

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo, 29-30 November 2021

## Introduction and goals of the conference

In September 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with 192 United Nations member states, committed itself to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which consists of 17 sustainable development goals and 169 sub-goals. The 2030 Agenda document highlights the following:

"Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. Its goal is to strengthen universal peace in greater freedom. This plan will be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, acting through a partnership based on cooperation. We are determined to free humanity from tyranny, poverty and destitution, as well as to recover and protect our planet."

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a transformative plan to create a better and sustainable future for the entire world. They address the global challenges facing the entire world, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has recognized the importance and potential of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity to significantly improve the social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the country and strengthen regional cooperation.

The first step towards the systematic implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina was taken in 2018 through the development of the Roadmap and the launch of the Framework for the Realization of Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a joint document of all levels of government. At all levels and society in Bosnia and Herzegovina strive to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This framework, adopted in the period December 2020 - April 2021 - by the governments of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, establishes broader development directions (1) Smart growth, 2) A society of equal opportunities and two horizontal themes (1) Human capital for the future and 2) The principle "No one should be excluded").

Within each of these development directions, accelerators and drivers have been defined that should lead to the desired changes by 2030. In addition, in accordance with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda and the commitments made by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Framework for Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina and specific sub-objectives as well as indicators through which progress will be measured. The implementation of the Framework will be done through its incorporation into development documents at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ie through the development planning and management system.

In order to enable coordinated monitoring and reporting on progress in the process of achieving specific sub-goals, in April 2021, a Council was established to monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council consists of representatives of the following institutions:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Directorate for Economic Planning of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of European Integration and International Cooperation of the Republika Srpska
- Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Federal Institute for Development Programming

Given that countries in the region, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, have initiated work on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Council for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Regional School of Public Administration ( ReSPA), and with the support of Sweden, organizes a regional conference aimed at encouraging the exchange of experiences and good practices and opening opportunities for regional cooperation in various aspects of sustainable development.

More specifically, the conference will offer the opportunity to exchange practices and experiences between countries, especially in the context of coordinating policy-making and implementation and the broader system of strategic planning and development management in the countries of the region.

## **AGENDA**

### **Day 1: 29/11/2021**

#### **09.30 - 10.00 Registration of participants and welcome coffee**

#### **10.00 - 10.30 Introductory speeches**

- Zoran Tegeltija, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH
- Dr. Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in BiH
- Ratka Sekulovic, ReSPA Director
- Elida Reci, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government, United Nations

#### **10.30 - 11.00 European Union policies in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Representative of the European Commission Brussels

#### **11.00 - 12.00 Policy coordination in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

12.00 - 12.30 Coffee break

**12.30 - 14.00 Policy coordination in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region**

- Montenegro
- Croatia / Slovenia
- Northern Macedonia
- Serbia

14.00 - 15.30 Break for Lunch

**15.30 - 16.30 Good practices and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:**

- Policy coordination
- Institutional framework
- Financing
- Localization of Sustainable Development Goals

**Day 2: 30/11/2021**

**10.00 - 12.00 Good practices and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda - continued**

- Policy coordination
- Institutional framework
- Financing
- Localization of Sustainable Development Goals

12.00 - 12.30 Coffee break

**12.30 - 13.30 Conclusions and recommendations**