



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Nebojša Radmanović,
Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Republic of Srpska,
Head of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

at the

**Climate Summit 2014 Catalyzing Action
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 23 September 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would primarily like to express my satisfaction with the choice of the theme of the today's summit at the United Nations General Assembly. Climate change in particular the negative consequences of the change in a number of the countries in the world, warned us this year additionally of the disastrous dramatic and destructive effects of the climate risk. Nowadays there is nothing more important and momentous for the world community than that, in addition to vital efforts to curb numerous conflicts that rage across the globe and social consequences of the global financial and economic crisis, together with the continued efforts to combat the poverty. Bosnia and Herzegovina /hereinafter BiH/ welcomes the decision of the UN Secretary-General to organize the Climate Summit with participating leaders from political, business and civil society to jointly discuss and define the general development policy. That would include not only the climate resilience but the world community to find solutions out of negotiations initiated to reach an ambitious global legal climate Agreement by 2015.

Danger of our communities, states and economies from natural and other disasters, represents the real threat with consequences in concrete material and human casualties and losses. In recent decades the world public has become aware of natural disasters and their impact on the population, properties and environment and has launched series of initiatives to reduce to a minimum the exposure of human communities to the consequences of natural disasters and to increase the resilience on a higher level. Three quarters of all natural disasters now are related to weather, climate, water, and their extremes. South East Europe region from where I come is no different from other regions in the world with cost of the disasters. Generally speaking, the disaster in the South East Europe region transcends national borders and has gone far beyond the capacity of a single country to deal with the harm of the risks. Consequently, this region has also achieved significant improvement in terms of intensifying mutual cooperation with the countries in order to develop communities resilient to the challenges.

Recent BiH climate analysis indicated that in the last ten years the climate has recorded more extremes with large deviations comparing with the previous many years period. Last ten years BiH was more frequently exposed to the extreme climate incidents as floods, droughts, heavy precipitation of daily rain showers, strong wind and storm with hail, landslides etc.

This year in the period 14-19 May and in August BiH has experienced heavy rainfalls the heaviest since records in the last 120 years. These weather conditions have caused the catastrophic floods, with great material and economic damage both in commercial and private facilities and casualties. It is estimated that the floods affected 30% of the territory and affected more than a million people. Total 81 administrative units in BiH were directly affected by the floods. Around 90,000 people were temporarily displaced from their homes and more than 40,000 people in the intervening time accommodated in public institutions, or found shelter with the relatives and friends. Overall financial and economic damage of the floods in BiH amounted to 2 billion EUR. It is estimated that the floods in BiH caused damage and losses of almost 15% of the GDP. For that reason the assistance is considered necessary from the wider international community for the recovery from the damage and losses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been confirmed and reiterated time and again that the sustainable development could only be achieved in the harmony with nature. Hence, the climate change is one of the key areas for sustainable development and great chance for development, but might possibly be of a terrifying risk for all the mankind. We therefore believe that there must be the ambition not only at the national but also at the regional and international levels in order to reduce the unavoidable climate change adverse impacts on the livelihood, environmental and economic costs.

BiH implements the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in order to manage the risk of climate change and to reduce the risks of economic and social vulnerabilities of the natural disaster.

BiH in cooperation with UNDP has so far adopted two national reports on the climate change. According to the reports BiH is highly vulnerable to the climate change and in the future it will be very exposed to the risks of climate change. Reports warn and require immediate action on the ground in terms of taking measures and actions to preserve the good climate and increase resilience on all its negative consequences.

In the current international debates and initiatives we broadly support the implementation of all the previous agreements to emission reduction and radiation mitigation, primarily driven towards low carbon development, as well as contributions consistent with below 2 degree Celsius pathway. To this end, we have expressed our interest to join the countries that support the Copenhagen Agreement as a new step forward after the Kyoto Agreement.

Given that BiH is a small and in economic terms underdeveloped country it certainly cannot impact to the climate change as many other larger populated and highly developed countries. Nevertheless, a small country like BiH can contribute to maintaining a positive climate through increased

renewable energy, reducing deforestation, developing agricultural production not climate detrimental and reducing short-term climate pollutants and measures to resilient cities.

Experienced from this year our own catastrophic floods and natural disasters that have struck BiH we believe that the natural disasters risk reduction and combating the climate change must be a part of the Agenda development after 2015. At the same time we should be aware that the global responsibility for the ultimate success primarily rests on the big and developed countries together with the recognizing mutual agreements of all the parts of the world community. Our common long-term goal must be in developing societies that would be resilient to a sudden climatic change and natural disasters to provide necessary assistance to the vulnerable groups of our societies and local communities to help them to cope with the increased occurrences of floods, rising sea levels, earthquakes, landslides and other negative adverse causes of the climate change. However, it is not enough just to deal with prevention, protection and security of the societies from the negative impacts of the climate change, but to put more efforts to restrain the human and social actions that cause the extreme long-term climate change and environmental balance in the nature.

Thank you.