



OIC/ACM-2019/BOSNIA/REP/FINAL

REPORT
OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
24 SEPTEMBER 2019

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1. The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina met on 24 September 2019, at the Ministerial level, on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting in New York. The delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Morocco, Arab Republic of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Malaysia, the Republic of Senegal and Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the meeting.
2. In his opening statement, H. E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary General, reconfirmed the principled position of the OIC in support for national reconciliation and economic and social development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has paid constant attention to Bosnia and Herzegovina, an observer to the OIC. Safeguarding its interests, its two constituent peoples, and preserving its multi ethnic, cultural and religious characteristics are always important to the OIC. The OIC has been working towards that goal since the independence of the country and its joining the UN as a full member.
3. The Secretary General recalled the effective political support extended to Bosnia and Herzegovina by successive Islamic Summits and Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) including the 14th Islamic Summit and the 46th CFM held this year, respectively in Makkah Al Mukarramah and Abu Dhabi.
4. The meeting was briefed by H. E. Mr. Almir Sahovic, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Multilateral Affairs, on the current situation in Bosnia Herzegovina.
5. The meeting reiterated the OIC's support for the preservation of the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and international personality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within internationally recognized borders, as a fully functional and self-sustainable state capable of carrying out its powers and fulfilling its international obligations without absolute blockade mechanisms as well as its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious structure.
6. The meeting welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Reform Agenda, adopted by Bosnian and Herzegovina in July 2015 and called on the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina to maintain positive momentum in implementing the reforms, in line with citizens' demand in cooperation with civil society.
7. The meeting welcomed the outcome of the general election held on 7 October 2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was held peacefully in line with the accepted international norms and standards.
8. The meeting reiterated that the primary responsibility for further successful implementation of the Peace Agreement lies with all the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves and noted with satisfaction the continued willingness of the international community and major donors to support them implement the peace Agreement. It called upon all the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, as well as with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunal, in order to

complete its work and facilitate the closure of the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible.

9. The meeting welcomed the positive step taken by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for processing the country's application to join the European Union, and urged the authorities to intensify their efforts to advance the reforms needed for interrelation.
10. The meeting took note of the continued support expressed by Bosnia and Herzegovina's leadership towards a European perspective, based on the Peace Agreement, including through the submission of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU membership application in February 2016.
11. The meeting called upon Bosnia and Herzegovina's leadership to implement expeditiously the key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement, particularly relating to the building of the state institutions, regulatory framework, and return of refugees and displaced persons of their origin.
12. The meeting expressed great concern over divisive rhetoric statements from some officials and called upon all the political factions to focus on the country's economic and development priorities and the need for the country's politicians not to engage in divisive or inflammatory rhetoric, which might threaten the territorial integrity of the state and compromise its progress towards European integration.
13. The meeting welcomed the country's efforts to develop a national reconciliation and economic and social development and to continue to strengthen the rule of law.
14. The meeting reiterated the importance of economic recovery and its basic role in consolidating peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It commended Member States and institutions, which made donations to the OIC Trust Fund and to the budget of the Peace Implementation Council and urged others to contribute generously given the urgency of the return of the refugees and the displaced people for achieving demographic balance and democracy in the country.
15. The meeting encouraged the regional efforts towards confidence building among stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the neighboring countries.
16. The Contact Group underlined the importance of the rule of law as part of any settlement impacting on the future of the country and invited all local and international actors to focus on the need to fully implement the existing legal obligations when presenting solutions for the future.
17. The meeting emphasized the importance of economic development in consolidating peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It invited the Islamic Development Bank to develop result-oriented projects in cooperation with relevant development agencies of the Member States for improving the economic and social conditions of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
18. The meeting called for the continued interest in and support of the OIC and its Member States for the stability and prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the face of the critical period it is passing through. It called for regular convening of the Contact Group to continue the OIC support to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
