PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations

at

the United Nations Children’s Fund Executive Board
Second Regular Session 2020

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Country programme document, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Thank you, Ms. President, for giving me the floor

Ms. President,
Ms. Executive Director,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would first like to thank Madam Afshan Khan, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and UNICEF Country Team for the preparation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Country Programme Document for the period 2021-2025.

Ms. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina considers UNICEF as a reliable and important partner for the realization of children’s rights and welcomes cooperation of the UNICEF team with our government institutions at all levels in the country. We firmly believe that the proposed Country Programme will further contribute toward a successful and consistent fulfilment of obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s for full implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Ms. President,

The Country Programme results and strategies are fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as outlined in the emerging SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025.

Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the UNICEF vision that all children in Bosnia and Herzegovina will benefit from an equitable realization of their rights to health, education, protection, and participation, overcoming the existing bottlenecks and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

We noted with satisfaction that, guided by the imperative to “leave no one behind”, UNICEF will continue to support the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in eliminating the multidimensional causes of poverty, discrimination and exclusion for the most vulnerable children, with particular attention given to those living in poverty, those belonging to ethnic minorities (in particular Roma), children with

Bosnia and Herzegovina Framework law on Primary and Secondary education clearly promotes equal principles and therefore we appreciate UNICEF’s emphasis on quality and inclusive education for children and especially skill development for youth in the proposed programme.

We note that UNICEF support of the country’s humanitarian response to the refugees and migrants will continue to combine humanitarian assistance with long-term support to the system of services involved in the response.

Ms. President,

I would like to commend the Country office in Sarajevo for its continued engagement with the authorities and partners, especially Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and all other relevant ministries and institutions at all levels.

Also, I would like to express our gratitude to the UNICEF and its Country Team for the supportive role during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. President,

I would like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina remains committed to the protection of the rights of all children. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with UNICEF.

Finally, I would like to once again reiterate my delegation’s support to you and the bureau until the successful conclusion of the session.

Thank you