



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

18th Conference of Parties to UNFCCC (COP 18)

SPEECH
H. E. Mirko Sarovic, Minister

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**Your Excellencies,
Presidents,
Prime Ministers,
Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates to COP 18,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to greet you on behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the occasion of this great event at which important dialogues are conducted about one of the greatest environmental and socio-economic problems of today, which is climate change.

Fulfilling its obligations under the Convention so far, Bosnia and Herzegovina has shown that it wants to play an active role in the fight against climate change. We are currently finishing activities for the development of the Second National Report and Strategy for Low Carbon Development and Adaptation to Climate Change. Cooperation with the European Union in this field is our long-term policy and part of everyday activities.

We have also developed climate models, which unfortunately confirm the IPCC predictions of temperature increase and precipitation decrease in the region of Southeast Europe. Although Bosnia and Herzegovina is a small emitter of GHG emissions, we already suffer enormous economic consequences, especially in the field of agriculture, water resources and forestry.

In the past decade, the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events rapidly increased - especially the great floods in 2010 and extreme droughts in 2011 and 2012. Water scarcity is already affecting agriculture, hydropower, industry, and the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of Southeast Europe.

The economy of our country is not at a level that would allow us to meet the challenges of climate change, which is why we welcome the activities for the establishment and functioning of the Green Climate Fund.

Also, we think that this will be a great opportunity for all the countries to act in synergy in order to achieve maximum impact in reducing greenhouse gases and adequate adaptation to changing climatic conditions. The challenges of the economic crisis may, to some extent, slow down the

support that developed countries provide for under-developed nations in their addressing the issues of adaptation and mitigation, but we believe that such support must not end, nor be reduced.

We wish to emphasize that the disasters that have been happening in the world carry out a message about the necessity of turning the society toward renewable energy sources, which will ultimately lead to low carbon production, green economy and very controlled emissions of greenhouse gases.

We are confident that upon completion of this event many new projects and programs will be started, which would allow all interested parties to find their interests and participate in their implementation. The benefits of this conference should affect all the inhabitants of the planet Earth in the shortest possible time.

We want to believe that we are going to leave Doha satisfied with what was done, and that we would send a message to the world of achieved progress in the spirit of full consensus - progress that, taking into account the needs of humanity, leaves enough space for each country to continue achieving substantial progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of general national goals.

Thank you!