

Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Minister, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations at the UN Security Council debate on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina on May 15, 2012

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to welcome High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council and thank him for his comprehensive briefing and the report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia for their statements.

2. Mr President, it is a matter of satisfaction that during the period of the report, there have been positive political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Parties reached a broad agreement that facilitated the formation of the Council of Ministers after nearly 15 months of stalemate following the October 2010 elections. The Presidency of the Bosnia and Herzegovina has been meeting regularly and taken a number of foreign policy decisions that should promote the country's eventual Euro-Atlantic integration.

3. It is also commendable that progress has been registered on the global fiscal framework and two key EU-related laws on State Aid and Census were adopted. The agreement on unblocking of the state-level electricity transmission company is also a welcome development.

4. The joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia on cooperation to protect and promote the rights of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons should serve as an important confidence-building measure. Such cooperation will not only promote regional cooperation but also facilitate their common aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration.

5. Mr President, we have noted that none of the outstanding items among the five objectives and two conditions necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative has been fulfilled so far. We are, however, glad that the 9 March agreement on defence and state property has the potential for an acceptable and sustainable resolution of the issue of apportionment of property which will meet two of the five objectives and two conditions. In addition, progress in the ongoing discussion on the future of Supervision of Brcko can help meet another of the five objectives.

6. We hope that the Bosnian parties will continue their engagement in the spirit of compromise and maturity to address fiscal problems so that the currently deteriorating economic prospects are reversed and the country returns to the path of high growth of pre-recession years.

7. Through their continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU and NATO military missions have carried out an important role in reassuring its citizens of safety

and security, even when the political situation is sometimes tense. We commend the efforts

8. Mr President, as I have said in our previous meetings, Bosnia-Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubbles of civil war that the peoples of former Yugoslavia had to endure in the 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The problems that have been mentioned in the report and briefing of the High Representative are bound to be encountered on the path of building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Our own experience over the last six decades has convinced us that though the path of building such a nation is long and arduous, the fruits are well worth the efforts.

9. Resolution of the problems facing the Bosnian peoples, therefore, calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion, rhetorical statements and violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay the achievement of their goals. We would, therefore, urge the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the international community to persevere in spite of the problems that are encountered.

10. In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to highly commend the work being done by High Representative Inzko in assisting the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their nation-building endeavours. We fully support his efforts.

I thank you.

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