

Agenda 2030 in Bosnia and Herzegovina 8th edition of the 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country at the crossroads of south and southeast Europe, located in the Western Balkan Peninsula. Bosnia and Herzegovina borders Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia.
- Total Area: 52,280 km²
- Capital and largest city: Sarajevo
- Population: 3,531,159 (2013 census)
 3,443,000 (2022 estimate)
- GDP: 22.57 billion USD (2021)
- GDP per capita: 6,916 USD (2021)







Country Context

- Upper middle-income country with EU membership aspirations (candidacy status expected in December 2022)
- Hard to obtain a common vision on the internal governing arrangements and the future of the country
- Complex and asymmetric governing and decision-making structures derived from the Dayton Peace Accords (Annex IV) and based on a consensus of three constitutive peoples
- Central government with very limited competencies, two highly autonomous entities, 10 cantons in one entity with substantial competencies, one separate administrative district
- Five levels of governance, 5 presidents (3 at state level and 2 at entity level), 14 administrative jurisdictions, 14 primeministers, and more than 150 ministries and institutions
- Office of the High Representative (OHR) embedded in the constitution with the mandate to verse implementation of civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords

Sustainable Development Goals





Address by Mr. Dragan Covic Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina September 2015



Address by Mr. Bakir Izetbegovic Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina September 2016

Commitment of BiH towards SDGs by both Chairs addressing the UN Assembly



Agenda 2030 in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH)

- Provides a **global, impartial and apolitical platform** for convening various political, governing and other stakeholders in BiH to discuss sustainable development challenges of common interest.
- Governments at all levels in BIH recognize the inherent potential of Agenda 2030 an **opportunity for improvement of social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the country.**
- Agenda 2030 considered a driver of change for BiH in many ways –a unique chance for a holistic approach to development, as well as an opportunity for the governments at all levels to work together, learn from each other and to establish strong and open partnerships.
- BiH embarked on its participatory and exploratory 2030 journey in late 2016: through 2017 and 2018, with support of the UN, the governments focused on establishing working and coordination structures, preparing analytical backgrounds and launching awareness raising and citizens' engagement campaigns in early shaping the country's 2030 vision.
 - Over 100 workshops...
 - Thousands of people engaged...
 - Prioritizing SDGs and Targets towards creating a joint 2030 vision.
 - Creating solutions to burning development issues







THE SDGS FRAMEWORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



The SDGs Framework in BiH

- formally adopted by all levels of government in April 2021
- provides the first country-wide vision on sustainable development in over a decade
- establishes an inclusive institutional arrangement for its coordinated implementation co-chaired by UN and BiH – SDGs Council
- defines the country vision 2030, key development pathways, accelerators and drivers, linked with domesticated SDG targets and indicators with baselines and target values.
- creates a common framework to address existing and new challenges, through which the governments at all levels and the society in BiH strive to contribute to accomplishing the SDGs.
- serves as a unique development agenda in the country that ties together Agenda 2030, the EU accession process and domestic development priorities:



SDG Framework in BiH: Development Pathways





SDG Framework in BiH: Development Pathways (II)



SUSTAINABLE GOALS

THE SDGS FRAMEWORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



- Key development accelerators and drivers are proposed within each development pathway as actions points towards the achievement of the SDGs.
- Linkage with specific targets and indicators to enable monitoring and reporting.
- Baseline, mid-term (2023) and final (2030) values for all indicators.

December 2020





SUSTAINABLE GOALS

THE SDGS FRAMEWORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Implementation of the SDGs Framework in BiH

- Operationalization of the SDG Framework through its mainstreaming into national and sub-national development strategies (ongoing).
- SDGs-aligned development strategies for the first time linked with midterm and annual institutional plans and budgets, thus informing the allocation of public funds.
- Current financing from traditional resources insufficient for progressive achievement of Agenda 2030 - ongoing discussions with multiple stakeholders (governments, private sector, financial institutions, CSOs) on setting up long term directions and partnerships for sustainable development financing in BIH (SDGs Financing Framework).
- **Positioning of the SDGs Council** a coordination and monitoring platform for future effective SDGs implementation.
- Reinforcing SDGs localization.





2019 Voluntary Review (VNR)

- In addition to underlining the commitment of governments in BIH to jointly work on the achievement of SDGs, the VNR document addressed a number of important aspects:
 - Current state of play per individual SDGs
 - Domestication of Agenda 2030 via the SDG Framework
 - SDGs localization
 - LNOB principle
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Private sector engagement
 - The need for further fostering of sustainable development partnerships with civil society, academia and other stakeholders.



BEVELOPMENT GOALS

VOLUNTARY REVIEW

Implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Voluntary Review (VNR)

- We learned through the process learning by doing.
- Early engagement of various stakeholders does not only help raising awareness on Agenda 2030 but also creates ownership and spill-over effects (e.g. SDG localization).
- It makes planning and reporting processes (such as VNR) easier – stakeholders are more ready to provide substantive contribution.
- Avoiding politization, addressing common challenges while keeping development issues at the core of the process and the content is crucial for success.





Next (VNR)

- Planned for 2023.
- An opportunity to review achievements towards the SDGs and make necessary adjustments.
- To be coordinated by the SDGs Council through envisaged engagement platforms with CSOs, private sector, local governments, academia and other stakeholders.
- Possibly consider piloting/supporting local governments in preparing local VNRs.



SDGs localization

- The VNR underlines the importance of SDGs localization and recognizes the City of Bijeljina as a front runner in the SDGs localization process.
- Bijeljina was the first local administration that has aligned its development strategy with the SDGs and the SDG targets, engaging citizens in planning and implementing specific actions aimed at creating sustainable and inclusive community and improving overall quality of life of its citizens.
- The examples and good practices from the City of Bijeljina are being further promoted and shared as an increased number of local governments in BIH embark on SDG localization processes.
- There are ongoing efforts within the SDG Council and the UN to support further SDG localization, also through introducing awards for best performing local governments in implementing Agenda 2030.



Private sector engagement

- A call for the **first SDGs Business Pioneers Award** was issued in 2019 inviting businesses that create decent jobs and pilot decarbonization processes to apply for the award in two categories: 'People and Resources' and 'Environment'.
 - → 92% increase in number of applications in 2020; Evaluation methodology based on GRI standards;
 - → Application process serve as a template for annual sustainability reporting for companies;
- Annual SDG Business Week that focuses on the promotion of the SDGs in the private sector. It includes partnership events, B2B meeting and webinars.
- SDG Accelerator for SMEs SDG Innovation Fund SME Decarbonization Challenge – Green Recovery Pilots
 - → Piloting sustainable innovation as a basis for creating a broader understanding of how companies can work towards social and environmental sustainability; A model that can inspire companies to start integrating SDGs into their businesses.

