

**The 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

Statement

By

H.E. Sven Alkalaj

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

ISTANBUL, 09-13. May, 2011

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

It is indeed an honor for me to speak before you on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Allow me to use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Chairman Davutoglu, as well as to the Government of Republic of Turkey for extraordinarily

organized 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries during which we will be in position to discuss issues which are at the top of the international agenda for support of the 48 poorest countries in the world. Also, the Conference is a great opportunity for us to continue our efforts to bring focused attention to the development challenges faced by the LDC's in international arena and to offer imputes for creation of the new Programme of Action, namely the Istanbul Program of Action.

Furthermore, the Conference offers an excellent opportunity to come up with answers to very important questions such as: how far have we come in implementation of the obligations undertaken at the Brussels Programme of Action and can we be satisfied

with our achievements related to it; how far are we in solving a number of problems from hunger to better education, better governance, social inclusion, etc.

In spite achieved results, there is very much to be done. Still there are 48 countries in the group of LDCs. We should not rest until this group cease to exist.

As we have heard today, our tasks are confronted with new challenges: global economic crisis, global climate changes and many others.

However we must not undermine what was done so far and we have to redouble our efforts and introduce new dynamics in order to mobilize additional international support measures and actions in favor of the least developed countries and in order to formulate and

accept a new Programme of Action which will determine the course for years to come.

We have to work to improve our methods and approaches, and I welcome that this Conference will introduce the partnership between LDCs and private and civil sectors with the aim to achieve progress.

In this regard, it would be useful if the international community, development partners, multilateral organizations, and institutions scale up support to the Least Developed Countries through increased financial and technical aid and support them to cope with multiple external shocks and minimize the impact of crisis on their populations.

Please let me be clear. The LDCs deserve proper attention and support to address their needs and the challenges on the path to self sustainable economic development. It is obvious that we have to have the system not providing LCDs with SADAKA or charity by the developed nations, but the system which is creating active and efficient sense of partnership!

Simply LCDs deserve the spirit of solidarity to be shown by the developed nations. To make this happen the developed countries should establish a new policy based on the approach "the problems of developed countries and LDCs are not the same but the effort to resolve them should be a joint effort of both".

As you all know, Bosnia and Herzegovina is fully devoted to the fulfillment of the Brussels Programme of Action. As a country which recently suffered from the enormous war devastation, with the generous help from the international community we managed to rebuild a great deal of infrastructure and revive and start new economic activities. Our aim is to achieve the sustainability and continuous economic growth. But we are aware of the fact that it can only be done with better coordination and support from the international community.

In that context we see today's meeting as a source of new ideas and valuable exchange of experiences that can be of help to many countries in the world, in particular



to the least developed countries, and to us who would like to see development and progress of the least developed countries.

It is in the same time the best way of putting together efforts for achieving the Millennium goals and goals of the new Programme of Action for decade 2011 – 2020.

We have to approach the global issues by coming up with global solutions.

We hope that our efforts and solutions will give the globalization a sense of solidarity and a more human face.

I thank you all for your kind attention!