



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

**STATEMENT**

by

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Permanent Representative of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations**

**at the First Committee of the  
71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

*General Debate*

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Mr. Chairman,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, let me begin by extending my congratulations to you upon election as Chairperson of the First Committee for the seventy-first session of the UN General Assembly as well as the other members of the Bureau for their respective elections. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and now, I wish to deliver remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The weapons of mass destruction, as most destructive weapons ever created, constitute an enormous challenge for global peace and stability. A growing threat from terrorist groups, criminals and other non-state actors and their intention to use weapons of mass destruction seriously challenge the non-proliferation regime. Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to disarmament in all its aspects and we condemn, in the strongest possible terms the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). International community should be more united with regard to the idea to build the safe and more secure world. Bosnia and Herzegovina is State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The NPT remains the most important legal instrument and the cornerstone of nuclear control and non-proliferation regime. Bosnia and Herzegovina is concerned about the fact that the CTBT is not yet in force. We encourage progress on signatures, ratifications and entry into force of the CTBT. Entry into force and full implementation of the CTBT will bring us close to the most important global security goal: nuclear-weapon-free-world. Until the CTBT would enter into force, de facto moratorium on nuclear test should be continued. It is essential that all states work on realistic activities that promote dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was a member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA for the period 2013-2015. Our delegation has supported all decisions that further contribute to strengthening of nuclear security and stability in the region and globally as well as strengthening of technical, financial and human resources of the Agency. Bosnia and Herzegovina appreciates the efforts of the Agency to assist countries in implementation of their national projects and to meet their national developments goals. We will continue with activities that refer to strengthening nuclear safety and implementation of our international obligations in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

Illicit trade of conventional arms affects regional and international security and stability because millions of people suffer from direct and indirect consequences of irresponsible arms trade which fuels conflicts and contributes to human rights abuses. Globalization of the arms trade allowed production and assembly of conventional weapons all over the world with little control. We support well regulated and transparent trade in conventional arms. We welcome the progress

made with the Arms Trade Treaty as the first legally binding treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons. By ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Bosnia and Herzegovina has confirmed its commitment to the strengthening of global and regional peace, security and stability. In accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty, we have submitted an initial and annual report. Furthermore, we established national control mechanism and harmonized domestic legislation with the provisions of the ATT. We continue to encourage the universalization of the Treaty and its effective implementation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina as a post-conflict society faces a number of challenges related to the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). In line with the UN Programme of Action (POA), Bosnia-Herzegovina formed the National Coordination Committee for SALW aiming to ensure the control of SALW throughout the country. We have implemented the Strategy for the Control of SALW in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period from 2013 until 2016 and we have created the new strategy for the period from 2016 until 2020. With the new strategy we continue and improve the efforts to decrease security risks for all aspects of SALW in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Primary objectives of the implementation of the strategy are the improvement of domestic legal framework and full harmonisation with relevant international standards. Furthermore, the Strategy reduces the presence of illicit SALW in the country as well as the number of incidents involving SALW and improves control over foreign trade of SALW. Bosnia and Herzegovina meets the challenge of illicit trade of SALW by strengthening the capacity of police and judicial structures in the country and through the cooperation with relevant international, regional and non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We welcome the upcoming 15th Meeting of States Parties (15MSP) of the Mine Ban Treaty that will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Santiago, Chile. We see 15MSP as an important step towards full Treaty implementation and achieving the target date of 2025 for the global elimination of antipersonnel mines. We welcome the results of the 6th Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that took place from 5 to 7 September 2016 in Geneva.

As a result of the 1992–1995 war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is unfortunately still facing the problem of land mines fields and cluster munitions. Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy (2009-2019) but limited funds delay the implementation of the Strategy. Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to complete mine action activities by 2019, as set out in the National Strategy. However, the success will largely depend on the availability of the donor funding that continues to be reduced. We make additional efforts to further develop our relations with the donors.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to point out the problem of proliferation and arming as global issues. Nuclear test explosions are the subject of great concern as well as increasing of global military spending. We need more cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and better coordination between various initiatives as well as better resource mobilization to strengthen international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.