



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Stalna misija pri Ujedinjenim narodima
New York

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
New York

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Стална мисија при Уједињеним нацијама
Њујорк

Bosnia and Herzegovina – VNR Speech

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon.

I am delighted and honored to be here today and to share experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the rollout process of the Sustainable Development Goals and preparation of its first voluntary report.

With slightly more than 3.5 million people, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country with pronounced cultural diversity and **Agenda 2030 is equally about peace as it is about development**. The country has made significant progress on its transition from a fragile post-war economy of the 1990s to an upper middle-income country in recent years, and is aspiring to becoming a member of the European Union (EU) family.

It is only fitting that we started this presentation with the video and messages from the millennials of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This generation and younger generations **will benefit, or face serious consequences, from our action or inaction regarding Agenda 2030**. Their desires and concerns for the future are real and their **aspiration to be the change they would like to see** potent, transformational and a true inspiration. This conversation with young generations we started at the outset in 2016 and we would like to see it transform into **true future co-creation movement**.

Promotional video that followed highlights potential that this small, developing country in Europe possesses and also **highlights the need for comprehensive financing for development**. Country's aspiration to become an EU member state will stay only an aspiration unless considerable investments are made in social, economic and environmental development and the gap that grows exponentially with the European Union every year is reversed and narrowed in the near future.

Sustainable development and its transformational nature embodied in 17 Sustainable Development Goals are perceived in Bosnia and Herzegovina as an opportunity and a lever of change to holistically improve social, economic and environmental aspects of life within the country through comprehensive multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships.

I would like to highlight one such cooperation/partnership and use this opportunity to thank United Nations Country Team and the Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina for wonderful support to date with the Agenda 2030 and the rollout process.

Bosnia and Herzegovina began preparations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016 in a comprehensive manner and enormous efforts have been made to date to engage all levels of government and as many stakeholders as possible in the process.

This is truly a **whole of government** and **whole of society** process, and at the heart of the process is the **Intergovernmental SDG Working Group**, its members officially nominated by respective governments in the country, respectful of differing competencies of different levels of governance.

BiH/State level is represented by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Co-chair), Directorate for Economic Planning and Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Republika Srpska is represented by: Ministry of European Integration and International Cooperation, Statistical Institute and Unit for Strategic Planning of the General Secretariat of the RS Government. Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is represented by Institute for Development Planning, Institute for Statistics and the Office of the Prime Minister of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Members of the SDG WG are also Brcko District and UN Country Team in BiH (Co-chair).

Members of the Intergovernmental SDG Working Group are **responsible to communicate, inform, coordinate and engage over 169 ministries and numerous specialized institutions across governance levels and 141 local governance units**, and will be responsible for **integration of the SDGs in regular strategic planning processes in the country**. In addition, members of the Intergovernmental SDG Working Group are responsible for meaningful engagement of different stakeholder groups, CSOs, academia, private sector, international actors.

First voluntary report of Bosnia and Herzegovina follows the 2018 VNR guidelines and focuses on the consultation and the review process undertaken in the country to date and provides the baseline situation across the five Ps of development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including next steps.

Throughout the document, examples of good practice or partnerships in support of the achievement of the SDGs have been highlighted. Key output of the SDG rollout process is development of comprehensive **Sustainable Development Goals Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina** document that will contain Vision 2030 for the country, development pathways with key accelerators and drivers of development, as well as baseline and 2030 target values for indicators that will be used to monitor and report on progress.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Visual on this slide presents in a simple fashion consultations and review process undertaken in the country, that was started in 2016 **engaging thousands of people to date**.

Agenda 2030 is a **change maker in so many ways** for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its timing and universality offers a unique opportunity to approach development holistically and its connectivity enables the governments to work together, learn from each other and develop strong and open partnerships. This is a priceless process.

Through dedicated data and policy analysis, including RIA – Rapid Integrated Assessment of 69 strategic documents, creation of the SDG Dashboard, complexity analysis and other analyses, we developed a better understanding of the country's baseline position enabling in-depth conversation and cross-sectoral dialogue.

First multi-stakeholder consultations on the SDGs with over 250 people were held in May 2018, that informed two distinct processes – creation of the first VNR and creation of the SDG Framework in BiH document.

Second multi-stakeholder consultations on the draft of the SDG Framework document took place on 13th and 14th June 2019, engaging over 250 people. Continued meetings and sessions are foreseen in order to finetune details in the document that is intended to be put forward to adoption to respective authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last quarter of 2019.

Informing and engaging citizens meaningfully with Agenda 2030 and all of its 17 goals and 169 targets required outside of the box thinking and unusual engagement approach developed by the UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the umbrella title Zamisli2030/Imagine2030.

We would like to highlight this approach as good practice to inform, engage and provide opportunity to citizens to co-create the future, prioritize issues and provide solutions to burning societal problems. Their perspectives helped shape Vision 2030 and the development pathways that the country is to embrace.

Central to the approach are the SDG workshops and the use of the SDG Consultation Tool through which extensive qualitative data is gathered, as well as social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) through which people are continuously informed on the progress and provide platform for collaboration. For more on this please refer to www.zamisli2030.ba.

As of March 2018, SDG and private sector working group has been established, composed of institutions that cater to the private sector and companies, and was tasked with mobilizing interest among private sector actors to engage in the SDGs implementation.

First Private Sector and the SDGs conference was held in Sarajevo in June 2018 with over 400 participants from the private sector. Very important, and first of its kind *Sustainable Business Report on Value Chains Mapping of SDGs in Sectors of Furniture and Automotive Parts in Bosnia and Herzegovina* has been produced which informs these two sectors how, across the value chain, sustainable development may be mainstreamed and how companies may measure contribution to sustainable development against 30 indicators developed for this purpose.

SDG Business Week took place in June 2019 with a number of events and webinars, and **SDG Business Pioneers Award** was organised for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Competition for the SDG Business Pioneers Award received 55 nominations from 46 companies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the themes of People and Environment, 3 awards each were foreseen and awards were given to small, medium and large company in each of the themes, and one overall award in both categories during gala event organised on 12th June 2019.

SDG Business Pioneers Award is foreseen to become **standard annual event** to recognize contribution of the private sector to sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As mentioned earlier, at the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Agenda 2030 efforts is the elaboration and adoption of the **SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which is

being developed through an extensive and reiterative consultative process with various institutions, CSOs, the private sector, academia and citizens at large.

This document will inform all strategic planning processes that the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District are embarking upon in 2019.

Development Pathways emerging in the framework are:

- transformational (smart) growth;
- human capital for the 21st century;
- new social contract; and
- good governance and public sector management.

Pathways and associated accelerators and drivers are subject to extensive consultations and deliberations, as are SDG targets and indicators linked to pathways. We hope to finalise the document in the last quarter of 2019 and to report to you at the High Level Political Forum in 2022 or 2023 against the framework on implementation of the SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Establishment of meaningful platforms and bodies for multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as establishment of monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms and better integration of the SDGs and the EU Accession processes, will be in focus in the forthcoming period.

Agenda 2030 calls for introspection, conversation and dialogue, adaptation, innovation, creative and adaptive business and above all collective action and efforts by every individual and every form of human organization, ranging from families and communities to the private sector, government and global networks.

We are transforming our systems, our perspectives and ourselves in order to change our possibilities. It is an exciting time that offers a lifetime opportunity to change the course of development so that it becomes sustainable and to the benefit of all.

It is our great honor to be part of this amazing transformative agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

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Q and A...

For info only / Business SDG Awards:

Overall winner: Kakanj Cement

People:

- Isatis Software Solutions
- Kakanj Cement
- Drogerie Markt D.O.O (DM)

Resources/Planet:

- Gold M.G. D.O.O.
- Kakanj Cement
- Coca-Cola HBC