



Security Council

Eightieth year

10028th meeting

Friday, 31 October 2025, 10 a.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Mr. Nebenzia/Ms. Evstigneeva (Russian Federation)

Members:

Algeria	Mr. Gadouri
China	Mr. Geng Shuang
Denmark	Ms. Lassen
France	Mr. Dharmadhikari
Greece	Mrs. Balta
Guyana	Ms. Benn
Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
Panama	Mr. Alfaro de Alba
Republic of Korea	Mr. Sangjin Kim
Sierra Leone	Mr. Kanu
Slovenia	Mr. Žbogar
Somalia	Mr. Ibrahim
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Ms. MacNaughtan
United States of America	Ms. Shea

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia to participate in this meeting.

I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to his seat at the Council table.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I also invite His Excellency Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2025/678, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Greece.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2795 (2025).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mrs. Balta (Greece): Greece welcomes today's unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2795 (2025), which renews the authorization of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR-Althea, for a period of 12 months. Since its establishment in 2004, EUFOR-Althea has played an indispensable role in safeguarding security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the entire region. We thank all the members of the Council for their support throughout the process.

The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is intertwined with the European Union (EU). The Thessaloniki declaration of 2003 embodied a strong commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkans, which still holds true today. It is based on advancing shared democratic values and principles for peace, reconciliation, good-neighbourly relations, stability and prosperity in the region.

EUFOR-Althea is a clear and tangible demonstration of this long-standing commitment by the EU towards Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. It contributes to a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing assurance and deterrence, while assisting in creating the necessary conditions for building trust and unity, despite challenges. Greece is a consistent contributor to the operation since its launching. We will remain unequivocally committed to promoting peace and stability in our immediate neighbourhood.

Greece underscores her steadfast support to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions. This year's thirtieth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement validates the significance of an historic agreement, which laid the foundations for stability and unity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and consequently in South-Eastern Europe. We welcome the current report of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with his mandate.

We strongly reiterate that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, constitutional order and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina must be fully respected. We welcome the recent positive developments in the country, which can pave the way towards de-escalation and a sincere dialogue between all political actors. Abandoning divisive rhetoric and secessionist incitement is crucial for building trust and inspiring reconciliation efforts. All political parties and relevant stakeholders must work together, aiming at strengthening the institutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a spirit of mutual understanding and with respect for the rule of law.

Greece is convinced that the European integration of the country will ensure the stability and prosperity of all its citizens. The European Council decision of March 2024 to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina marks a significant milestone along this path. Both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina must remain fully committed to making progress in reforms and advancing the EU accession process, with emphasis on the remaining prerequisites for the submission of the country's negotiating framework. The appointment of the chief negotiator by the State authorities is also a crucial and necessary step towards the holding of the first intergovernmental conference between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The country's unity and political stability, in full respect of its independence and international personality as a single, united and sovereign country, is undoubtable and a hard-won gain of the last 30 years. Greece will continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in its enduring commitment to democracy, rule of law, peace and stability for the benefit of its citizens and the entire region.

Mr. Alfaro de Alba (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): We welcome Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the representatives of Croatia, Serbia and the European Union (EU), who honour us with their presence here today.

Almost 30 years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Panama believes that we must recognize that, despite political tensions and isolated incidents, peace continues to prevail in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In these times of increasing complexity, this fortunate reality again shows that the institutions and mechanisms created under the Dayton framework, including that of the High Representative, continue to demonstrate their effectiveness in fostering stability and resilience and preventing a return to conflict. In this regard, Panama highlights the crucial role of the recently renewed EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a key factor for this stability. Its presence continues to reassure the population as a whole and safeguards the prevention of a resurgence of instability in the country.

Regarding the political situation in the country, we welcome the work of the judicial institutions and the Central Electoral Commission, as they have proven to be crucial to the continued respect for the rule of law and constitutional order in the country. Panama will closely follow the upcoming elections in Republika Srpska next month, as well as the general elections scheduled for 2026, confident that they will be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. In this regard, we respectfully call on all political forces in the country to participate responsibly and in a democratic spirit, prioritizing the national interest and collective well-being above any differences.

At the same time, we express our concern about persistent separatist rhetoric and any attempt to undermine the Dayton framework. Such inflammatory discourse only threatens peace and erodes trust among communities. Particularly alarming is the denialist rhetoric, which not only dishonours the memory of the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, but also hinders reconciliation. Panama strongly condemns such forms of speech.

As for returnees, peacebuilding depends not only on institutional strength, but also on ensuring that every person, without distinction of any kind, can live in an environment free of discrimination and that every family that is currently uprooted can return home in dignity and security.

Panama reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as established in the Dayton Agreement. We also express our support for its path of integration into the European Union, which offers an opportunity to advance reforms, strengthen dialogue and consolidate lasting regional stability.

Although challenges remain, the fact that peace continues in Bosnia and Herzegovina demonstrates to the entire international community the strength and importance of dialogue and multilateralism. Panama calls on all political leaders to respect not only the letter but also the spirit of the Dayton Agreement and to continue to choose cooperation over confrontation.

Mr. Sangjin Kim (Republic of Korea): My delegation welcomes His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Chairman of the Presidency, and the participation of the European Union (EU), Serbian and Croatian delegations at today's meeting.

As we approach the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina has successfully avoided regressing into armed conflict, but political stability remains an elusive goal. During the reporting period, there were serious threats to the region's democratic institutions. Even though conflict was largely confined to the political realm, such challenges to the Agreement take a political and institutional toll.

We echo the High Representative's sentiment that the articles of the Agreement are not optional and its guarantee is not a matter of choice. This historic Agreement, so painstakingly achieved, defines the minimum obligations that all parties must respect.

At the same time, in a more positive development, events that were organized in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide took place in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Respect for all victims and survivors is a prerequisite for reconciliation. In this context, my delegation would like to make the following points.

First, we condemn all actions that contravene the Dayton Peace Agreement, which has provided a vital framework for peace and stability. We are particularly concerned about recent instances of court rulings being ignored and a secessionist path being pursued, which could challenge public trust and threaten regional stability. The rule of law is fundamental to Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions, and all court decisions must be respected. All parties should avoid unilateral actions or rhetoric that undermine the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We hope that the upcoming Republika Srpska elections on 23 November will be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

Secondly, we reaffirm our strong support for the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which plays a vital role in the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We firmly believe that recent developments have justified the

Security Council's unanimous approval of its mandate renewal this morning. Its role in arms control, through verifications and inspections, is more vital than ever in this tense security environment.

Thirdly, the Republic of Korea fully supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU integration. Political, fiscal and institutional reforms have strengthened the country's readiness. The EU path chosen by the people should not be undermined by short-term political interests.

The Republic of Korea stands firm in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. A year before the 2026 general elections, the country must find a way out of its political deadlock. This will require the political courage common to history's peacemakers.

In closing, we remain hopeful that Bosnia and Herzegovina can move beyond the darkest chapters of its past and advance towards a peaceful and prosperous future.

Mr. Geng Shuang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I welcome His Excellency Mr. Komšić, the rotating Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the representatives of Serbia, Croatia and the European Union to today's meeting.

Since the beginning of this year, the trial of the leader of the Republika Srpska in a Bosnia and Herzegovina court has resulted in prolonged political divisions and heightened inter-ethnic tensions. China expresses deep concern over this development.

In the light of the latest situation, I would like to share a few observations.

First, heightened tensions serve no party's interest in Bosnia and Herzegovina, given the backdrop of persistent political instability that the country faces. Social challenges, including slowing economic growth, high inflation, labour outflows and rising unemployment, mean the overall economic and social situation remains grim. China hopes that the two entities, three ethnic groups and all political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina will place the interests of the country and its people above all else, exercise common restraint, resolve differences through peaceful means and work towards achieving political and social stability at an early date, thereby creating favourable conditions for national development and for the people to live in peace and prosperity.

Secondly, we must persist in seeking inclusive solutions through constructive dialogue. Ethnic relations in the Balkans are complex and have been shaped by historical circumstances.

The 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement has, on the whole, played a significant role in fostering harmonious coexistence among the different ethnic groups. As a special arrangement made during exceptional times, the Agreement is not capable of foreseeing or resolving every challenge encountered in Bosnia and Herzegovina's peace, reconciliation and development process. The key to resolving these issues lies in mutual tolerance among all ethnic groups, in resolving differences through dialogue and in jointly seeking solutions.

Thirdly, the destiny of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be determined by its own people. For some time now, High Representative Schmidt has been frequently invoking the so-called "Bonn powers", which have not only failed to help to resolve conflict and division among the ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also exacerbated them, plunging the country's political situation into an increasingly intractable predicament. Neither the High Representative system nor the Bonn powers can be allowed to become long-term, let alone permanent, arrangements. Ultimately, matters concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina should be resolved by its own people.

Fourthly, we must learn from history to prevent such tragedies from reoccurring. The General Assembly resolution designating the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica (General Assembly resolution 78/282) has sparked significant controversy within Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the relevant regional countries and Member States also expressing strong objections. The forceful advancing of follow-up options on the United Nations platform will only exacerbate ethnic tensions, hinder the process of reconciliation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbours in the region and undermine peace and stability in the Balkans and even across Europe.

China's position on the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been consistent and clear. We respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and respect its people's right to determine their own future. We encourage the three major ethnic groups to continue dialogue and consultation with the goal of promoting national development and enhancing the well-being of the people, thereby jointly safeguarding the country's political and social stability. China commends the constructive role played by countries in the region, such as Serbia and Croatia, in safeguarding security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomes the extension of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. China remains committed to developing friendly relations with all ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will continue to play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability in the country and in promoting regional security.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): Allow me to begin by welcoming His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to today's meeting. We also welcome the participation of the representatives of Croatia, Serbia and the European Union in this meeting.

In recent months, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been through political and constitutional challenges marked by rising tensions, institutional paralysis, radical rhetoric and the promotion of secessionist narratives. While the internal political situation remains under stress, it is a matter of relief that these tensions did not develop into a more serious situation affecting peace and calm in the country and on its borders.

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, coupled with the governance architecture and State institutions envisaged under this Agreement and the country's Constitution, remains the cornerstone for peace, stability and progress. The complex and tragic history of the region in the lead-up to the signing of the Agreement is not lost on any of us. We are therefore convinced that lasting peace, enduring stability and sustained progress and development for all the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be best achieved by adhering to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Agreement and the State's Constitution.

Pakistan enjoys warm and fraternal ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina and its people. We reiterate our resolute support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and firmly oppose any rhetoric or actions that, in any manner, seek to undermine it. We take note of the announcement of the holding of presidential elections in Republika Srpska. We hope that these elections will be held in a peaceful manner. We remain concerned about the use of inflammatory language to stoke tensions in the country. The region's tragic history is a reminder that national, ethnic and religious hatred, sowing discord and intolerance, can lead to horrific consequences. We therefore urge all political actors to exercise prudence and act responsibly.

As we have said in the past, Bosnia is a sovereign State and has the right to choose its own partnerships and paths towards integration in regional, political

and economic organizations. We support the country's aspirations in that regard. Constructive, forward-looking and inclusive dialogue among all political actors and entities will further advance the process of internal reforms. Pakistan voted in favour of the resolution that we have just adopted (resolution 2795 (2025)), extending the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We recognize the positive role of this mission in promoting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dialogue and cooperation based on mutual trust and accommodation will surely lead to a brighter future, with shared prosperity and enduring peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

Mr. Ibrahim (Somalia): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the Russian Federation for the able manner in which you have steered the work of the presidency of the Council this month.

We welcome the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also acknowledge the presence of the representatives of Serbia, Croatia and the European Union.

Somalia welcomes the Security Council's reauthorization of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea) for a period of 12 months. As part of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR-Althea plays a crucial role in supporting and stabilizing efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council's engagement on Bosnia and Herzegovina reflects a shared commitment to peace and stability in the Western Balkans. We recognize that while the General Framework Agreement for Peace remains the cornerstone of peace, the reporting period was marked by severe political and structural challenges. We strongly reaffirm our view that inclusive dialogue and consensus-building are vital for sustainable peace. We encourage all parties to use existing constitutional frameworks to address challenges through constructive engagement. The stabilization role of the European Union-led stabilization force continues to play a positive role in maintaining a secure environment conducive to dialogue and development.

My delegation would like to highlight three priorities. First, it is necessary to support the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, which remains the basis for stability. Secondly, inclusive dialogue that reflects the interests of all communities should be encouraged. Thirdly, constructive support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's development path, including its European aspirations, should be maintained.

The international community's role remains one of support and facilitation. Sustainable solutions must be reached through consensus among all stakeholders, with full respect for Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

In conclusion, my delegation reaffirms its commitment to working with all parties towards a peaceful, inclusive and multi-ethnic society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are confident that through constructive engagement and renewed respect for the General Framework Agreement for Peace, positive outcomes can be achieved.

Mr. Gadouri (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the representatives of Serbia, Croatia and the European Union.

Algeria welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2795 (2025), renewing the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR-Althea, for 12 months.

Our meeting today is taking place against the backdrop of ongoing political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, while attended by great challenges, also present opportunities to move towards the unity and integrity of the country. We would like to emphasize that the persistence of political differences and tensions will only adversely affect the country's endeavours to build political and economic structures, lead to further instability and widen the divisions between political actors. In this context, adherence to the provisions of the Constitution set forth in the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains the most feasible and effective way to achieve unity and maintain stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We also note with interest the situation faced by Republika Srpska, which plans to organize presidential elections on 23 November. We hope that they will give rise to a stable political landscape, to the benefit of the peoples of the entire region. It is of the utmost importance that the country's democratic process be safeguarded, in order to guarantee a peaceful transition, political participation by all, the strengthening of the institutional framework and the rule of law. In this regard, we would like to emphasize the following.

First, Algeria reaffirms that the Dayton Peace Agreement constitutes the central pillar and the mainstay of consensus, unity and peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of this Agreement, we call upon all political parties to work to remove any difficulties that the Agreement may face and to renew their commitment to its rules, including its annexes, and to respect for its principles, in order to promote and consolidate peace and stability in the country.

Secondly, my country urges all parties to refrain from any escalatory practices and from fuelling political tensions or using hate speech, in order to allow for the effective implementation of the Agreement, achieve its objectives and preserve the societal and institutional stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thirdly, Algeria once again calls for comprehensive and constructive dialogue to prevail and for frameworks of cooperation and mutual understanding to be valued as a means of bringing visions and positions closer together and strengthening trust between political parties and societies, as an effective and lasting approach that makes it possible to overcome any disparities or political deadlock in the country.

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm Algeria's unwavering commitment to fully supporting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Mr. Dharmadhikari (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the Security Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 2795 (2025), which renews the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 12 months. France also welcomes the presence of Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With this operation, the European Union has been performing a major role since 2004 in the promotion and maintenance of stability and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and throughout the region. Pursuant to the decision of the Security Council, it has been doing so on behalf of the international community, in accordance with the Dayton Peace Agreement.

As a witness to the Dayton Peace Agreement, France will continue to support the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that regard, we applaud the recent developments in the Republika Srpska entity. The repeal on 18 October of six secessionist laws by the Republika Srpska National Assembly and

the election of an interim president, pending the partial presidential election slated for 23 November, is an important step forward. These efforts to restore constitutional order must continue. Early presidential elections in Republika Srpska must be held in appropriate conditions.

This year, we are commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the signature of the Dayton Peace Agreement in Paris. Peace is there. The situation is stable, but it remains fragile. Thirty years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, the Bosnian people aspire to a European future. France and the member States of the European Union want to support them along that path. This is a shared horizon for the entire region. That horizon can bring them stability and a prosperous future. France is convinced that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with that of all the Western Balkans, is in the European Union. That is the message of the President of the French Republic, who, on Wednesday 29 October, met in Paris with the three members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos also participated in that meeting.

In order to make headway on the European path, continued work is needed to adopt the necessary measures, including the eight measures associated with the status of candidate country and the 14 key priorities. France welcomes the finalization by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the reform agenda that will enable the country to benefit from the growth plan for the Western Balkans. The forthcoming nomination of a chief negotiator and the enactment as soon as possible of the law on the courts and the law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council would demonstrate Bosnia and Herzegovina's willingness to make progress in the process of joining the European Union.

With regard to the mission of the High Representative, France recalls that this institution is stipulated under the Dayton Peace Agreement, with a major responsibility to implement the civilian component of the Agreement. That is why we support this institution. It is Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to the process of European reform that will make it possible to consider development in the institution's role, a development that was, in fact, planned according to the principles agreed several years ago.

France is committed towards the peace, security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It welcomes the positive developments of recent weeks and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to carry out the reforms that will enable it to make progress towards joining the European Union.

Mr. Žbogar (Slovenia): I would like to welcome His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would also like to welcome the representatives of Croatia, Serbia and the European Union (EU).

Bosnia and Herzegovina stands today at an important crossroads between renewed confidence in democratic institutions and the remaining risk of divisive rhetoric. In this context, recent developments in the Republika Srpska entity have shown that positive change is possible. The confirmation of Ms. Babić as interim president, preparations for early presidential elections and the annulment of several secessionist laws mark a step away from confrontation and a return to democratic norms and the rule of law. These decisions are welcome signs of political maturity that can rebuild trust among citizens and institutions.

Slovenia welcomes the unanimous renewal of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reaffirms the Security Council's unity in maintaining peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We reaffirm our commitment to the Dayton Agreement and to the efforts of the international community, including the Office of the High Representative.

Against this backdrop, I would like to highlight three points.

The first is the importance of preserving the unity of the Security Council and international institutions. The Council's unity on Bosnia and Herzegovina sends a strong message to the country, the region and beyond. We saw this clearly in the Council's press statement in March (SC/16033) — a welcome moment of unity that resonated positively both within the Chamber and across Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is worth underlining that, despite our differences, the Security Council agreed on what truly matters: Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity and multi-ethnic character are non-negotiable.

The second is the need for advancing reconciliation and strengthening democratic institutions. Reconciliation and institutional stability go hand in hand. Bosnia and Herzegovina must continue to invest in mutual trust, inclusive governance and accountability. The responsibility for the country's future rests with its leaders. Slovenia calls on the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to demonstrate the political will to overcome divisions.

And the third is building on the positive momentum towards Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU future. The country's path to the European Union is both an opportunity and a responsibility. The EU Council's decision to launch accession talks underscores the commitment to open doors. Now, the responsibility lies with Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue implementing reforms, strengthen its institutions and uphold European values.

In conclusion, the thirtieth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement should not only mark a remembrance of the past but also our reflections on the future of the country and its people. It is time for Bosnia and Herzegovina to step up and take full ownership of its future, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. For that future to take shape, the Security Council must remain united on the fundamentals: peace, sovereignty, reconciliation and dialogue. Such unity here can inspire unity within Bosnia and Herzegovina itself and help to advance our shared goal of a stable, democratic and prosperous country.

Ms. Shea (United States of America): I welcome His Excellency the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I also acknowledge the representatives of Serbia, Croatia and the European Union (EU).

The United States is committed to preserving stability and security in the Western Balkans. With this in mind, we welcome the Security Council's reauthorization of the mandate for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea). The unanimous adoption of this measure shows that the members of the Security Council recognize the important role that EUFOR-Althea plays in maintaining stability and security in the Western Balkans. Rooted in the Dayton Peace Agreement, EUFOR-Althea remains critical to supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We thank the EU for its contributions to, and leadership of, EUFOR-Althea. The United States remains committed to the Dayton Peace Agreement and the goal of a democratic, peaceful and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our discussion today takes place at an especially critical moment, as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to evolve. Stability and de-escalation must be the top priority. We continue to call on all parties to refrain from actions that could undermine stability. Over the past several years, Bosnia and Herzegovina has faced an extended and destabilizing political crisis. The United States stepped forward and led diplomatic action to defuse this situation. Over the past several months, we have worked deliberately and discreetly to secure de-escalation and provide space for greater stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context, we welcomed the steps taken by the Republika Srpska's National Assembly on 18 October to take legislative

action that set Bosnia and Herzegovina on a more stable footing. In response to these positive actions, we removed United States sanctions on Republika Srpska officials as a responsive measure to defuse the crisis and promote stability. These sanctions, like all United States sanctions, were not meant to be permanent. They were imposed in response to specific actions that contributed to the political crisis. The Republika Srpska National Assembly took significant steps to unwind these actions on 18 October.

The United States is no longer pursuing nation-building or heavy-handed international intervention. Now is the time for local solutions, led by local actors representing Bosnia and Herzegovina's three constituent peoples. These actions reflect a step in that direction and the spirit of United States policy. We call on all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take advantage of this opportunity for greater stability and to move away from a persistent state of crisis and instead to work to promote shared prosperity through compromise. The United States will continue to work with our partners to protect and advance American interests by supporting stability and progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina and throughout the region.

Ms. Lassen (Denmark): I would like to welcome to today's meeting His Excellency the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the representatives of Croatia, Serbia and the European Union.

As many have mentioned this morning, December will mark 30 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which ended the horrific war in Bosnia and Herzegovina — a milestone that reminds us how far this country has come. Thirty years on, we must renew our shared commitment to upholding the Peace Agreement and to ensuring that the hard-won peace remains lasting, inclusive and resilient for future generations.

Earlier this year, we witnessed a serious political and constitutional crisis unfold in Bosnia and Herzegovina, deriving from secessionist rhetoric and actions by Republika Srpska entity authorities. The Security Council looked on the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina with deep concern. So, let us be clear: actions that run counter to the Dayton Peace Agreement are unacceptable.

On a more positive note, in recent weeks, we have witnessed stabilizing developments. We welcome the decisions made by the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska entity, which have contributed to the de-escalation of the political situation. However, we underline the key importance of the authorities in the Republika Srpska entity to demonstrate a clear political will to move away from the remaining initiatives and legislation that run counter to the constitutional order and the European Union path of the country and which continue to be a source of concern for us. We call on all political actors to seize this opportunity to renew their commitment to genuine dialogue and to continue to pursue the path of de-escalation. Responsible rhetoric and actions by all leaders are key in this regard. We express our hope that the upcoming early presidential elections in the Republika Srpska entity will be conducted in a peaceful, transparent, fair and inclusive manner.

This is also a window of opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to renew its commitment to the path towards membership of the European Union, including appointing a chief negotiator and intensifying work on reforms without delay. There is no doubt that Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs in the European family. Accession negotiations opened one and a half years ago. Now, it is time to seize the moment for the benefit of the country's citizens. It requires commitment, focus and unity. In this respect, we welcome the recent submission of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Reform Agenda for the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans.

One lesson we have drawn from the recent political and constitutional crisis is that stability can never be taken for granted. We applaud the strong institutions that upheld

their responsibilities even under enormous political pressure. While we hope to see Bosnia and Herzegovina move beyond the need for a strong international presence, that moment has not yet arrived. Denmark welcomes today's unanimous adoption of resolution 2795 (2025), renewing the mandate of the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Denmark is proud to be among the contributing countries to the mission, as a partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to peace, stability and progress. We commend the mission for its vital work in upholding a safe and secure environment.

We would also like to extend our support to the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. We thank the High Representative for his latest report.

To conclude, let me reiterate Denmark's unwavering support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity as a single, united and multi-ethnic country.

Ms. MacNaughtan (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the renewal of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which continues to play a vital role in ensuring peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I thank Greece, as penholder, for its efforts on the text.

I would also like to thank High Representative Christian Schmidt for his latest report and welcome His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić in our meeting today, as well as the representatives of Serbia, Croatia and the European Union.

I will make three points.

First, the constitutional order and rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina must be upheld. The past year has been marked by the most significant political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 30 years, caused by attacks on the Constitution and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina by former President of Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik. We respect the decisions of Bosnia and Herzegovina's courts and call on all actors to uphold the rule of law and to show respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Holding timely presidential elections in Republika Srpska will provide an opportunity for formation of their new Government. We encourage a focus on constructive and cooperative politics, including between Bosnia and Herzegovina's two entities.

Secondly, the political crisis reinforces the ongoing vital and legitimate role of the High Representative and the importance of the Bonn powers, both of which have been endorsed by the Council in several Chapter VII resolutions. Selected by the Peace Implementation Council and not the United Nations Security Council, the High Representative is charged with upholding implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. We fully support the High Representative and, where necessary, the use of his executive powers.

Thirdly, the United Kingdom supports the Dayton Peace Agreement, which mandated one State, two entities and three constituent peoples. At the same time, we fully support Bosnia and Herzegovina's ambitions for Euro-Atlantic integration, as reflected in the will of the majority of its citizens. I welcome the recent adoption of the European Union Reform Agenda as the most efficient way to deliver long-term benefits for all Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens. We continue to support domestic responsibility and accountability.

Finally, the United Kingdom encourages all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to put aside their differences and demonstrate their political courage, working together towards a more stable and prosperous future for all citizens.

Mr. Kanu (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone welcomes the adoption of resolution 2795 (2025), renewing the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia

and Herzegovina. We support the role of the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we acknowledge the important role played by Greece in the adoption of resolution 2795 (2025).

I welcome the participation in the Chamber of His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the representatives of Croatia and Serbia, as well as the Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations.

We have taken note of the detailed report of Mr. Christian Schmidt, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 6 April 2025 through 15 October 2025. Sierra Leone acknowledges the important role of the Office of the High Representative in making difficult decisions, particularly at a critical time.

The progress that has been achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina reflects what is possible through national will, emphasizing cohesion and reconciliation, regional cooperation, sustained international engagement and an ethos of mutual respect, one that embraces diversity in pursuit of a shared future.

We commend the contribution of partners over the years, including the Quint and the European Union, as well as other regional actors supporting the implementation of peace agreements and processes.

As the thirtieth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement approaches, we are reminded that Bosnia and Herzegovina's complex political architecture, crafted to reflect and accommodate its diversity, must be upheld and preserved if peace and stability are to endure. We encourage political leaders at all levels to renew their commitment to a unifying vision of peace, unity and progress.

While recognizing the progress that has been made, current challenges call for sustained, constructive action. We offer the following three points.

First, we welcome the Council of Ministers' adoption of the Reform Agenda necessary for the European Union Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and related legislative reforms, and we note the ongoing review of the draft reform agenda by the European Commission. At the same time, we are concerned by the use of institutions, including judicial and administrative institutions, for actions that may be at variance with agreed peace and reform undertakings. Political differences and impasse across levels of Government may be slowing progress, as we note that key obligations, including implementation of the 5 plus 2 agenda and adoption of a State budget, require renewed attention to ensure the effective functioning of State institutions. We encourage all stakeholders to prioritize dialogue, cooperation and the faithful fulfilment of commitments.

Secondly, on institutional integrity, we note recurring debates around the role of the High Representative, as well as statements and actions by former President of Republika Srpska, Mr. Milorad Dodik. Such dynamics risk deepening divisions. We urge restraint from unilateral steps, respect for constitutional and lawful processes and constructive engagement to help diffuse tensions. We welcome external efforts aimed at supporting these objectives. With regard to political initiatives, including any proposed referendum, we stress the importance of careful consideration of their broader impact. The interests of the people, rather than those of individuals or parties, must remain paramount, alongside respect for decisions of constitutional and judicial institutions. Sierra Leone expresses concerns over reports of segregated learning practices in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also regret the disturbances following the 11 July 2025 civic commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide. Lasting reconciliation is advanced by respect, empathy and acknowledgement. Divisive rhetoric and provocations must have no place in the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thirdly, the long-term stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina rests on sound economic foundations. We note the recent positive growth trends but caution that heightened political tensions could fragment the economy, undermine investor confidence and dampen prospects for sustainable development. Just as we support Bosnia and Herzegovina's candidacy for accession to the European Union, we commend the European Union for its leadership and ongoing investment in growth and reform and recognize the continued work of the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We encourage broader initiatives that nurture trust, reconciliation, reparations and unity across communities.

In conclusion, investment in the social fabric, as well as in education, inclusion and intercommunity cohesion remains essential to Bosnia and Herzegovina's path of renewal. Pursued in ways that strengthen peace, this investment would also contribute to stability across the wider western Balkans.

Ms. Benn (Guyana): We welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the United Nations, and the representatives of Serbia and Croatia in today's meeting.

I acknowledge the contribution of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in executing its mandate in accordance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and take note of the contents of the report submitted on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guyana welcomes today's unanimous adoption of resolution 2795 (2025), which renewed the authorization of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea) for an additional 12 months. Guyana views the continued presence of the EUFOR-Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina positively and believes that it serves as a deterrent against potential instability. In this context, we take note of the temporary increase in the mission's troop numbers in March in response to rising political tensions, which has helped to assuage the security concerns of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains calm, Guyana remains concerned about the reports of challenges to the authority of the State, institutional obstructions and continued divisive rhetoric by political actors. These actions undermine the constitutional framework under the Dayton Peace Agreement and the rule of law and threaten the peace, security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country — tenets that are indispensable to Bosnia and Herzegovina's stability and progress. We reaffirm our respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We reiterate our call to all political leaders to prioritize the interests of all citizens by upholding the provisions enshrined in international law and the Dayton Peace Agreement. We also encourage all relevant stakeholders to act strictly in accordance with these provisions.

We have taken note of High Representative Schmidt's observations on the limited progress in implementing the 5 plus 2 agenda, which remains the established framework for the closure of the Office of the High Representative and is a crucial benchmark of Bosnia and Herzegovina's self-governance. We encourage all the relevant parties to accelerate their efforts through constructive dialogue and compromise in order to achieve the objectives and conditions outlined in the agenda. Guyana commends the adoption of the reform agenda by the Council of Ministers, which would allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to access funding under the European Union Growth Plan for the Western Balkans in key areas such as digital infrastructure, the green economy, education, private sector support and the rule of law. We view this as an important step towards EU integration and hope that it is reviewed positively by the European Commission.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which is a solid framework for reconciliation, peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While progress has been achieved, implementation of the Agreement has been uneven. This is an opportune moment for all the relevant parties to further analyse the shortcomings in implementation and bolster efforts to support the country's path towards lasting peace and stability. Central to these efforts is the inclusion of young people. We have taken note of the continued outflow of youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is imperative that they are incentivized to stay. This means equipping them with the tools necessary to contribute to building a society that is socially, economically, politically and culturally viable. Guyana stresses the importance of constructive intergenerational dialogue, whereby a culture of respect, accountability and inclusiveness is fostered, empowering the younger generation to innovate and contribute meaningfully to their country's growth.

We reaffirm our commitment to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urge the international community to remain steadfast in its support so as to foster an environment of shared prosperity in which the sovereignty of the country is respected.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Russian Federation.

We supported the adoption of the resolution that extended the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea) for a further year (resolution 2795 (2025)). We note that the EUFOR-Althea command is adopting a balanced stance and is refraining from interfering in the internal political affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We trust that the mission will continue to operate strictly in accordance with the approved mandate and that the European Union forces will play a stabilizing role in ensuring peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Today's meeting is of a special nature. It is being held on the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the initialling and signing of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, known as the Dayton Agreement. With profound concern, we are forced to note that this year has been marked by a crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina — one unprecedented in the entire post-Dayton period. The key role of the Security Council, which endorsed the Dayton Agreement through resolution 1031 (1995), remains more than relevant. This is already the fifth meeting of the Council to be held on the Bosnian issue in 2025, which undoubtedly attests to the chronic and systemic nature of the acute inter-ethnic problems and strife.

The current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is largely the result of the pernicious activities of certain Western countries, including those that committed themselves to advancing the post-conflict settlement. Instead of the encouragement of internal dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and the promotion of a quest for compromise solutions to pressing issues between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are witnessing an egotistical desire to keep an external grip on a sovereign country at any cost. To suit its own narrow self-interests, the West is, without hesitation, sacrificing years of international stabilization efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, dismantling the State architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina established in Dayton and eroding the national identity of the Bosnian peoples, upon whom alien cultural values are being imposed. This dangerous policy, geared towards eroding the intricate Dayton system of balancing the interests of three equal constituent peoples and two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina through broad constitutional powers, has a pronounced anti-Serb bias. Bosnian Croats also find themselves on an unequal footing, being denied their right to legitimate representation in the governing bodies.

Under the pretext of purported State-building and the notorious operations of the bureaucratic apparatus in the pan-Bosnian governing institutions, a gross

violation of the peace agreement is taking place, namely, the creation of unlawful, unconstitutional formulas for the adoption and implementation of decisions by representatives of only one of the three constituent peoples in order to pursue Western interests in the country. The instrumentalization and politicization of the tragedy in Srebrenica are a striking case in point. Attempts, under various far-fetched pretexts, to lay the blame for all Bosnian turmoil on the Republika Srpska do not withstand criticism. The Serbs' mature vision for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which excludes the notorious external protectorate, and their willingness to assume joint responsibility, alongside the Bosniaks and the Croats, for the country's destiny is at odds with Western capitals' plans for the Balkans. It has come to the point that the electoral will of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being reshaped by the judicial and electoral bodies, which are no longer independent, and pressure is being exerted on those who disagree with the external diktat through sanctions, threats, political repression and persecution. The pinnacle of such a neocolonial practice was reached when German citizen Christian Schmidt was pushed into the post of High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, contrary to existing procedure and without the Council's consent. We would like to stress that the Security Council is the sole body authorized to approve a High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we do not recognize Mr. Schmidt as such.

Mr. Schmidt himself has created a monstrous legal mess. In an attempt to justify his entirely unjustifiable stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this foreigner started imposing so-called solutions on the people of another country. The fact that the pseudo-High Representative is completely divorced from reality can be clearly seen in his so-called report, which aims to create a false impression of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to shift responsibility for the crisis to Republika Srpska, which, in turn, is indeed defending the Dayton foundations.

A blatant manifestation of the egregious disrespect of the West for Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent European State is not just seen in the activities of Christian Schmidt, but also in the operations of the Office of the High Representative. Moreover, it has long been drawn into the dependency of local stakeholders, who are avoiding dialogue and seeking solutions precisely because someone else will do it for them. This is confirmed by the letter to the Security Council from former and current Bosniak political actors in defence of Schmidt.

Addressing the question of the prompt termination of the activity of the Office of the High Representative is long overdue. Its activity is incompatible with the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that connection, we demand that Western countries immediately stop such experiments and cease the practice of interfering in the internal affairs of this country. At the same time, we note the dangerous nature of the belligerent anti-Serb rhetoric emanating from certain actors in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its representatives in Bosnian institutions. Threats of armed escalation are unacceptable.

However, the leadership of the Serb entity has been demonstrating a rational mindset and has repeatedly put forward initiatives to establish a constructive intra-Bosnian dialogue. Banja Luka's principled positions vis-à-vis the current situation are set out in its most recent report, which we circulated to the Security Council at the request of our Serbian-Bosnian colleagues. We assume that the members of the Council have carefully read it, as this is an opportunity to objectively analyse the root causes and consequences of the crisis that has been mentioned.

We are convinced that Dayton is the only possible basis for a settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only the Dayton-endorsed principles for the functioning of this State on the basis of the equality of the three constituent peoples and the two entities, the elimination of the Office of the High Representative and upholding the right to development for the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina can grant Bosnian

citizens peaceful coexistence and prosperity. Any attempts to distort the Dayton foundations will have catastrophic consequences for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire Western Balkan region. The Security Council has an obligation to prevent such a scenario from developing.

For its part, the Russian Federation, as one of the guarantor States of the 1995 Peace Agreement, stands ready to engage constructively in order to provide for a genuine post-conflict resolution Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Komšić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the beginning, I want to express my gratitude for your decision to extend the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR-Althea. I thank the Permanent Representatives of the countries on the Council, and I extend special thanks to the Permanent Representative of Greece.

My address today, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will mostly be about the past six months, as described in the report of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. As can be seen from the High Representative's report, the past six-month period in Bosnia and Herzegovina was marked by a series of political crises predominantly connected with the judicial process against Milorad Dodik and the judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued on that occasion, which had its legal basis in the amendments to the criminal code imposed by the High Representative. The goal of these political crises, expressed through the creation of parallel political, judicial and other institutions, was to create the conditions for the secession of Republika Srpska from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Christian Schmidt's imposition of certain decisions has been used as a pretext to induce crises. However, the true cause of the crises is something else: it is the long-term intention to carry out the secession of a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina by inducing crises. Such politics, implemented by Dodik and the institutions of Republika Srpska, are currently being halted by the involvement of international actors. However, I am certain that the activities aimed at bringing about the secession of a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue. In the meantime, this kind of situation and development has opened debates, both within Bosnia and Herzegovina and among the international community actors who are present in country, about the future of the Office of the High Representative and the need for the Office to exist.

The attacks against the Office of the High Representative that we are witnessing are being presented as attacks against Christian Schmidt as the individual serving the function of the High Representative. The ultimate target of these attacks is not the current High Representative. Their ultimate goal is to eliminate the Office of the High Representative from political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By eliminating the Office, an entire annex of the Dayton Peace Agreement would be eliminated. That would, in fact, endanger the Peace Agreement and potentially even cause the entire Agreement to collapse.

I am one of those people who has severely criticized both Schmidt and his actions. In the service of truth, it is also my duty to say that not all of the decisions made and implemented by Schmidt were primarily his doing. He has made them in full coordination with some of the representatives of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and quite often, he has pulled certain moves upon the insistence and request of those same international actors. His actions — in addition to the politics of certain international actors, which had a crucial impact on Schmidt — were quite often focused on strengthening and representing one political option, along with the interests of a neighbouring country.

Once again, I must recall and emphasize that the existence of the Office of the High Representative as an institution is a part of the Dayton Peace Agreement and is regulated specifically by Annex X of the Agreement. The powers of the Office of the High Representative are listed in article V of Annex X of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Based on that article, the so-called Bonn powers were later introduced. In 2008, the Peace Implementation Council made a decision on the conditions, set forth in the so-called 5 plus 2 agenda, that have to be met in order to close the Office of the High Representative. Therefore, all formal requirements for the existence and operation of the Office of the High Representative exist. At the same time, there is not a single formal requirement for the closing of the Office or its displacement outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because the conditions from 2008, the 5 plus 2 conditions, have not been met. The only thing that exists in that sense is the political desire of certain local individuals, and some foreign actors as well, to eliminate the Office of the High Representative. If that were to happen, it would be a blow to the current structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina and could potentially endanger the Peace Agreement itself and stir up new and bigger problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

Let me remind members that the current structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina is not a product of a social or political process or internal agreement — it is a product of a Peace Agreement with which no party in Bosnia and Herzegovina is satisfied. Even the neighbouring countries that have participated in the war and the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina are not satisfied with it. The current concept of how Bosnia and Herzegovina functions — which the current High Representative wrongly calls the ethnic balance of power, for which a more accurate name would be the ethnic imbalance of power — is in itself quite conflicting. After all, the 30 years that have passed since the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina unfortunately prove this almost every day. Abolishing the Office of the High Representative, displacing it and weakening its powers as defined by the article V, annex 10, of the Dayton Peace Agreement would in fact be giving up on the Dayton Peace Agreement altogether. It is not hard to see what the consequences of this would be.

Given all those things, I have an obligation to try and propose the solution for the current situation regarding the fate of the Office of the High Representative and the stabilization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In my opinion, there are two options. One is to appoint a new High Representative and keep the institution of the Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina with all its powers in line with article V, annex 10, of the Dayton Peace Agreement. This is a short-term option. The other option is more complex, but it is long-term and lasting. The essence of that option is in the need for Bosnia and Herzegovina to truly become a democratic country, abolish the discrimination of its citizens in the area of human rights, give up the conflicting concept of an ethnic balance or imbalance of power and protect individual human rights and the principles of the rule of law, thereby making Bosnia and Herzegovina ready for European Union integration.

This is why I wish to make an appeal to all those members here who wish well to Bosnia and Herzegovina to give us their support to start a transition period, during which we in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with their help, will carry out all the necessary constitutional and other reforms in order to make Bosnia and Herzegovina into a modern democratic State with the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The time for the transition and evolution of the political and legal system in Bosnia and Herzegovina has come, and we should, without delay, start it as soon as possible. Doing anything else is playing dangerously with the security and stability not just of Bosnia and Herzegovina but of the entire region and possibly even the European continent.

It was my duty to tell members this today and in this place.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to Mr. Lambrinidis.

Mr. Lambrinidis: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Türkiye, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, as well as Norway and Armenia, align themselves with this statement.

I also wish to welcome His Excellency Mr. Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the representatives of Croatia and Serbia to today's debate.

The European Union welcomes the renewal of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea) by the Security Council. EUFOR-Althea continues to play a key role in supporting the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all its citizens. This operation demonstrates the European Union's long-lasting commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU takes note of the recent developments in the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, which contribute to the de-escalation of the political situation. The EU underlines the key importance of the authorities in the Republika Srpska entity to demonstrate a clear political will to move away from those remaining initiatives and legislation that run counter to the constitutional order and the EU path of the country and continue to be a source of concern for the EU.

Following the termination of the mandate of the President of the Republika Srpska entity, the EU looks forward to the early Presidential elections in Republika Srpska on the basis of the State-level election law and the decisions of the Central Election Commission. The EU emphasizes that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, constitutional order — including Constitutional Court decisions — and international personality of Bosnia and Herzegovina need to be respected. In this context, the EU urges all political actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina to refrain from and renounce provocative divisive rhetoric and actions.

(*spoke in French*)

The European Union reiterates the importance of continued cooperation among international actors and expresses its support for the mission of the High Representative and his Office.

(*spoke in English*)

Following the European Council decision to open EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2024, the EU urges all political actors to renew the country's focus on progressing on the EU path and to intensify efforts to deliver EU reforms, taking all relevant steps. The EU notes the recent submission of the reform agenda to the European Commission as a welcome development, aimed at benefiting Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens.

The European Union reiterates its unequivocal commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU perspective as a single, united and sovereign country.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Serbia.

Mr. Ilić (Serbia): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your very successful presidency of the Security Council for the month of October and to wish every success to Sierra Leone in discharging these duties in the coming month.

Following the recent discussion on the situation in Kosovo and Metohija (see S/PV.10019), Serbia welcomes this opportunity to once again reaffirm its consistent

commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Thus, at the outset, allow me to underline what is self-evident: Serbia remains firmly and unequivocally devoted to the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the framework of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Serbia supports Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single State composed of two entities and three constituent peoples in accordance with its Constitution. We also welcome the extension of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR-Althea, as it has an important role in supporting stability and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For Serbia, relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina are one of the pillars of regional stability and prosperity. We are committed to strengthening trust, dialogue and cooperation with the institutions in Sarajevo, while maintaining open, transparent and mutually beneficial relations with both entities — the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina — in full accordance with the Dayton framework. The Dayton Peace Agreement remains the cornerstone of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in our entire region. It ended the tragic conflict, established democratic institutions and opened the European perspective for the country. While there is always room to improve, these achievements must not be taken for granted. The Dayton Agreement continues to be the viable basis for a stable and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Serbia has consistently underlined that dialogue and consensus among the two entities and the three constituent peoples remain the only legitimate and sustainable path for resolving internal issues and advancing shared aspirations. Externally imposed solutions — those that disregard consensus and disturb the constitutional balance established by the Dayton Agreement — are counterproductive and potentially detrimental to the stability of the country and the region as a whole. Regrettably, the past observation period has once again demonstrated this lesson. Certain actions undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina have replaced democratic legitimacy with political imposition, while claiming to ensure functionality. Such interventions have not strengthened institutions. They have deepened divisions, eroded trust and created an atmosphere of political arbitrariness.

A further concern lies in the selective approach that many political actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted towards the actions of the High Representative. Their positions shift not according to principle but convenience. Let me illustrate. In this very Chamber not long ago, a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that Mr. Schmidt had violated Annex 10 of the Dayton Agreement and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina by changing the election law weeks before the vote and again on election night, and by amending the Constitution of one of the entities, although that is not within his jurisdiction. In criticizing Mr. Schmidt's conduct, he referred to multiple legal standards, rulings of European and international courts, the Venice Commission's Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — all integral parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitutional order. He presented, in fact, a solid legal argument.

Yet, when political expediency demands it, such principles are conveniently set aside. A case in point is that we have recently witnessed a situation in which a democratically elected president of one of the entities was removed from office for signing into law bills duly adopted by the parliament of that same entity. This was done based on the High Representative's imposed amendments to the criminal code, which, once they had come into effect, were retroactively applied. Before letting this political and legal absurdity sink in, I must note that the same actors who previously

criticized the High Representative's overreach now praise his latest decisions as proof of the rule of law.

This brings us to the core of the problem, which is twofold. First, two separate acts that are each legally questionable and politically harmful do not, when combined, produce a positive outcome. They merely accumulate, reinforcing a pattern of actions that undermines democratic legitimacy and creates the perception of arbitrary, viceroy-like authority. Secondly, much of the political discourse on Bosnia and Herzegovina has reduced all of the country's problems to one political figure. Since that person is no longer in office, one might assume that all problems have been resolved. But this begs the question: is that truly the case?

Unfortunately, beyond this institutional debate lies a deeper political and societal challenge. The challenge lies in the continued failure to reach basic consensual denominators that should underpin the functionality of the system. The absence of such consensus manifests in many ways, but it is the root cause that must be addressed. In this context, it is worth noting the persistent tendency within the political establishment in Sarajevo to interpret democracy through a majority-centric lens, seeking to translate demographic dominance into political control. In a complex, multi-ethnic State, such a model is neither democratic nor sustainable.

Again, to illustrate the point, Mr. Komšić, in his recent address to the General Assembly, lamented the activities of that part of the international community that, in various ways, seeks to preserve an incidental political system in which a minority governs the majority, thus destroying one of the fundamental principles of democracy. Those were the words of a presidency member who, as noted in this very Chamber — and not by Serbia — was elected by the more numerous non-Croat voters, who voted strategically to get into the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina both a Bosniak representative and the Croatian representative that they wanted. Equally regrettable is that the same majority-centric approach remains rooted in divisive wartime rhetoric, continuing to label entire communities as "aggressors" within their own homeland. Such rhetoric deepens divisions instead of fostering reconciliation. It stands in the way of the cohesion essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to evolve into an effective and forward-looking State.

Serbia will continue to advocate for dialogue, respect for the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and adherence to the Dayton Peace Agreement as the foundation of peace. We welcome the recent efforts by President Trump's Administration, which have led to positive developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At a moment when Bosnia and Herzegovina stands at the threshold of a new political chapter, we are convinced that the political representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through responsible dialogue and compromise, can find solutions that serve the interests of all peoples and ensure progress for the entire country. We share with Bosnia and Herzegovina the vision of a region anchored in peace, prosperity and integration into the European Union.

Serbia's own stability and development are inseparable from those of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Looking ahead, Serbia will remain a reliable and constructive partner, supporting initiatives that foster stability, economic growth, regional cooperation and integration into the European Union.

To conclude, the Dayton Agreement did not distribute power; it distributed responsibility. When that responsibility is shared, stability follows naturally. When it is replaced by one-sidedness, mistrust returns.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Ćurić Hrvatinić (Croatia): Croatia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union on behalf of its member States, and I would also like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

We welcome the extension of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which continues to play a crucial role in safeguarding stability and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year, we mark three decades since the Dayton Peace Agreement and the Split declaration — milestones that paved the way for peace after years of conflict. The Split declaration of July 1995, signed by Croatian President Tudman and Bosniak President Izetbegović, formalized terms of defence cooperation against aggression and thus made an essential contribution to ending the war.

We regret that during the past year there has been an ongoing deep political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such matters should be resolved as soon as possible through democratic dialogue and the participation of all relevant stakeholders and their legitimate representatives.

We call on all in Bosnia and Herzegovina to renounce divisive rhetoric and to fully respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country, the principle of equality of all constituent peoples, as well as the rule of law and fundamental rights, and to promote reconciliation. Acts undertaken against the constitutional order are unacceptable. The Dayton Peace Agreement, as the foundation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitutional architecture, remains the cornerstone of peace and stability.

This moment also offers an opportunity to address a long-standing issue that continues to undermine Bosnia and Herzegovina's democratic development, namely the erosion of the principle of equality among the constituent peoples. When this principle is disregarded, genuine dialogue and trust become impossible. Only by ensuring the full and equal representation of all three constituent peoples can the country achieve lasting political stability and a truly functional democracy.

A fair and representative electoral system is thus essential. Under the current framework, electoral engineering deprives Croats of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the right to elect their legitimate representative to the presidency. Such a situation undermines trust and fuels division. Amending the election law to guarantee fair participation and legitimate results must therefore be treated as a matter of utmost urgency, especially ahead of the general elections scheduled for October 2026.

We hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will refocus on reforms and its European agenda. European integration remains the best path to stability, prosperity and development for all of its people. As the only EU member State bordering Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia warmly supports its progress towards EU membership. Through our European partnership, we assist in strengthening institutions and administrative capacities, ensuring a coherent and successful accession process and an irreversible path towards full membership.

Croatia's support has been long-standing and tangible, from providing refuge and humanitarian aid during the 1990s, when Croatia sheltered more than half a million refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and created the preconditions for the Peace Agreement, to today's cooperation in development, education, culture, healthcare and emergency relief. Croatia remains a steadfast and reliable partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most recently, Croatia allocated 9.5 million euros to support programmes and provided a further 10 million euros in emergency aid following the 2024 floods, including for rescue operations and infrastructure repair. Through these efforts too, Croatia reaffirms its enduring solidarity and commitment to a stable, functional and European Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina has requested the floor to make a further statement. I wish to remind the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as any other delegation wishing to take the floor for a further statement, that each delegation will be given this opportunity once.

I now give the floor to the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Lagumdžija (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I will be brief. I thought that those of us from the region had learned the lessons from previous Security Council meetings. I salute the statement by the representative of Croatia and am not responding to it.

With all due respect to the representative of Serbia, I think that this is unacceptable — what we heard last time, in different wording, from others, I now hear from him: questioning, again, of the legitimacy and legality of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed in a very improper manner in this Chamber. With all due respect, counting voters by their blood, ethnicity, race or religion is not only contrary to human rights and the constitutional order established by the Dayton Peace Agreement, of which we are all so proud, but actually contrary to the very principles upon which this building was built. I therefore strongly condemn the way in which my colleague questioned the legitimacy and legality of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who was elected by the votes of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with our Constitution and the Peace Agreement and, obviously, not according to the will of some people from neighbouring countries who want to meddle in and be part of our future in a negative way.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.