



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

STATEMENT by
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UN Conference on Sustainable development (Rio+20)

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**Your Royal Highnesses,
Madam President,
Your Excellences Presidents,
Your Excellences Prime ministers,
Your Excellency General Secretary,
Your Excellences Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates of the Conference,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great honour and pleasure to address you all on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina on this wonderful occasion, as this globally most important event is, and which is at the same time the opportunity to talk about green and sustainable future of mankind.

I feel the need to thank the host country, Republic of Brazil, for their warm welcome, as well as the Secretariat of the Conference and the United Nations, for the excellent organisation of this very demanding event, for which I am sure will bring results that will lead us to the best solution to all the current economic, environmental and social problems.

Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its readiness to take its share of commitments and responsibilities, together with the international community, in order to turn environmental crisis into a set of environmental opportunities as to avoid environmental drama we all anticipate.

Cooperation with the European Union is a part of our everyday activities by which we give our support to the efforts that are carried out in that field. We use this opportunity to emphasize that we second all the effort that has been made by the European Union in the process of negotiation.

Aware of the fact that none of the countries in the world can solve challenging environmental issues on its own, we are of the opinion that only the dialogue with other countries can become successful, efficient and effective means, and we are ready to establish clear and strong basis for the green economy by rational use of natural resources.

Since environmental issues are global issues, and problems are regional and local, we are trying to strengthen regional cooperation when

environmental issues are concerned, and through that we are also trying to encourage the development of green economy.

Climate changes, usage of non-renewable sources of energy, droughts and floods, loss of biodiversity, and additional natural and human activity caused environmental catastrophes all lead to strict regulatory demands in all countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, and they all have certain economic and market implications.

But these challenges can be seen as possibilities and opportunities. Investments in “green infrastructure”, different technologies and solutions which help in dealing with and adaptation to environmental challenges can be seen as a way out, in developed as well as in countries in transition.

That is why we need responsible international institutional infrastructure which will use indicators of green economy in order to assess deficiencies and accelerate the process of poverty reduction.

We believe that the final document represent the result of this Conference should be clear indicator for more than 7 billion people that we are responsible in this process and that we are trying to achieve success in solving problems that are caused by massive and uneven use of ecosystem resources.

In accordance with the global challenges and specific problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it can be expected that future activities and investments are going to be directed to: renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency in production processes, and efficient use of water; better management of solid waste, eco-transport, organic agriculture.

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina is a highland country, we will try to achieve the concept of sustainability through sustainable management of mountain systems, since they are significant source of water, energy and biodiversity.

In the context of global tendencies to preserve environment, ambition to protect mountain eco-systems and to manage them on scientific basis, it will be one of the future priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mountain complexes are sensitive to accelerated erosion, emersion of landslides and sudden loss of habitats which ultimately results in reduction in genetic diversity.

As a country that is located in an area particularly vulnerable to climate change, we were shocked by recently presented scientific measurements. Monitoring stations set up in the Arctic polar circle registered greenhouse gas emissions higher than 400 ppm.

That presents a sign that we must take a decisive battle for the salvation of humankind by accelerating activities on the prevention of irregular anthropogenic interventions in the environment, fight for the eradication of poverty, and understand this situation as a challenge to create a society of greater social justice, since sustainable development is impossible without social justice

We believe that human society, at this moment, can find the answer to the current environmental challenges only in harmony with nature. All other actions lead to new degradation of ecosystems and constitute a new factor in the pressures on the environment, economy and society. Adaptation and mitigation measures must follow the basic principles of ecosystem protection and sustainable development.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country situated in an area very sensitive to climate change and that is manifested by increasing temperatures and changing pluviometric regime, as well as by increasing intensity and frequency of periods of drought and floods, that will be more and more intensified in the future.

In this regard, during the last three years we have had major problems with flooding, than with the droughts and this year the entire region of Southeast Europe had record high snow precipitation with record low temperatures. All of this temporarily paralysed economic activities, and as a result we had a larger number of casualties, and great economic damage.

I want to believe that we will leave Rio de Janeiro satisfied with what has been accomplished, and send a clear message to the world that in the spirit of consensus we achieved progress that gives enough space to each country to accomplish complete success in achieving goals of sustainable development through implementation of national goals, while keeping in mind the needs of humanity,

Thank you!