**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**DEBATE ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**STATEMENT**

**12TH MAY, 2015**

Madame President,

We welcome and thank Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative of the Secretary-general for his briefing and for introducing the forty-seventh report on the implementation of the Peace Agreement and for the work being accomplished by his Office in ensuring ready progress in the consolidation of the Multinational State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We would like, at the outset to declare the strong support of the Republic of Angola to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance to the Dayton Peace Agreement.

In our statement, we will focus on tree main issues: the General Political Environment; Challenges to the General Framework Agreement for Peace; Objectives and Conditions for the Closure of the Office of the High Representative.

Madame President,

Concerning general political environment, we welcome the new Government, established on the 31st of March, six months after the General Elections. Despite coalition agreements, signed at the Federation and State Levels, disagreements over the distribution of ministerial posts delayed the formation of the Government, making the all sense the view expressed in the High Representative Report on the need to improve the electoral process, including by reforming the Electoral Law and relevant constitutional provisions.

The Joint Declaration of the Tripartite Presidency, confirming the commitment to institutional reforms, at all state levels, to prepare the country for the future EU membership, is an important political development, as well as the statement by EU Foreign Ministers on the need for meaningful progress in implementing the reform agenda for EU membership application.

The initiative launched by the foreign Ministers of Germany and the United Kingdom, in November 2014, now an European Union Initiative, offers to Bosnia and Herzegovina a real opportunity to make progress towards the integration in the European Union.

We expect that the decision by the Council of the European Union, adopting the European Union Stabilization and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, will effectively enter into force on the 1st of June; and that it will provide the roadmap for its full integration into the EU, guaranteeing a future of a united, sovereign, multi-ethnic, stable, prosperous and developed country.

Relating to Challenges of the General Framework Agreement for Peace,20 years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, we are concerned about statements by senior officials of Republika Srpska advocating the dissolution of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such acts undermine the cohesion among the multi-ethnic communities in the country and hinder national reconciliation.

In this regard, we call upon political leaders to refrain from such rhetoric and make every effort towards national reconciliation and integration of all ethnic communities, in order to consolidate the positive achievements made so far.

Madame President,

We are deeply concerned that many young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina have been joining terrorist groups in the Middle East. We call the authorities to adopt energetic measures and policies to counter such negative and dangerous trend.

On the issue of Objectives and Conditions of the High Representative Office closure, itis regrettable that in the reporting period Bosnia and Herzegovina made progress towards meeting the outstanding objectives set by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, as a pre-requisite for the closure of the Office, as recalls Security Council Resolution 2183(2014).

Finally, the Republic of Angola welcomes the fact that the overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains calm and stable. We acknowledge the activities of the European Union-led peacekeeping force (EUFOR ALTHEA), in support of peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We commend the work carried out by the Office of High Representative to maintain a safe and secure environment in accordance with its mandate and are confident of a new future for Bosnia and Herzegovina, hoping that the new leaders will look beyond the divisions of the past and will focus on good governance, rule of law and economic reforms, towards a peaceful and prosperous future.

I thank you.