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***STATEMENT***

*by*

***H.E. Mr. ADNAN TERZIC, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA***

*at*

***The general debate of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of the  
United Nations***

***NEW YORK  
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Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great honor and pleasure to address the 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly General of the UN, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to congratulate Madam President H.E. Ms. Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa on her assumption to this very important position, and also to thank H.E. Ian Eliasson, former President of the General Assembly for his contribution to the United Nations reform process.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had already aligned itself with the EU statement that provided a framework for issues like peace, stability, development, human rights, rule of law, and the need for further strengthening and reforming of the UN.

While agreeing with what the EU had stated, we also stand prepared to share the experience that my country has, in peace-building, implementation of human rights and rule of law, and in economic development in a post-conflict environment. We believe that this way we can contribute to the future successes of the international community elsewhere in the world.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is beyond any doubt, an example of a successful intervention of the international community, regardless of the few negative experiences that came our way, and from which we should all learn a lesson. I still wish to make it perfectly clear to all, that the job in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not yet done. We still need to go down that final piece of the road, which is the signing of the SAA (Stabilization and Association Agreement) with the EU. We need this to put an end to 15 years of trying to stop the war, and 15 years of reconciliation and state-building. We need it to build a stable and prosperous state of Bosnia and Herzegovina that will soon become an EU-member.

Madam President,

Bosnia-Herzegovina belongs to Europe, it is a part of Europe as a continent. Med students, future doctors, all say their vows to Hippocrates, the Greek scientist. They swear to apply highest of human and ethical norms. Law students all learn from the core of Roman Law. European heritage and practices are well-rooted in Bosnia-Herzegovina. What we have to do now is to embrace all of European Union standards and norms.

This is why we do not feel discouraged by words of "enlargement fatigue". Thru the enlargement process, Europe is actually spreading the democracy itself. Isn't it contrary to the very essence of both EU and the UN to be tired of democracy spreading??

Recent events in the Middle East showed us how important it is to achieve a just and lasting peace. But just as we feel for people living in crises areas today, so too could those living in such areas observe the process of peace-building in Bosnia. One should

not just pay attention to the aspect of stabilizing the Balkans, but one should also value the capacity that the EU and the rest of the international community have, in terms of being ready for a fast and efficient intervention.

We in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been assisted by many – by the UN, NATO, OSCE, Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Council of Europe, etc. We had other, quite unique assistance mechanisms, too. Such as the institution of the High Representative and the Peace Implementation Council that consisted of EU members, Japan, Russia, USA, Canada, Turkey (on behalf of the Islamic Conference), and others. Due to quite a strong international intervention, the war was stopped, the refugees have returned, and here we are today, negotiating the SAA with the EU. However, none of us should allow for the current flaws in Bosnia-Herzegovina to grow into something more serious, and to cause instability.

As magnificent as it was, in terms of stopping the war, the Dayton Agreement did not tackle some essential issues, such as to provide for every citizen to enjoy equal rights anywhere in the country, or for the state to be able to exercise its powers of a state, of a modern, multiethnic state.

Many visitors to my country are especially impressed by the proximity and numbers in which churches, mosques and synagogues coexist and serve their purpose in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the spirit of Bosnia, as we inherited it from our ancestors. And this is the very thing that Dayton prevents us from maintaining.

On the other hand, Bosnia-Herzegovina did provide for economic and political development of the country, and its prospect of joining the Euro-Atlantic integration streams. The number of foreign military troops on our soil is reduced by ten times, and the mandate of currently present EUFOR troops is contained in their motto: “from stabilization to integration”. We have established a single economic space, single judiciary system, the entity intelligence services are now united and for the first time put under strict and democratic parliamentary supervision. We formed a single state-level Ministry of Defense, and thereby qualified for accession to NATO’s program Partnership for Peace.

Bosnia-Herzegovina as it is today, was not shaped by conventional political means. Its structure was defined by the Dayton Peace Agreement. The sustainability of the Dayton-like Bosnia-Herzegovina is strengthened by the launching of the SAA negotiations, that started on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Agreement.

The abolishment of the Office of the High Representative is scheduled for June 2007. This office will be transformed into the Office of the Special Representative of the EU to Bosnia-Herzegovina. My firm opinion is that the process of closing down the High Rep’s Office should be linked to our signing of the SAA, having in mind the overall situation in the region around us, and the challenges that await us there, in the course of next year. So far, the negotiations went well and Bosnia demonstrated its full awareness and technical ability to embark on the Euro-integration project. Unfortunately, as we face the October

general elections, the ongoing election campaigns have postponed our efforts to fulfill the vital political criteria.

Next week, by giving their votes, the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina will have the opportunity to participate in the shaping of their future. They do not deserve the election campaigns that deal with the past, and not with the future. They do not deserve the campaign that was marked last week by the EU Council of Ministers as "concerning", and calling for "reiterations of EU's commitment to the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina".

In the light of our devotion to promoting of regional cooperation, we take active part in any and all cooperation projects in the region – the Stability Pact for South-East Europe, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, and many other programs and projects. Based on this ground, a huge number of bilateral and multilateral agreements were signed, creating an international legal framework for cooperation and harmonization of number of things.

The democratization, trade liberalization, and cross-border cooperation have been intensified over the past few years. These efforts are yielding results that we are quite happy with – the results change the bad image of Western Balkans for the better, in the eyes of international public. Our relations with the neighbors are being nurtured in the context of common goals, before all the Euro-Atlantic integrations, and not in the context of the dissolution of the former state, as the case used to be for quite a number of years.

This is especially interesting in the light of the Kosovo issue. Bosnia-Herzegovina keeps a close eye on the negotiations. We believe that solutions that are to be applied must come as a result of negotiations, if both sides are to accept it. The form of the future solution should be such as to accommodate the common future within the Euro-Atlantic environment. The consequences of the final solution, once we have it, must under no circumstances jeopardize the stability of the region, or that of the neighboring states.

Madam President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina is on the way to successfully accomplish the Millennium Development Goals. Those priorities are complementary with the criteria for EU membership.

In cooperation with UN's international agency for nuclear energy, Bosnia-Herzegovina is developing capacities for detection and prevention of illegal trade and proliferation of radioactive materials over our territory.

As a mine-affected country Bosnia-Herzegovina is quite active in the implementation of Ottawa Convention, dealing with the problem of land-mines. As it is well known, there are still significant number of landmines left in our county as a consequence of war. The demanding work of de-mining is still impossible in Bosnia-Herzegovina without foreign assistance. Please allow me to avail my self of this opportunity to thank all the governments who contributed to the de-mining funds.

We are taking active part in UN programs that tackle the issue of HIV/AIDS as well. We have established a state-level Commission for fighting HIV/AIDS. Their current activities focus on prevention of disease spreading, establishment of an early-alert system, and info campaigns that are to educate the population, especially the youth, on HIV/AIDS.

As a young democracy and a country with quite a peculiar background, Bosnia-Herzegovina supported the forming of Human Rights Council and strengthening of the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We believe their work gains more and more importance with every passing day. We strongly and decisively support the international system for protection of universal human rights.

In my country, human rights have not only been violated by war and crises, they have also been violated by certain decisions taken on part of the international community. One of such examples is the problem of decertified police officers. The decisions of UN-led international police caused them to lose their work permits, i.e. their police certificates. They were offered no possibility of filing a complaint or taking their cases to any type of court review. Our Ministry for Human Rights has prepared, in close cooperation with the OHR, a suggestion for the possible model of review system, led by EU Police Mission to Bosnia, as they are the current representatives of international police presence in the country. The process would involve public hearings that are to be held and completed within a previously specified period of time. The absurd and flagrant violation of human rights committed by the UN itself is a mistake that must be admitted to, so it can be corrected, and so that the credibility of this very institution could be preserved.

One of the most important international obligations of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the cooperation with the Hague Tribunal for war crimes. This is indeed a precondition for long-term stability. That is why it was offered to the entire region, as a condition for further advancing in Euro-Atlantic terms. According to the data gathered by both domestic and foreign intelligence, most wanted war criminals are not hiding on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Our institutions are focusing on cutting off the financial support networks. It is a sad and pitiful fact, that Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are not yet arrested. But it is even worse for Bosnia-Herzegovina and its citizens to be punished because of the two of them. We are penalizing the victim, instead of punishing the criminals. Bosnia-Herzegovina must be allowed to advance on its road to democratization and EU, because progress in this field will bring about an even stronger mechanism for destruction of networks that support the war criminals.

Madam President,

The horrible terrorist attacks on New York, the anniversary of which we marked just recently, have changed the entire security paradigm in the world. The attacks made us think in ever more serious terms. Terrorism is one of the greatest challenges that today's world is facing, and it is virtually impossible to respond to such a challenge individually.

Member countries may individually strengthen their capacities, but a global and complete response can only be given by the UN.

Establishing of the Ministry of Security, the intelligence agency, the investigations and protection agency, all on the state level, and by coordinating their work thru the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, we have undertaken a series of very important steps, not just in terms of internal reforms, but also in terms of our contribution to the global anti-terrorist combat. We have adopted an Anti-Terrorism Strategy for the period 2006-2009 that will guide us thru the implementation of European standards in this field as well. We are in the final phases of adopting a new Law on the fight against terrorism and financial support to terrorism.

Bosnia-Herzegovina had wholeheartedly supported the forming of the Peace-Building Commission, and we really wanted to actively contribute to the Commission's work. The experience of peace-building in Bosnia is vast, and relevant, and we are eager to share it.

Even though our country was not elected, we wish to thank all those who supported us thru the process. At least we sent out yet another signal to the general public, that we are no longer on the receiving end, when it comes to international aid. The amount of support we did gain encourages us to keep insisting on a more balanced and more proactive participation in UN projects, worldwide. In the context of this revived role of Bosnia-Herzegovina, I remind you of our aspirations to become the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2010-2011, and I would welcome your support to this end.

Regardless of our limited potentials, we do try and participate in international peace efforts. We have our military observers and police officers in Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Haiti, Sudan, Eritrea, and Cyprus.

As a sign of our support to the Iraqi people, we deployed a de-mining squadron to assist with what they can, to the building a sustainable and stable Iraqi state. These brave men are serving in Iraq for over a year now.

The escalation of conflicts in the Middle East that marked this summer and claimed countless victims, and sadly, there are many civilians among them, is without any doubt a huge challenge for the UN. We support the Resolution 1701 of the UN SC that calls for full cease of hostilities. We especially appreciate the diplomat efforts made by Security Council's members such as USA and France, as their efforts led to the final harmonization of this Resolution.

We hope that this positive break will constitute a sound basis for diplomat efforts in the Middle East, and that lasting peace will finally be achieved in this corner of Earth.

I would also like to draw your attention to humanitarian issues that use to be discussed during every General Assembly session. In order to make a contribution to the work of humanitarian agencies and United Nations efforts in general regarding this very

important field, Bosnia and Herzegovina has presented to the membership the draft "Declaration relating to basic tenets of humanitarian action in emergency situations" contained in document A/60/627\*. It is the intention of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the progress in preparedness of the world for emergency situations according to our own lessons learnt. I am inviting member states to consider the adoption of the abovementioned draft Declaration and to continue to contribute to the progress in these important activities globally.

Allow me to end by thanking you all for the aid and support that we received from the international community over the periods of time that are now behind us, and to express my hopes that you will use your voices to support Bosnia-Herzegovina as the candidate for non-permanent Security Council member. By doing so, you will contribute to the momentum of Bosnia's affirmation in international relations.

I wish to thank Mr. Koffi Annan as well, on behalf of Bosnia-Herzegovina, for his distinguished role and commitment to relaxing of tensions and for contributing to stability-building in my country. He confirmed his commitment by visiting us twice, too.

I thank you for your attention.