



*Стална мисија Босне и Херцеговине при ОЕБС, УН и другим међународним орг. у Бечу
Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri OSCE, UN i drugim međunarodnim org. u Beču*

*Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, United Nations Office and other
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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Siniša Bencun in Opening Session

I would like to thank the Albanian Chairmanship and the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and their teams for organizing the 28. Economic and Environmental Forum. Our appreciation also extends to the Government of the Czech Republic for hosting this Forum.

Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the Chairmanship's focus on the topics such as preventing and combating corruption through transparency and digitalization, as well as sustainable use of natural resources. The chosen topics will enable us to include new prospective of innovation and digitalization in our strategic approach to issues of 2nd OSCE dimension. Introductory remarks by keynote speakers will give us very good ground for upcoming discussions.

Digitalization can be extremely important tool for prevention of corruption. It has the potential to foster inclusive economic participation, promote international and regional cooperation among states, thus enabling efficient implementation of economic and social rights of people including across dividing lines and closed borders. Therefore, in the context of Economic and Environmental dimension, digitalization has an important confidence building potential.

We share the view that corruption weakens the entire system in modern society, including the law enforcement agencies, the health sector, the competitiveness of the businesses, but also regional security, making this an important topic for the OSCE's activities. Unfortunately, we know this from own experiences.

Efficient functioning and coordination of bodies for combating corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of our state priorities. We are aware of the fact that there is a lot to be done to fight corruption, but Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken steps to strengthen the anti-corruption framework, including measures aimed at political party financing and anti-money laundering, where we took number of steps in order to meet all international obligations.

After number of issues identified, changes have been made to the criminal law and legislation related to associations and foundations in order to ensure that they are not used as a cover-up for the financing of illegal activities. After such steps, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not on the EU list of high-risk countries that have strategic deficiencies in the regime of preventing money laundering and combating terrorist financing.

We are aware that much more engagement needs to be done in order to ensure mechanisms that will follow the implementation of related legislation, having in mind that first steps in combating corruption mean full rule of law, respecting human rights and personal integrity, pointing out that nobody is above the law.

Efforts done by state Agency that coordinates prevention and activities implemented by Republic of Srpska, Federation of BiH and state level bodies, would not be so successful if not supported by OSCE Field Mission and other partners.

Lawmakers in participating states should use ODIHR capacities in area of anticorruption legislation review, but also capacities available to work directly with MPs to improve their ethical standards.

In conclusion, we look forward to hear and share own experiences and best practices in preventing and combating corruption, with discussions that can bring us closer to joint stands and policies. Like discussions we have had in preparatory meetings and high level anticorruption conference. We appreciate Chairmanship concept paper on Possible Ministerial Council Deliverables in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, and we are sure that both topics can, with inclusion of all 57, can find its path towards concrete deliverables.

Thank you.