STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Sven Alkalaj
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of Bosnia and Herzegovina

at

the Ministerial Session of the High-Level Meeting
on Nuclear Safety and Security
“Strengthening Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Disaster Risk Preparedness”

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It is my honor and pleasure to address you today. Please allow me at the outset to express my appreciation and gratitude to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for organizing this High level meeting on nuclear safety and security, recognizing the urgent need for UN to address one of the most important challenges the world is facing today.

These challenges are manifested in the light of unfortunate chain of events in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant in Japan, triggered by natural disasters on March 11th this year, and have resulted in loss of numerous lives and severe infrastructural and environmental damage.

The grave consequences of this incident are still present today and for this reason I wish once again, to extend my personal sympathy and deepest compassion and solidarity of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the brave people of Japan who were affected by this unprecedented natural disaster.

The Fukushima Daiichi incident, reminds us once again of severe consequences that nuclear incidents of any sort impose on humankind. This event has raised the level of expectations of ordinary citizens, expectations that the governments now have to answer to. Therefore, we have to strive to ensure domestic, regional and global compliance with the strict security measures and the highest possible standards of nuclear safety, as well as to develop adequate preparedness and protection measures, in case of a nuclear accident.
This unavoidably implies the necessity for all of us, including the UN and the relevant international organizations, to address the broader issues, including assessment of the costs, risks and benefits of nuclear energy and stronger connections between nuclear safety, nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation.

Therefore, I would like to commend the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing special Ministerial conference on nuclear safety in June this year, addressing the need to further increase awareness and involvement of the IAEA and the Member States in ensuring global nuclear safety. Bosnia and Herzegovina fully supports the conclusions, recommendations and requests stated in the Ministerial Declaration on Nuclear Safety, which are paving the way for future strengthening of nuclear safety worldwide and underlining stronger bilateral, regional and international cooperation in order to ensure compliance with the highest and most robust level of nuclear safety standards. Nuclear safety can be achieved only through continuous monitoring of these measures and their constant reviewing and strengthening. Although Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have nuclear power sources, nor it plans to introduce nuclear power as a part of any future energy policy, we are aware that the danger of nuclear accidents and their consequences go beyond local boundaries and that adequate protection of people and the environment is not only a local or regional interest, but also a global priority and responsibility, in order to save lives and property as well as to protect our environment for future generations.

We recognize the importance and necessity for states to develop and update national regulatory authorities programs and their capacities, as well as to provide them with adequate resources, technical support and
expertise in order to ensure their complete effective independence.

Also, we emphasize the need for continued regional and global cooperation in timely, transparent and reliable information dissemination, exchange of good practices and experiences in all aspects of nuclear safety.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly supports the universalizing of the existing international legal instruments that regulate nuclear safety and security and global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. To emphasize this, I would like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina, through its engagement as the Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization for this year, strongly advocates and promotes the importance of the universal adherence to this and other existing international legal instruments.

We believe that achieving the most in process of universalizing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, strengthening the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency and applying to the global safety regime promoted by the IAEA will give the necessary impetus for rising to maximum achievable level of global nuclear safety and security, at the same time benefiting positively from the enormous nuclear energy source.

Finally, I am confident that this Conference will fulfill expectations and that we will be able to achieve unity and work together effectively in order to implement measurable and lasting improvements in field of nuclear safety and security, aiming to ensure a safer future for all.

Thank you for your attention.