary Regional Report, with hope that more regional reports will be released in years to follow. Also, to strengthen the SDG localization, we hope that launching the voluntary local reviews will boost the cooperation and exchange of experience among local communities. Among others, it is worthy to be mentioned the side event organized by the Central European Initiative as a good example of regional approach in Agenda 2030.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that according to our views, the September Summit on SDGs to be held here in New York, should pay special attention on resilience, but also on financing and localization.

I thank you for your attention.