

Addresses by H.E. Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

2019 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial on

Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and Protection

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New York

Honorable Chairman,

All protocol observed,

I would like to congratulate and thank the United Nations for convening this conference and creating opportunity for all UN member states to discuss the current state of performance of the UN peace support operations with a goal of generating new potential and strengthening its operations in the future.

This year Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Secretary General in developing a set of mutually-agreed principles and commitments essential in responding to future challenges and devising effective peacekeeping operations. Bosnia and Herzegovina endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments or Action for Peace, that essentially reflect the commitments as a collective action to strengthen peacekeeping in multi-dimensional operations.

When speaking of generating the results, let me inform you about Bosnia and Herzegovina's own commitments made throughout the years participating in peacekeeping operations worldwide.

As the UN member since 1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been devoted to what it has pledged back then: to peacekeeping, respect of the rule of law and protection of human rights. Its engagement within the UN system is a visible and significant component, as Bosnia and Herzegovina has been and is still actively participating in dealing with international crises and in the UN peacekeeping missions. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country which evolved to a security provider by actively contributing to international security and stability. Its proactive approach and participation in peace keeping missions is driven by its commitment to universal and applicable standards and values, on the one hand, and on the other, it creates opportunity to evolve more itself and to strengthen alliance and cooperation with other participating countries.

Since 2000, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been actively deploying its military officers and policemen in peace missions in East Timor, Haiti, Cyprus, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Kongo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali and the Central African Republic.

Around 145 military officers and 325 police officers participated in the UN missions. Currently, there are 41 police and 5 military officers participating in the UN peace support operations worldwide.

Bosnia and Herzegovina certainly supports the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and its priorities by ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace process. Through systematic integration of gender policy, we commit to increase the number of uniformed women in peacekeeping. In the police contingent, there have been 55 women involved in the UN mission, which make up 17% of total participants thus far. The United Nations have recognized our long-standing effort to promote gender policy in the context of peacekeeping operations. In 2012 Bosnia and Herzegovina was awarded with the Public Service Award for the acknowledgement of the UN Public Service Day.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding our responsibility to create and maintain secure peacekeeping operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina will undertake all necessary efforts to pledge national training capacities as follows:

- 1. The Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Sarajevo will offer:
 - a.) UN Military Experts on Mission Course;*
 - b.) UN Police Course;*
 - c.) UN Staff Officers Course;*
 - d.) Tactical Protection of Civilians in Peace Support Operations Course;*
 - e.) Utility of Gender in Peace Support Operations Course;**
- 2. The Center for Mine Action and Destruction of Unexploded Ordnance will offer the Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR) Course;*
- 3. The Demining Battalion of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will offer the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Course;*

These courses will be offered as residential courses and will be performed by Mobile Training Teams in order to support Secretary General's Action and Peacekeeping Training Plan. The courses are designed in accordance with the current UN doctrine, training standards and recent operational experiences. While Bosnia and Herzegovina has highly qualified instructors and appropriate teaching facilities, we would very much appreciate financial support from the UN and its members for real life support of the guest course participants.

The fact is that Bosnia and Herzegovina has been taking action and continues to do so to strengthen peace and stability worldwide. It shares risks, burdens, obligations and benefits of collective security with other countries, members of organizations whose task is to support peace. Its engagement proves its determination and will to adequately contribute to mutual efforts, as responsible and credible international community partner.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to further explore practical ways to enhance international peace and security through multilateral cooperation and it will do its absolute best to remain on this track of cooperation with the other stakeholders in this collective effort and will continue to engage in this work constructively.

Thank you for your attention!