

UPR 20th SESSION

STATE UNDER REVIEW: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Intervention by Turkey

05.11.2014

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Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and thank them for their substantive presentation.

Turkey highly appreciates the efforts made by Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the recommendations during the first review. We appreciate this as a constructive attitude and welcome the country's determination to improve its institutional and legal framework.

We are pleased to observe that Bosnia and Herzegovina has been pursuing a comprehensive policy of addressing violence against women. In this regard we note with satisfaction the ratification of the Council of Europe "Istanbul Convention".

With regard to the elimination of gender based discrimination it is worth mentioning that the activities of the Agency for Gender Equality led to the systematic application and incorporation of gender equality principles by relevant institutions. We encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue its ongoing efforts in this area.

Steps taken to fight corruption are particularly critical. In this respect we applaud the adoption of the strategy for the fight against corruption and the related action plan. This constitutes a right step to enhance transparency and will receive praise from the public at large.

Bearing in mind that human trafficking today still constitutes a major human rights violation, it is commendable that Bosnia and Herzegovina is harmonizing its legislation with international standards. In line with several treaty bodies Turkey highly appreciates the enactment of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

We would like to make two recommendations for the kind consideration of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Firstly, we **recommend** that Bosnia and Herzegovina takes all necessary measures to raise the level of involvement of women in public and political life according to the quota stated in the relevant laws.

Secondly, Turkey **recommends**, the creation of a national system for information management to collect relevant data on human trafficking, including human traffickers and identified victims.

Finally, we wish Bosnia and Herzegovina the very best in its second UPR Cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.