



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

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Dr. Zlatko Lagumdžija, Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations**

at

**the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful
Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the
implementation of the Two-State Solution**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Distinguished Co-chairs of the Conference,
Dear colleagues and friends,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate France and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for organizing this Conference.

Bosnia and Herzegovina aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union, in line with our obligations stemming from the “Stabilization and Association Agreement” we have signed with the EU.

Position of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the crisis in the Middle East is longstanding and principled for decades, ever since becoming UN member state in 1992. Diplomatic relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State of Palestine were established in May 1992, within the succession framework, continuing in its own right diplomatic practice of the former SFRY in relation to the State of Palestine.

The State of Palestine established and opened the Embassy in Sarajevo more than 20 years ago, working on the promotion of peace and fostering all forms of cooperation between our two countries.

We express support for all ongoing diplomatic efforts to end this brutal war.

The ceasefire as a first step must be established immediately, unconditionally, and permanently. Civilian casualties, by means of shelling or starvation, must stop.

The accountability of all those responsible for terrorist acts and violations of international law, especially international humanitarian law, is prerequisite for moving forward.

Accountability is not optional. Impunity must not be allowed.
As a country that experienced the importance of a lifeline that is humanitarian aid supplied by the United Nations to cities and enclaves

under siege, three decades ago, we deplore catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and urge the State of Israel to allow the delivery of humanitarian, especially medical aid, and food supplies to all citizens in Gaza.

There is no justification for this, none whatsoever. In this regard we find the work of the UNRWA, along with other UN agencies, indispensable as support for civilian population.

We urge the unconditional release of all hostages, on both sides, especially civilians, women and children, leading to a permanent end of hostilities.

In this respect the position of my country is principled and clear, and this is stipulated in the Bosnia and Herzegovina strategic documents.

Only long-lasting solution is the one with two – states, with the State of Palestine and State of Israel, full members of the United Nations, living side by side in peace, security, and the mutual recognition.

After the brutal aggression and war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, genocide in Srebrenica, and regardless of how many opened wounds remain, one message Dayton Peace Accord have thought us is that “Peace is not everything but without peace nothing is possible”.

Having said so, in conclusion, I want to thank all of 19 Co-chairs led by France and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for offering us comprehensive and action oriented NY Declaration that can serve as an initial road map for fulfilling our shared goals and objectives.

It is high time to move us from wise words to concrete deeds on a pathway from war and crimes to sustainable peace and dignity for all.

Thank you for your attention.