



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

H. E. Mirko Sarovic, Minister

Address at the Sixth Global Forum in Da Nang, Vietnam

Plenary discussion
The Sixth GEF Assembly

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Excellencies,
Presidents,
Prime Ministers,
Colleagues Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends

First and foremost, I would like to thank the GEF Secretariat and the host country, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, for the excellent organization of the Sixth GEF Assembly, a very important gathering for all of us, which will determine the further work directions in the field of environment for many GEF member countries in the next four-year period.

In particular, I would like to point out the efforts of the GEF Executive Director Mrs. Dr. Naoko Ishii, who, because of her active engagement and clear vision, has made that the countries in receipt of GEF support do not feel neglected but equally involved in environmental and climate change matters, which I also believe to be particularly emphasized.

With this gathering, we are opening a new four-year chapter for the period 2018-2022, where more and more significant achievements will be made, and the environment will be more comfortable for the Earth's inhabitants, while greenhouse gas emissions will be significantly lower.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has benefited greatly from the support it has received in the previous two funding periods, and the GEF funds have alleviated the gap that it had due to the lack of funds it had to get from the EU, related to Chapter 27, Environment and climate change.

With the GEF funding of 19 projects in the amount of over USD 34 million for national projects (with co-financing of over USD 174 million) and priority issues, and over USD 140 million in grants (with USD 1,169 billion) to address regional issues (20 projects) we have established, amongst other things, the systems of constant communication that will help us in further early warning processes, for example in case of floods, then we have solved many infrastructure issues, procured early warning equipment, built up software infrastructure, and resolved other issues.

Through the support of GEF funds, we have been able to increase the percentage of protected areas and this trend continues. In addition to this, we strengthened our

capacities, gained new knowledge and equipment and enabled our institutions to carry out an assessment and calculation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the "enabling" activities, we have adopted missing documents specifically in the area of the three Rio Conventions, chemicals and mercury (Hg), which have been incorporated into the EU acquis implementation process, thus defining our priorities. It shows our clear commitment to continue to use rationally and responsibly the resources we have been assigned to.

On the basis of the Adaptation Strategy adopted by BiH, we estimated the financial needs of BiH in the EU integration process to over 7 billion Euros, while the second, equally important document called the Climate Change Adaptation and Low Carbon Development Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina envisages that in the area of climate change we need more than 12 billion Euros to bring the environment and climate change in Bosnia and Herzegovina into line with the global and European trends.

In this process, economic aspects and aspects of the environment and climate change must be synergistically connected and carefully used, where I specifically think about the non-renewable resources, whose use we need to minimize, and in the future try to use as little as possible.

The Strategy to implement Sustainable Development Goals is currently being developed, and it will allow the parameters of climate change and the environment to have a clear position in the environmental as well as in and economic, social and health aspects.

In addition to monitoring the goals of sustainable development, Bosnia and Herzegovina is working on the development of the Fourth National Report on Climate Change and the Third Improved Report on Climate Change. I am sure that further support from the GEF will continue in the future period from which we have great expectations.

Finally, while expressing sincere appreciation for the work the GEF Secretariat has done so far, and, when it comes to Bosnia and Herzegovina, that work was characterized by an open, fair and highly professional relationship, we give our full support to the work of the Sixth GEF Assembly, we support the documents that are proposed for the adoption, and remain open to any further cooperation.

I wish all of us a successful and fruitful work.
Thank you!