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Statement by

H.E. Ivo Miro Jović

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

New York, 16th September 2005.

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Majesties, Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,**

Allow me at the outset to express my gratitude and appreciation to H.E Kofi Annan, to High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Changes who provided us with the most comprehensive document as a backbone of our discussions and deliberations; to the President of the 59. General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, who made outstanding effort in coordinating the Open ended working group and preparing the draft outcome document for consideration of this impressive gathering of the world's leaders. I would also like to use this opportunity to convey the assurances of all the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina of their support for the United Nations, and their preparedness to undertake their fair share of obligations and tasks in order to reinvigorate the Organization in the pivotal moment of its existence.

Mr. President,

Back in the early sixties, at the peak of the Cold War during the Cuban Crisis, there was a discussion around a dinner table amongst the Ambassadors accredited to the United Nations here in New York. As the discussion got heated up over how soon the world will face its imminent destruction and disappearance, and the diplomats agreed that we were doomed to perish but continued arguing who was to be blamed, a quiet gentleman at the far end of the table raised his hand to get the attention of his peers. "Sincerely, my dear friends," he said, "I fail to understand what the real cause of your argument is, when all this will be recorded in history as a mere fifty years of turmoil."

Well, he was fortunately right, and those fifty years of turmoil are behind us, as well as the Cold War, the silly armament race, the imminent threat of nuclear catastrophe and the divided world as we use to know it. Today, we are facing the new fifty years of challenges and threats, and we are determined to do something about it. In the meantime, our Organization has grown three times in size, the colonialism got transferred to

the history books, the bricks from Berlin Wall have become collector's items, and Brazil still rules the soccer field. The world has become a better place.

Or has it?

The rich are getting richer and the poor are still poor. We had the same number of inter-state wars in nineties as we had in the fifties. Instead of tuberculosis we got ourselves the retro-viruses and chicken flue. Some women still cannot vote, and a lot of children still do not go to school. I wish that the list of problems we are dealing with is exhausted at the number 159. of the Draft outcome report. But it is not.

Mr. President,

I come to you from a small, but brave and proud country. It is among those that comprise almost half of the UN membership, those under 5 million citizens. And one of those with under 1.500 US\$ of GNP per capita. We are referred to as a "post-conflict society", we are still dressing the wounds from the tragic war, we are still chasing the war criminals, and we are still desperately seeking mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.

This year we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accord, the agreement that indeed ended the war, but failed to provide the foundations for sustainable peace. The sound foundation of a lasting peace provides for the equality of all the nations and citizens, and that is not what we have now. One State, two entities and three nations is a non-functional structure bequeathed to us by Dayton, so we decided, through negotiations and consensus of all three constituent nations, to change it for the better, and to adjust it to our needs and wants.

Despite the complexity of our political and constitutional structure, we are committed to improve, by consensus, the constitution that was given to us as a gift, and to take the ownership of the State from the Office of the High Representative. We are committed to ensure to our citizens the highest standards of human and civil rights based on the European Convention, including the right of Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs, as three constituent nations, to be informed and educated in their native languages. Thus we intend to meet our

international obligations enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals: stability, prosperity, good governance, transparency and fulfillment of our international legal obligations. We rightly believe that we belong to the European family of nations, and even though we sometimes get neglected, we feel that we ought to become a factor of stability in the region of Balkans.

I am proud to inform you that our Foreign Minister has just signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Prior to coming here, the State Presidency that I am a Chairman of has given the authority to our Permanent Representative here in New York to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and the House of Representatives of the State Parliament approved the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We regularly and timely pay our dues to the UN and affiliated organizations, and we have our peacekeepers in Haiti, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Cyprus, Liberia and DR of the Congo.

As far as the UN reform is concerned, Bosnia and Herzegovina follows closely all the recent developments, we have regular consultations with our neighbors, countries from the region and the Eastern European Regional Group. We are committed to support any and all solutions that stand a chance to get the consensus from the majority of the member countries. That goes for the Peace Building Committee, Human Rights Council and the enlargement of the Security Council. Respecting unreservedly the UN Charter, we support the principle that any decision by the UN or its bodies that affects or in any way limits the sovereignty of a member state, needs to be made unanimously or by a consensus. We share the view of our fellow developing countries that we need better representation at the Security Council, but it would be a pity and the whole reform process will lose its momentum if we exhaust ourselves deliberating pros and contras of the Model A and Model B. The bottom line is that we need a stronger, more efficient, better financed, more agile, more alert Organization to address the threats to the international peace and security of a XXI Century.

We stand ready to take on our shoulders a fair share of that load.

Thank You Mr. President