

**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**

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**AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

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Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to address you today and greet you on behalf of the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, which coordinates, inter alia, issues related to the health sector at the national level.

Allow me first to express my appreciation and gratitude to the IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano, and the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for organizing this special ministerial conference and recognizing the need to further increase awareness and involvement of the IAEA and Member States in securing global nuclear safety.

First of all, I want to convey the deepest sympathy of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the brave people of Japan who were hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami, followed by the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in early March this year. This chain disaster caused much loss of life and immense material damage.

The responsibilities and expectations have increased so the governments around the world, together with relevant international bodies and institutions, primarily with the International Atomic Energy Agency, have become more engaged in order to ensure compliance with strict security measures and the highest possible standards of nuclear safety as well as in developing adequate preparedness and response measures based on scientific facts should a nuclear accident occur.

Although Bosnia and Herzegovina is a relatively small state and it has not built or planned nuclear power sources, the recent accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant raised a major concern of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and called for increased attention and monitoring by all relevant institutions, both in the field of direct nuclear safety from ionizing radiation, and in conjunction with public health issues, food, water and environment safety ,etc.

The State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety of Bosnia and Herzegovina has fully monitored developments and regularly informed the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the potential risks associated with the nuclear accident

in Japan.

Coordinated response of the relevant institutions, through public and transparent work, increased confidence and safety of citizens, so there were no panic reactions or uncontrolled citizens' requests for protective devices and medicines in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. President,

Although Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have nuclear power sources nor it plans to use them, we are aware that the danger of nuclear accidents and their consequences go beyond local boundaries and that adequate protection of people and the environment is not only a local or regional interest, but also a global priority and responsibility of all in order to save lives and property as well as to protect the Earth for future generations.

Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the increased involvement and leadership of the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Nuclear Safety which emphasizes the importance and necessity of measures, both at the level of Member States and the international level; strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation in order to ensure compliance with the highest and most robust level of nuclear safety standards, which are based on the International Atomic Energy Agency standards. The nuclear safety can be achieved only with the continuous monitoring of these measures, their continuous review and strengthening.

We believe that it is essential that the International Atomic Energy Agency keeps its central role in promoting and ensuring the international cooperation in order to ensure global nuclear safety, as well as providing technical expertise. The IAEA leadership in this area also represents an additional commitment, since it is expected to provide continuous, prompt and accurate information and data related to nuclear accidents and their consequences.

We support the importance of necessity that the Member States develop and update national regulatory authorities programs and their capacities as well as to provide them with adequate resources, technical support and expertise in order to ensure their complete effective independence.

Also, we emphasize the importance and need for continued regional and global cooperation in timely, transparent and reliable information dissemination, exchange of good practices and experiences in all aspects of nuclear safety.

We support the necessity of revising and strengthening the international legal instruments that regulate nuclear safety. We also support the need to develop, review and update national programs and emergency preparedness plans in case of nuclear accidents and in this sense, as I already mentioned in relation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, we expect further technical assistance and expertise of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Taking into account that the risk of nuclear accidents has a trans-boundary character, we strongly support improvement of regional and international emergency preparedness and response plans, including the possible creation of joint facilities for rapid response, with the IAEA having a leading role.

Finally, we give our full support to all previous and future activities performed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Director General, the IAEA Board of Governors and other bodies at the international level so that the importance of nuclear

safety and measures for its maintenance are regarded as the highest priority in all

international institutions, including the United Nations.

Thank you for the attention.