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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Statement H.E. Mr. Mladen Zirojević, Head of Delegation
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Your Excellencies
Madame President,
Ministers,
Delegates
Ladies and Gentlmen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to be here and address you all at one of the most important International Conference, 16th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Being a country situated in the South-Eastern Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the zone that is affected by climate changes. Being also a signatory of the Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol, I want to express the support, as well as the expectation and belief of Bosnia and Herzegovina that this Conference will create a new platform weaved with „compromise" in order to prevail the problems concerning the climate change. We are also expecting that misunderstandings between the Parties will disappear and that new decisions will lead us to a better climate future.

The current climate situation is often defined as „Status Quo", and it should not be an option. Aggravation of the curerent situation can cause many problems and catastrophic scenarios, such as floods and droughts, followed by the appearance of new deseases.

A few days ago, there were massive floods throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have caused consequences on human health, private properties, agriculture, etc. As a country with economy in transition, Bosnia and

Herzegovina can't fight the climate changes on its own and with no support from international community. All future steps that are to be taken in order to prevail situations like this one, and without raising the issue at the regional level, will be difficult for many countries and sometimes even impossible.

Taking into account the basic principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and bearing in mind the strategic interests of Bosnia and Herzegovina to represent its rights to participate in the implementation of programs through the flexible mechanisms of Kyoto Protocol, we are ready to act together with other countries from the South – East European region, driven by the European Union policies towards the cleaner and "climate frendly" future.

Through the Initial National Communication, and other strategic documents, Bosnia and Herzegovina defined its own position regarding the Convention, and in that way is able to more accurately represent its own interests, which are common to the interests of the international community. And even without new Kyoto Protocol, we will continue to fight climate changes and still try to reduce more of our GHG emissions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina creates measures for further GHG emission reductions through increased activity on intersectoral long-term plans and programs for sustainable development, and particulary through the support and more active participation in regional cooperation in the area of climate changes.

In an effort to achieve a better effect with regard to the UNFCCC at the national level, Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the synergy of activities of the three Rio Conventions. We especially emphasize the importance of joint activities dedicated to adaptation and mitigation and also believe that human society, at this particular moment, can find all the answers to climate change questions, but only in harmony with nature. All other actions related to the new degradation of ecosystem represent a new factor in the pressures on climate, as a natural phenomenon. Adaptation and mitigation measures must follow the ecosystem based approach. Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly supports enhanced connection of the activities of Rio Conventions. The scheme, at the national level in Bosnia and Herzegovina, should also be supported through the cooperation of National Focal Points, as well as through the preparation of joint regional projects, and at the international level, through the Joint Liaison Group cooperation of all relevant bodies.

Your Excellencies, respectful delegates, I do hope we will succeed.
Thank you!