



# Agenda 2030 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

## **8th edition of the 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum**

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of the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina



# 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 km<sup>2</sup>
- 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 prime-ministers, 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**







## THE SDGS FRAMEWORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



December 2020

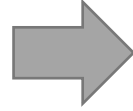
# The SDGs Framework in BiH

- 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:**



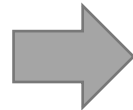
# SDG Framework in BiH: Development Pathways

**Good Governance and  
Public Sector  
Management**



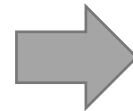
Building an open, transparent, efficient and effective public sector capable of ensuring the rule of law

**Smart Growth**



Transforming innovative ideas into products and services that can lead to creating highly paid jobs and high growth, while protecting natural capital and decreasing inequalities

**Society of Equal  
Opportunities**



Enhancing social and health protection systems, access to education, training and labor market to better protect those that face the risk of poverty and vulnerability

Recognizing human capital as key to development and implementing policies that contribute to human capital strengthening

Achieving the SDGs will not be possible if most vulnerable and poorest continue to be left behind and do not benefit from development progress





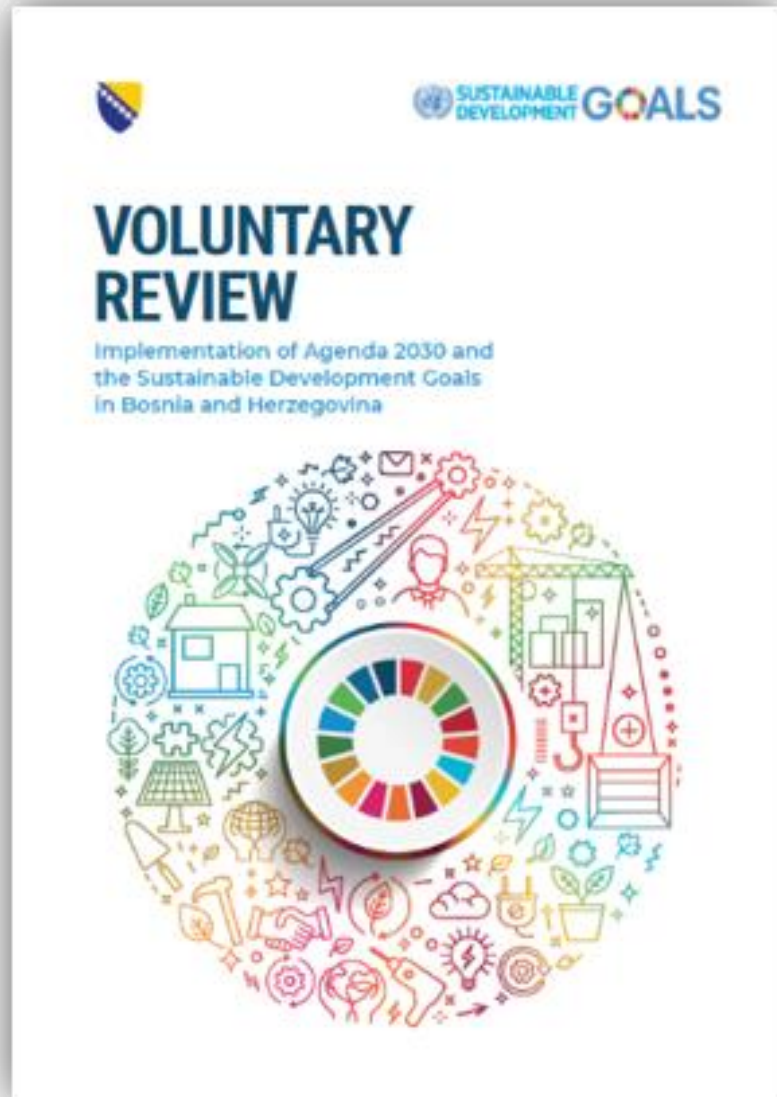




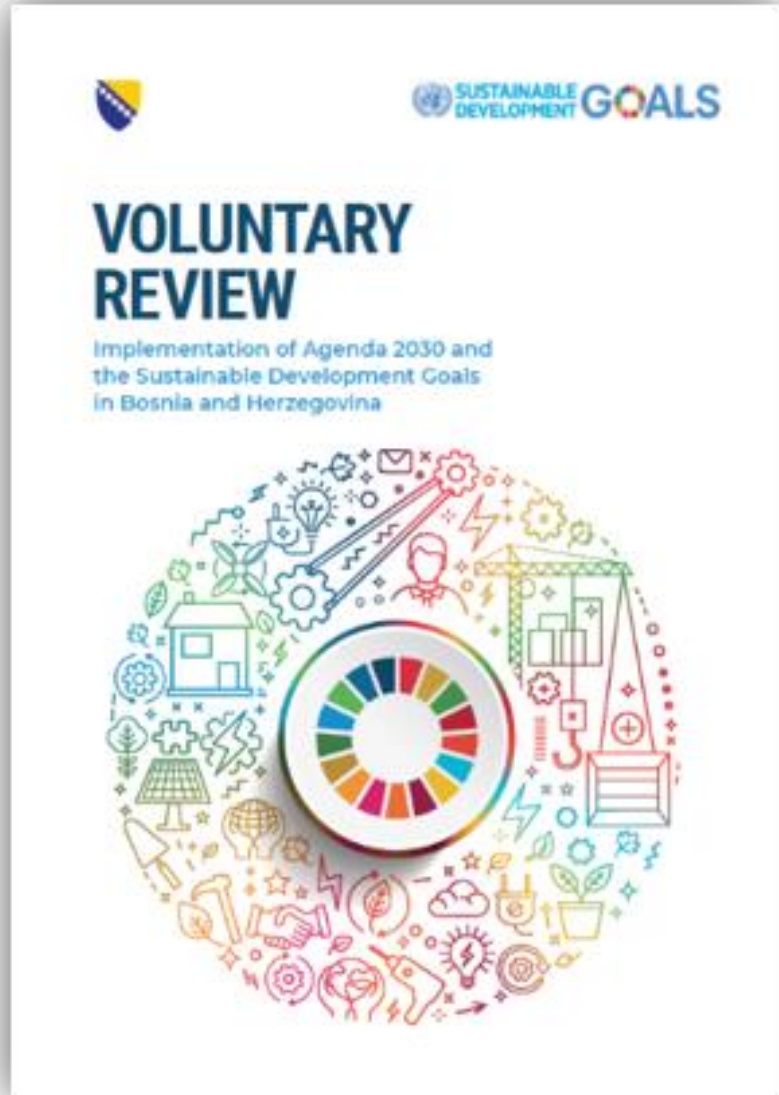
# 2019 Voluntary Review (VNR)

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- 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.







# Next (VNR)

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- 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.

