



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by

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Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations,

at the First Committee of the
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Thematic discussion on
Conventional weapons

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Mr. Chairmen,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, let me begin by extending my congratulations to you upon election as Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly, as well as the other members of the Bureau for their respective elections. I would like to assure you the full support and cooperation of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union yesterday and now, I wish to deliver additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairmen,

Bosnia and Herzegovina understands that illicit trade of conventional arms affects regional and international security and stability, because millions of people suffer from the direct and indirect consequences of the irresponsible arms trade, which fuel conflicts and human rights abuses. Globalization of the arms trade allowed production and assembly of conventional weapons all over the world with little controls.

Mr. Chairman,

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports good regulated and transparent trade of conventional arms. We welcome progress made with the Arms Trade Treaty, as the first legally binding treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons. Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with 7 other countries, deposited its instruments of the ratification at the United Nations in New York, on September 25, this year, bringing the number of ratifications of the ATT to 53. We are one of the countries, which contributed to the required number of 50 ratifications, which allowed the start of the period of 90 days, after which the Treaty will enter into force, only 18 months after it was opened for signature.

By ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Bosnia and Herzegovina has confirmed its commitment to the strengthening of global and regional peace, security and stability. I would like to underline the provisions of Article 6 of the ATT, which forbids any transfer of conventional arms if State Party has the knowledge that the arms or items would be used in the commission of: genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians protected as such. The provision of Article 7 prohibits transfers of arms, if there is an overriding risk that the weapons can be used to undermine peace and security or commit a serious violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Mr. Chairman,

As a result of the 1992-1995 war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is unfortunately still facing the problem of land mines fields. My country was severely affected by flood disaster in May this year. The floods had moved mines, cluster munitions, and unexploded ordnance, and had damaged minefield fencing and signs. In the spirit of the good regional cooperation, the mine action centers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia have coordinated their response to the threat of mines, which appeared into areas considered safe before the flood disaster.

We welcome activities of UNDP, the European Union, the US Department of State, the Norwegian People's Aid and other governments and NGOs, who worked with local crisis coordination centers to provide landmine survey and to assess the impact of floods and landslides on the location of mines.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, I would like to point out that we still face a numbers of challenges. We need a quick action for local resource mobilization and for encouraging international donors to contribute with long-term grants to enable efficient planning of mine clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman