

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI,  
Debate: Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Thank you, Mr President.

I would like to join other colleagues in welcoming High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council and in thanking him for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the Secretary General's report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Mr President, it is a matter of satisfaction that during the period of the report, the Presidency of the Bosnia and Herzegovina has been functioning with improved cooperation compared to its previous composition and a number of foreign policy decisions were taken. It is also commendable that the Federation government has functioned well during the reporting period. We have noted that in September, the leaders of the six main parties began negotiations on formation of a new government at the State level and adoption of reforms to progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. We hope that these negotiations will successfully resolve the continuing political stalemate since the elections in October 2010 and the pave the way for formation of a new government.

Mr President,

3. Bosnia-Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubbles of civil war that the peoples of former Yugoslavia had to endure in 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The problems that have been mentioned in the Secretary General's report and by the High Representative in his briefing today are bound to be encountered on the path of building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Our own experience over the last six decades has convinced us that though the path of building such a nation is long and arduous, the fruits are well worth the efforts.

4. Resolution of the problems facing the Bosnian people, therefore, calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion, rhetorical statements and violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay the achievement of their goals. We would, therefore, urge the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the international community to persevere in spite of the occasional problems that are encountered.

Mr President,

5. Through its continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU military mission (EUFOR) has carried out an important role in reassuring its citizens of safety and security, even when the political situation is sometimes tense. We, therefore, support extension of its mandate.

6. In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to highly commend the work being done by High Representative Inzko in assisting the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their nation-building endeavours. We fully support his efforts.

Thank you.

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