

STATEMENT

**by the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Željko Komšić, at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26**

Dear Prime Minister Johnson,
Distinguished presidents, prime ministers and members of
delegations of all countries,
Representatives of the non-governmental sector,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today and to have the opportunity to greet you all at this important conference on climate change. This conference takes place at a time when we daily face the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic and series of climate challenges that pose a difficult task for the future of the whole world.

That is why it is important to reach an agreement on how to accelerate global action against climate change, in order to maintain the global temperature increase below 1.5°C and prevent climate change from spiraling out of control.

Each of our countries faces different challenges. Regardless of that, it is necessary to be on the same page in the fight against the climate crisis, and to act together. It is also necessary to set realistic and achievable goals. Significant financial resources will be needed to implement those goals, especially in countries with lower GDP per capita, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina.

My country is making efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, in the coming period, we will have to invest more energy and more funds in order to achieve the goals we have set

for ourselves. I am pleased to share with you today that Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in April this year, reaffirming its commitment to fulfilling the Paris Climate Agreement.

By submitting this document, Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes one of the first countries in the Western Balkans to adopt an updated NDC with a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33.2% by 2030 and almost 66% by 2050.

In order to meet our goals of climate change prevention, we are also working to enable the transition to sustainability and creating an attractive environment for private sector investment in clean, affordable energy. We will need substantial international assistance in the areas of technology transfer and development of financial mechanisms to encourage decarbonisation. The same goes for financial support to the climate issues projects.

With the goal of further decarbonisation of the energy sector, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in November 2020. BiH thus committed to work together with the EU to make Europe a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

In that regard, one of our current most important activities is the development of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021-2030 (NECP BiH). That document aligns multiple objectives: those of the European Union in the field of energy and climate, those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the Energy Community.

Our plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina will define goals for improving the energy efficiency measures, increasing the share of renewable

energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. It will also include the policies and measures to achieve those goals. We aim to set ambitious goals for each of the dimensions of the Plan, which we believe are realistic to be achieved by 2030, and which will enable further development of the energy sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to emphasize that within the development of the National Energy and Climate Plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina is also working on the development of a Coal Region Transition Road Map. Such transition of the coal regions and the entire energy sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina has to be a fair one. It must provide for the switch from coal to renewable energy sources without any loss of jobs.

Regarding the energy sector, defining ways to finance the energy transition is of the utmost importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The energy transition will require significant investment in low-carbon technologies and infrastructure. Bosnia and Herzegovina, like many other countries, will need substantial international financial assistance and support for the decarbonisation of the energy sector by 2050. Special focus must be on the planned closure of coal mines and the shutdown of coal-fired power plants.

There is no doubt that Bosnia and Herzegovina wishes to contribute to the fight against climate change. However, we will not be able to do this alone. We need the support. We have to cooperate with the countries that can accelerate this process with their knowledge and resources. Regardless of the fact that I do not represent a country with a large population, it will be necessary for everyone to contribute to the efforts to stop climate change. You can certainly count on us.

Thank you for your attention. I wish everyone a successful continuation of the Conference, which I hope the history will remember as a milestone in the fight to save our planet.

Thank you.