



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Dr. Dragan Čović

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

at the

Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment:

A Commitment to Action

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. President,

First and foremost, please allow me to commend President Jinping and the Secretary-General for leading us yet again in our joint pledge to invest efforts towards achieving women's equality and empowerment. I also wish to thank you for providing us with an opportunity to take stock and reevaluate our progress and reinforce our dedication to implement the ideas and goals of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

20 years ago we have signed up to an action plan and put the wheels in motion in order to advance, improve upon or altogether eliminate the 12 critical issues identified therein, with the goal of empowering almost 50% of our population. The final outcome of that Conference is long overdue, but nonetheless there remains a historical moment and a moving force behind our concerted effort to achieve women's rightful advancement and equality, as a matter of both human rights and sustainable, just and developed world. Today, with a number of important processes elaborated within the UN Resolution 1325, UN peacekeeping missions and peacebuilding efforts, development of new frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals, Beijing+20 represents a unique opportunity to position the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the global agenda.

In the spirit of this momentous occasion, it is of utmost importance to not only critically reassess our standpoints but, more importantly, to renew and strengthen our efforts on the ground, where it matters the most. We are all aware that the 12 initially identified critical areas still remain, despite the significant progress we have made. They are further aggravated by long-lasting, ongoing or new crises and ever-emerging risk factors around the world, deteriorating humanitarian situations in the wake of conflicts, persistent disrespect and disregard of women's rights in number of countries, and continued violence against women, both physical and emotional.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, gender equality and empowerment of women remain priorities, on both national and international level. As a society, we are making a

tremendous effort to reconcile the consequences of our unfortunate past with the demands of the future. In a sense, our continued dedication to issues of women's empowerment and advancement is a way of healing our society, mending what was broken, strengthening a backbone of a family and providing for its further development. We see that as our obligation, but also as an investment in the future of our children in a stronger, fairer and more respected society. We have created a solid legal and institutional framework for the advancement of gender equality, requiring affirmative measures aimed at achieving gender equality from the State. Furthermore, both Gender Action Plan 2013-2017 and 1325 Action Plan 2014-2017 define priority measures for improvements and advancement in line with the Beijing Action Plan.

In line with that, today I pledge to:

- Prompt the application of the Framework Strategy for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention
- Address 3 priority areas of concern:
 - greater inclusion of women and reduction of labor market segregation,
 - prevention of and fight against domestic violence and finally,
 - support for the women victims of sexual violence in conflict

on which I will work tirelessly, and hope that the same time next year we will have substantive progress to report on.

Thank you once again, Mr. President