

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS COORDINATION FORUM (DCF)
MINUTES OF MEETING, JUNE 12TH, 2023

Participants

Ms Dusanka Basta, Assistant to the Minister, BiH MoFT and Ms Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator, The United Nations in BiH (**Meeting Chairs**)

Donor/IFIs representatives:

Ms Ingrid Macdonald, UN
Mr Aris Seferovic, UN
Ms Steliana Nedera, UNDP
Ms Rownak Khan, UNICEF
Mr Sinisa Sesum, UNESCO
Ms Laura Lungarotti, IOM
Ms Ema Morley, UNDP
Ms Ela Challenger, USAID
Mr Peter Cronin, USAID
Ms Nagashima Mana, JICA
Ms Naida Huskanovic, JICA
Mr Gianluca Vannini, EUD
Ms Sandrine Friscia, EIB
Ms Salihagic Jasmina, KfW
Mr Daniel Stinsky, Embassy of Germany
Ms Öztürk Deniz, Embassy of Germany
Mr Edward Munn, UK
Mr Mirza Memic, UK
Mr Hakon Kristensen Moe, Embassy of Norway
Mr Adin Ibisevic, Embassy of Norway
Ms Antonija Anić, Embassy of Croatia
Ms Siroco Messerli, Embassy of Switzerland
Ms Eva Smedberg, Embassy of Sweden
Mr Andrew Jewel, IMF
Ms Vesna Sandzaktarevic, Slovak Republic
Ms Rachel Ganem, EU4Justice
Mr Lemoine Mathieu, OSCE

Government representatives:

Ms Dusanka Basta, BiH MoFT
Mr Zoran Danilovic, BiH MoFT
Ms Bruna Kjuder, BiH MoFT
Mr Vedran Knezovic, BiH MoFT
Mr Ivor Peric, BiH MoFT
Ms Tea Milovic, BiH MoFT
Mr Muhamed Hasanovic, BiH MoFT
Ms Anesa Habota, BiH MoFT
Ms Elda Hodzic Isovica, MoFTER
Ms Maja Peric, RS MF
Ms Iva Grubescic, BiH MoJ
Mr Adnan Mujkic, BiH MoJ
Ms Aida Daguda, CPDC
Ms Aneta Raic, PARCO
Mr Senad Lulo, DEI

● Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome and opening remarks**
- **United Nations - Overview of the United Nations and Bosnia and Herzegovina Partnership - 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)**
- **Tour de table – Main current and planned activities (DCF participants)**
- **Closing remarks**

● AD1: Welcome and opening remarks

Ms Basta, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury welcomed all colleagues and DCF members to the DCF meeting. She noted It's a pleasure to co-chair the meeting with her colleague, Ms Macdonald, the UN Resident Coordinator in BiH and announced that other colleagues, heads from UN agencies are also present at today's meeting, Ms Nedera from UNDP, Ms Rownak from UNICEF, Mr Sesum from UNESCO and Ms Lungarotti from IOM. Today's meeting is a great opportunity to hear the presentation from Ms Macdonald, Mr Seferovic and their colleagues on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Ms Basta, then gave the floor to the meeting co-chair, Ms Macdonald,

Ms Macdonald, thanked for the welcome and noted that today's discussion is very important and timely discussion because this year for the UN as well as for all present member states and international organizations sitting around the table, is a half way point in terms of the 2030 Agenda. In regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN is deeply concerned that they are off track in terms of the global commitment and Bosnia and Herzegovina is also affected by this. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, there is record inflation, issues regarding supply chains, energy prices escalating, etc. This has impact not only on the countries around the world, but also has proportional impact on those who are most vulnerable and those most marginalized. So, in terms of the partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UN focus is to provide support to acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. In this context, today the UN will present their Framework Agreement with BiH which was signed in 2021 following 2 years of consultations, by her as the Resident Coordinator and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It represents the commitment in terms of the UN System to work together, coherently and cooperatively and support the priorities set out in that document, which will be presented later by Mr Seferovic. Ms Macdonald encouraged all to also have a look at the UN Common Country Analysis, which was regularly updated and again is a requirement of the member states. The Common Country Analysis provides an excellent analysis in terms of the current state of play and various vulnerabilities and other areas that are relevant for their partnership with BiH and also with all present at the meeting. She added that this year BiH is putting forward its 2nd Voluntary National Review, thus making the country a global leader. Actually, in the partnership between the UN and BiH there is a lot of progress and there is a lot of positive work that is moving forward at this moment. Voluntary National Review identifies where are the remaining challenges of deep concern, which arise across the world, the concerns they have regarding the SDGs being off track. But it also provides the opportunity for all to have a look at that and how they can contribute together. In terms of the SDGs in BiH, for the UN this is a true partnership that has been emphasised by all of the principles of the UN SG and all of the principles of the agencies sitting around the table, in terms of their commitment around ensuring that no one is left behind as the world moves forward in terms of its development. And if this development is sustainable, it contributes to peace, it contributes to prosperity, health and welfare of the planet. This could be seen in full of the priorities that are identified, and each one of the representatives present at the meeting from the UN Team, actually represents one of the key priorities, they cheer and lead the work across the UN System, across 18 agencies funds and programs, to ensure they are coherent and living up to the expectations. They will present some tangible examples in terms what has been achieved. Ms Macdonald then pointed out to the hand out on the table which provide in more details the Highlights of the UN development system reform. Every year there is a Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) where members of the UN GA review the coherence of effectiveness and funding of UN development programs. The QCPR sets out the requirements under GA and eco-soc in terms of the development assistance reform, which was recently presented in New York and there is a variety of documents including the Secretary General detailed report on eco-soc where BiH is referenced as well, and also Deputy Secretary's Report on the development system reform. Ms Macdonald also informed that now the UN is able to monitor and report on their tangible commitments in terms of how they are moving forward together in order to strengthen their cooperation and partnership since all countries where there is a resident coordinator now uses system of UN info where data is uploaded to really be transparent as much as possible. Anyone can access to this system, it is an open transparent database. She concluded that also within the Report that was presented, the Assistant SG for development cooperation has highlighted together with the SG and the principles the need for the Funding Compact to be taken more seriously at the country level. There is a Funding Compact in terms of donor commitments to the development system reform and the key to that Funding Compact is the need to ensure development as effectively funded. Also, the UN has flexible funding and co-funding for the agency funds and programs, which is of critical importance because this funding allows the agency funds and programs to be able to do the work that is needed to be done, but also to have the ability to have more flexible funding through areas such as pooled funds for joint programs that helps them bring together their expertise. Ms Macdonald concluded that the ambition of the UN Country Team is to move forward to the end of the 2020-2025 Framework Agreement and to really focus more on the policy engagement, the normative engagement and how they can contribute more strategically in terms of the UN partnership with the Government. This is not just about money, this is about the fact that the UN brings together global expertise that is incredibly valuable to all member states as well as the civil society and how the UN harness that support in accelerating the SDGs. She finally mentioned one outstanding area, which is Peacebuilding Fund. Bosnia and Herzegovina recently received the eligibility in terms of the SG's Peacebuilding Fund as one of only 26 countries in the world to actually have this. This was requested last year after the meetings with the 3 members of the Presidency with the Under-Secretary General DiCarlo and was confirmed through a letter of the chair of CoM to the SG. This was reviewed across the UN in terms of the expert group of senior leaders who considered these areas and the eligibility was confirmed at the end of last year. So, the UN is moving forward with this which practically means that \$15 mil over the next 3 years will be coming through the UN in terms of peacebuilding efforts, but also it is an opportunity to build the coherence across UN work in peacebuilding where the Government and has the leadership role. The key to this is that the UN will be sitting in the Joint Steering Committee where the Government is leading and where there will be

the members of the member states, the civil society representatives, and the UN job is to facilitate that support and to move it forward.

Ms Macdonald then gave the floor to Mr Seferovic to present the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

- **AD2: United Nations - "Overview of the United Nations and Bosnia and Herzegovina Partnership - 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)**

Mr Seferovic introduced himself as the Partnership Officer in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and thanked to Ms Basta for a warm welcome and long standing cooperation since 2009. He noted it was a pleasure to work with the Ministry and partnering not only in terms of Donor Coordination Forum but on aid coordination system in general. Mr Seferovic then announced he would give a brief presentation of the 'Overview of the United Nations and Bosnia and Herzegovina Partnership' – 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

In terms of the **United Nations Country Team** in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 agencies are currently operational in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5 of them are non-resident and 13 are resident with offices in the country. UN also has 3 agencies that are completely new to the context of BiH and engagement in BiH, such as ITU, UN Disaster Risk Reduction and UN Economic Commission for Europe, while two of them are returnees such as IFAD and UNHCR who were previously active in BiH and returned with this Cooperation Framework.

In terms of **identifying Partnership priorities** in the country, the first step that was taken in this process is actually looking at experience in implementation of the previous UN cooperation frameworks. This is done through final and independent evaluation and basically assesses the results from the previous 5-year cycle, but more importantly it provides recommendations on how to move forward and information on best practices and lessons learned. The second step is also to understand the country context and ongoing political, economic and development trends, within which the UN operates and which is done through the *Common Country Assessment*. This document already informs certain needs and priorities relevant for the joint partnership between the UN and authorities in the country. Another important step is understanding what are the actual priorities in the country as defined by the authorities in BiH. The UN is taking this in serious consideration as they develop their cooperation frameworks to make sure to align with the needs and priorities in the country. Also, the UN does not want to duplicate and overlap activities with their international partners, which is the reason when the draft Cooperation Framework is prepared, UN enters in extensive consultations with international partners to make sure that all work and planned engagement with the authorities in the country are complementing already other activities or country programs of international partners in BiH. Based on the priorities identified by the country, UN Country Team undertakes UN CT configuration exercise, which aims to provide relevant and adequate expertise and mandates to be able to deliver on the priorities agreed with the partners in BiH.

In terms of the current BiH/UN partnership for sustainable development, the document which defines the partnership is **2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in Dec 2022 and formally signed in May 2021. This document essentially defines the UN strategic priorities and results for partnership between the United Nations and the authorities in BiH in the mid-term cycle 2021-2025, under the umbrella of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The document aligns some specific strategic documents available in the country such as the SDG Framework, the EC Opinion on the application of BiH for membership and the Joint Socio-Economic Reform 2019-2022. All of the mentioned documents were taken in consideration to understand the priorities coming from the authorities in the country so that the UN can actually align their activities properly. The document also builds upon comprehensive consultation process that was led by BiH authorities through so-called inter-sectoral group on the SDGs, later renamed into SDG Council, that was working on rolling out of SDGs in 2018 and 2019 in partnership with the UN. One of the key products of this process was actually preparation and endorsement of the SDG Framework in BiH. The document is also consistent with the UN GA Resolution on reforming the UN Development System globally, which was adopted in May 2018, to increase the cohesion and coordination of the UN Development System, but also to reduce the transaction cost for all of their partners including the international partners. And last but not least, the document includes all the activities of all UN agencies operational and present in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is also important to mention the overall alignment or reference point for the UN Cooperation Framework, which is the *SDG Framework in BiH*. This importance of this document is that it provides the common vision for sustainable development in BiH which has been agreed by all levels of the government in BiH. This is very important to underline since UN is aware that many of their partners in the government and the authorities but also in international community may not be aware of the existence and significance of this document. It defines the common vision and broader development pathways for all authorities in the country, but also provides the SDG targets and indicators for SDG implementation in BiH.

In terms of the **2021-2025 UN/BiH Partnership priorities**, 4 strategic priority areas have been agreed with the authorities in BiH. The first strategic area is Sustainable, Resilient & Inclusive Growth, which is looking into implementation of strategies and policies that actually foster the economic growth and taking into consideration the inclusiveness, sustainability and resiliency; the second strategic area is Quality, Accessible & Inclusive Education, Health, Social Protection, which is looking not only to increase the access and inclusiveness and quality of education but also to integrate the 21st skills into the curriculum of the education systems in the

country. On the Health Care and Social Protection, the focus is on efficiency and fair distribution of services and policies. Third area is People-centered Governance and Rule of Law, focusing on more accountable and transparent governance systems in the country that is actually more responsive to the needs of the citizens and individuals in the country. And the last area is the Social Cohesion which is looking at addressing peacebuilding gap in the country and promoting some incentives and dialogues for fostering trust and understanding between people and communities in BiH. All these 4 strategic priority areas are further underpinned with two cross-cutting principles, one looking at integration of Human rights, gender equality and other international commitments into all UN activities and the second one is focusing on the 'Leave No One Behind' concept, which is coming from the 2030 Agenda, with the idea to focus on the most vulnerable groups.

In terms of the **Implementation of the 2021-2025 UN/BiH Strategic Partnership**, this strategic document is operationalized at all the outputs and activity of all UN agencies contributing to implementation of this document, which also includes the funding framework and is annually updated based on the reporting mechanism. In this context, UN is particularly proud of the network of institutions at various levels of government (112 government institutions) mobilized in implementation of their activity. UN modus operandi is inclusive but harmonized country-wide approach, which basically means that the UN engaged all the relevant authorities from all the levels of government in BiH in implementation of the Partnership Framework starting from the more strategic level to technical level and municipal level. Also, implementation of this document is assessed on annual basis, through preparation of annual UN Country Report focusing on results actually achieved and the information on the delivery of funding resources, as well as it is informed by regular updates of the UN Common Country Assessment. Implementation is coordinated through the UNCT, which is composed of the Heads of agencies, of all UN agencies present in the country as well as through the 4 Results Groups corresponding to 4 mentioned UNSDCF strategic priority areas. And lastly, it is very important that the overall strategic oversight of the implementation of this Cooperation Framework is conducted by the Joint Steering Committee jointly co-chaired by the UNRC and the MoFT, and basically has a mandate to monitor the implementation and more specifically to review and endorse annual reports as well as annual plans going forward.

In terms of **Implementation tools**, available to the UN Country Team, they are basically Expertise, Convening authority and Normative framework. Under Expertise, UN provides policy dialogue, analysis, data collection and direct programme implementation. Currently, the UN has over 60 ongoing projects in BiH. In terms of the Convening authority, partnership with the SDG Council should be highlighted.

Mr Seferovic noted that **2022 United Nations Country Report** and the key results achieved in 2022 is available on the UN website, and encouraged the meeting participants to access this website to get informed on this Report and many other published documents available there. For 2022, USD 121 m was indicated as required for implementation of the partnership. UN managed to secure just over USD 109 m and delivery amounted to USD 90 m.

In terms Joint Work Plan and planned activities under **2023-2025 UNSDCF Horizon**, there are 4 strategic priority areas agreed under the Cooperation Framework and 13 joint outputs, e.g. strategic programmes that have been identified under those 4 strategic priority areas that would guide the UN partnership with the authorities in BiH, with planned 166 activities to be implemented by all UN agencies under this Joint Work Plan and these 13 strategic programmes that are going to be delivered over the next 3 years period. Covering the period 2021-2022, to date the UN delivered over USD 106 m, while the current planned funding envelope for the remaining 3 years of the program will total just over USD 172 m.

In terms of the **Sources of funding & Partnerships**, Mr Seferovic expressed the appreciation regarding the partnerships with many meetings participants. None of this would be possible without these partnerships. The UN currently has 15 international partners contributing to the implementation of the Joint Work Plan in the period 2023-2025. Close to 70% of funding resources are coming from the international partners and ODA, 15% from the UN core funding from the HQ level in New York, 11% comes from the vertical pool global funds and 7% is coming from the co-sharing partnership with the authorities in BiH.

Mr Seferovic finally pointed out to the **UN websites** for further information on the UN & BiH Partnership, particularly one link, the digital on-line presentation of the Cooperation Framework, which is the global standardized platform, with all information on the UN activities, funding, how the UN is contributing to priorities in BiH, but also SDGs globally.

For more details, please see the attached presentation

The main highlights of the UN presentation: " Overview of the United Nations - Overview of the United Nations and Bosnia and Herzegovina Partnership - 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

- United Nations Country Team in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Introducing the UN Development System in BiH: 18 agencies - FAO, IFAD, IOM, ITU, UN Human Rights, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Volunteers, UN Women, WHO
- **Identifying Partnership priorities:** Plan process; Evaluate previous results; Analyse country context; Strategize and prioritize response
- **Current BiH/UN Partnership for Sustainable Development:** Defines strategic priorities and results for partnership between BiH and UN from 2021-2025 (under global 2030 Agenda); Aligns with the SDG Framework in BiH, EC Opinion, Joint Socio-Economic Reform 2019-2022; Builds upon extensive consultations by BiH authorities in partnership with UN, on Agenda 2030 and SDGs in 2018 and 2019 for development of SDG Framework in BiH; Consistent with the UNGA Resolution A/RES/72/279 on UN Development System reform to ensure a more cohesive, effective and efficient UN response to the SDGs needs; Includes all the activities of the UN Development System in BiH
- **Aligning with BiH vision on Sustainable Development- SDG Framework in BiH**

- Overarching document addressing development challenges; defining a common vision and broader development pathways in the country, along with domesticated SDG targets and indicators
- Adopted in April 2021 by the BiH Council of Ministers, Entity Governments & Brcko District
- Takes into account the EU accession and domestic priorities (Reform Agenda, Western Balkans Green Agenda, priorities defined in EU annual country reports)
- **2021-2025 UN/BiH Partnership priorities:** Sustainable, Resilient & Inclusive Growth; Quality, Accessible & Inclusive Education, Health, Social Protection; People-centered Governance and Rule of Law; Social Cohesion
- **Implementing 2021-2025 UN/BiH Strategic Partnership:** Operationalized at the output and activity level through Joint UN Work Plan updated on annual basis; Implemented through inclusive and harmonized country-wide approach in partnership with all relevant institutions at various levels of government (112 government institutions); Assessed through preparation of annual UN Country Report focusing on results and financial delivery; Informed by regular updates of the UN Common Country Assessment Coordinated through the UNCT, and 4 Results Groups corresponding to 4 UNSDCF strategic priority areas; Overseen & monitored annually by UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the UNRC and MoFT
- **Implementation tools:** Expertise, Convening authority, Normative framework
- **2022 United Nations Country Report main results:** 2022 Budget; 4 Strategic priorities & Outcomes
- **2023-2025 UNSDCF Horizon priorities:** 4 Priority areas and Programmes with planned 166 activities and worth over USD 172 mil
- **Sources of funding & Partnerships:** 70% of funding resources are coming from the international partners and ODA, 15% from the UN core funding from the HQ level in New York, 11% comes from the vertical pool global funds and 7% is coming from the co-sharing partnership with the authorities in BiH
- Further information on UN & BiH Partnership: <https://bosniaherzegovina.un.org/en>
<https://bosniaherzegovina.un.org/en/resources/publications> <https://uninfo.org/location/203/unct-overview>

Ms Macdonald, on behalf of the entire UN system praised Mr Seferovic's leadership and overall professionalism. She noted there are many different paths of the UN across the agencies are doing this, but also many technical parts of the UN and others are contributing and engaging every single day. In terms of the Joint Steering Committee, it's co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and Minister of Finance and Treasury. Also, the reason why 4 Heads of UN agencies are present at today's meeting is that they are the formal members of the Joint Steering Committee, together with representatives from the RS and the Federation as well as Brcko District. In order to present some tangible examples of the UN engagement, Ms Macdonald then gave the floor to Ms Nedera, the UNDP Resident Representative and the chair of the result group 1 focused on prosperity.

Ms Nedera, UNDP, informed that the result group 1 is bringing together for the first time the work related to the planet and prosperity. They are looking into economic development in the context of how the economic activities are influencing the climate as well as natural resources, so the focus is on 'greening' the economy, but also having an inclusive approach making sure that people with special needs or those groups who find it harder to access the labour market are included. And last but not least, is that this prosperity is sustainable, that the UN is looking at solutions that preserve the development gains from natural disasters. There are different risks happening now more and more often, such as incidents of extreme weather, flood threats to local communities, etc. The example how the UN agencies are working with the partners in more joined up way is related to Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly with support of Switzerland, the UN family implemented joint program (in its phase one) which is now drawing to a close. On June 1st, they had the event that reflected on the results, as well as they put forward clearly the priorities in terms of policy but also capability and focus for the next phase. What they achieved together, with tremendous contribution of Switzerland as a partner in this endeavour and their ability to engage through with civil protection bodies but also with a large number of stakeholders. In 10 municipalities over the past period, there were a few very important results that have been implemented across the board. In terms of the local Disaster Risk Reduction flood forums as formal local bodies, they bring together officials not only from civil protection, but also from education, agriculture, health, social protection bodies as well as civil society organizations from the community. The DRR platform is a body that helps stronger collaboration and coordination and also informs how this readiness is taken into different sectors. The focus of the DRR on the findings of these groups is critical to bring the DRR into local development strategies. So this is another important results that the UN pursued in all 10 municipalities. In terms of the developed and available tools, there is a Disaster Risk Assessment Systems (DRAS) which is an online platform that allows to map the concrete hazards for a concrete location. Then this data, the stock taking on how to develop the priorities and measures for the community to invest in strengthening its own local infrastructure but also taking different measures in other sectors. Also, a range of initiatives were undertaken in these communities with schools, together with the community in terms of strengthening also the agriculture sector readiness in terms of the resilience to disasters. So, this is a strong platform which the UN now wants to take forward. In terms of additional dimension of collaboration, UNDP supported BiH together with the UNDRR to undertake the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for DRR to which BiH signed up together with other UN member states. Sendai Framework is the international UN treaty focused on preserving the development gains for disasters which was approved in 2015. The midterm review was a great opportunity to see where things are in the country and to formulate the priorities for the upcoming period. Combined with the findings from the joint programme and with the recommendations from the midterm review which were presented globally now at the conference that was held in May 2023, UNDP considers that there is a clear roadmap for the way forward. So the purpose and the ambition for the next phase is to work more on such type of collaboration platforms, upwards from cantonal, entity level and to work with the Ministry of Security to also strengthen the capacities for risk management and risk reduction, in collaboration and bringing different sectors together. Ms Nedera concluded that this is a strong example from which they can all learn and used the opportunity to invite all the partners to join this platform and to work together jointly.

Ms Macdonald, then gave the floor to Ms Rownak, UNICEF Resident Representative in BiH, from results group 2, which covers the health, education and social protection as incredibly important area for BiH.

Ms Rownak, UNICEF, noted that results group 2 is all about the prosperity of the planet and people and people's need for basic services which cover 3 thematic areas: social protection, education and health. This result group is actually tackling huge number of issues. In terms of education, last year in the General Assembly, the Transforming Education Summit was organized in order to tackle the global crisis in education that was happening. However, the education crisis did not take place just due to the pandemic, it started even before. In BiH in 2018-19, with the help of the Norwegian embassy and all education partners, they conducted the PISA test which is the international standards test for students, which actually showed that the children in this country are far behind their colleagues in other EU countries. In terms of the Transforming Education Summit, the work starts at the country level, whereby Bosnia and Herzegovina is a good example where they could bring all education stakeholders together through different consultations with the government, with development partners, but also with the CSOs and the students as well, which led to a commitment for this country. So for the first time after a long time, all 14 ministries of education signed a common commitment to improve the inclusive, accessible quality education starting from pre-primary, to primary and secondary and including university and TVET education. With this commitment now and with other partners such as OSCE, CoE and the EU, the results group 2 are developing a 10 years roadmap for BiH covering all the span of education in the country. When this is done, the Working group will be formed soon, and UNSECO along with UNICEF will work closely to make that happen, with other UN partners involved, such as the ILO and the UNDP. This will be a major outcome of education in BiH. Ms Rownak then invited all to also participate in these consultations and a very important discussion for the future of BiH. In terms of social protection, the UN has a co-shared vision, e.g co-creation of program with other partners. So, together with the EU, the UN is working on developing of social protection strategies in BiH and 2 entity social protection strategies are almost finalized, while the public consultations for social protection strategy will start in the Federation this month. Finally, Ms Rownak informed that they in the UN work mostly on system strengthening rather than in small projects. In terms of health, they work also with governments in both entities and Brcko District to improve health strengthening, along with the WHO and the World Bank with UNICEF and other UN partners through the EU project. This will be a major breakthrough in order to bring the reform of the health system in this country as well.

Ms Macdonald, then gave the floor to Mr Sesum from UNESCO who will talk about the Rule of law and the governance which is the third priority.

Mr Sesum, UNESCO, introduced himself as the chair of the result group 3 and noted he is privileged to be able to present the work of this group. He added that not only that the BiH constitutional set up is very complex but the UN also has a very complex setting and they work also to ensure mainstreaming in their reporting as well as in the planning. In terms of knowledge sharing, it is not only about knowledge sharing from the side of UN, but as well as all available knowledge from different partners, also mainly from the authorities and BiH different institutions. As mentioned by Mr Seferovic there are 112 institutions involved. Mr Sesum then presented one particular project, the UN joint program which was focused to support BiH authorities to establish basic the eco system for systematic financing of the SDGs in BiH. When this process was started, the first question was what they were doing wrong, in order to make detailed analysis to extract the existing knowledge and to really use it for the purpose to advance the financing of this eco system. The main objective of this joint initiative implemented in BiH is development of financing framework with long-term solutions for more integrated sustainable development financing and mobilizing investment from alternative sources. The first thing that was done is development assessment in order to define the trends and composition of all public, private, domestic and international financial flows that were available, which also helped them to develop the SDG financing roadmap that has been prepared in the project, during the project implementation. The main result in this process is the draft of financing framework which has been prepared for policy measures and financing instruments for SDGs acceleration around defined priorities for BiH. Also, gaps were not mentioned in this context, it was really discussed how to channel existing financial sources towards sustainable development priorities which are based on evidence. In terms of the 6 results, SDG budget is tagging successfully pilot in Sarajevo canton, which could be very easily implemented at other levels of governance in BiH. The second result referred to cases and policy briefs on early childhood development, that were prepared. The third is about investment case on prevention and control on non-communicable diseases which is now being finalized. Then there are analytics and the tool for creating evidence based labour policies and also they improved data collection for reporting on SDG 4 which is very important for BiH, because it is now the only country in the region that is now able to report against 44 out of 55 global indicators for education. In the end, there is a financial protection report prepared and indicating financial hardship of BiH citizens in accessing health services. These are just a few examples out of the range of projects which were already presented, however it should be underlined that they would not be able to successfully implement those processes without really close collaboration with partners and mainly with BiH institutions which were key in accelerating these processes since in the end that is not owned by the UN or any of the development partners but mainly by BiH institutions at different levels.

Ms Macdonald, then thanked to some of the representatives at the meeting, actually representatives from the Working group from the ministries of finances who have been working intensively on financing of the Roadmap, which really demonstrates how important it is for the UN to work with in leverage in all these areas of expertise and capacities of various institutions. She added that from the UN perspective, they are trying to have a comprehensive approach and they recognize that social cohesion needs to be incorporated in all their activities, not only as a priority in itself but cross-cutting across all activities, particularly in the country that has some of the scars of the past, in terms what needs to be done to help move forward in those areas. Ms Macdonald, then gave the floor to Ms Lungarotti from IOM, to present the work of the result group 4.

Ms Lungarotti, IOM, introduced herself as the IOM representative and the leader of the social cohesion results group which represents the substantial area of the UN work. This group is gathering the UN agencies which are prioritizing social cohesion as one of the main goals, but also those who are mainstreaming social cohesion as an approach to programming and to development results. Social cohesion is a very intangible and complex concept. UN is looking at this from various perspective, from dealing with the past in order to be best able to build an inclusive future, also through the youth engagement angle, since the youth is the agent of change. UN is also looking at this through alternative media narratives that can shape an inclusive Bosnia and Herzegovina. This group is specifically working on 4 key dimensions, the so-called vertical engagement, where they are bringing young people and communities closer to their local authorities to build the dialogues on issues that matter for them. The second dimension is more horizontal engagement where agents of change, champions of municipalities from different entities or ethnic groups may come together to build common agendas for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The third dimension is more linked to key policy development on social cohesion for this country, such as the youth vision, or most importantly how they can work collectively on fighting hate speech and how to build alternative more positive narrative. The result group 4 deals with the vast range of issues, however there is one very specific issue to be highlighted that the UN recently launched thanks to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the project co-managed by the 2 UN agencies, IOM and the UNDP focuses on 9 key selected municipalities across the Federation and Republika Srpska. In the Federation, 2 cantons have been targeted, e.g. Canton 10 and Una Sana Canton. The project basically builds around the successful agents of change across entity line, how they can build the common narrative, how they can best know each other and understand what is the common history towards the common future. It also bolsters local activism with very active youth voluntarism project which allows also young people from those communities to be involved in social projects and stresses the positive aspects in terms of bringing more access to social services in those key selected areas for those most marginalized. And lastly, it also promotes the youth leadership and young activism, especially in light of the next year municipal elections. So very concrete example, very localized activity is underway in 9 key municipalities which the UN wants to bring around the common agenda of social cohesion.

Ms Macdonald, added that there are lots of different projects on digitalization, digital transformation, gender, which is absolutely critical and prioritized in many of the mentioned areas, integration, health care, culture, and right across the board spectrum.

Ms Peric, RS MoF, informed on the current state of play regarding the financial framework. She noted that they have numerous activities in the country, related to the joint activity regarding the preparation of the financial framework for achieving the SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives from all levels, including the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the RS Government, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brcko District were involved for the purposes of supporting the implementation of the SDG framework in BiH. This document is prepared in the draft version in consultative support of the members of the Working group for financing of the SDGs, that consisted of the representatives of all levels of governments in the country, and of the members of the SDGs council. Financial framework was prepared upon the assessment of the development finance, which was the first initial activity in terms of the preparation of the assessment of the development finance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and later the Roadmap was prepared also by the SDGs Working group, with the support of the technical assistance of the EU joint program in BiH financed by the joint SDGs fund with the colleagues from the UNDP. She concluded they hope that by the end of June or beginning of July this document will be confirmed and adopted by all levels. This framework basically offers the institutions of BiH at all levels of government a brief set of key policies and financial solutions and instruments, which is very important now when there is a scarcity of financing in the country. They had to indicate, apart from the public sector, and find where are the potentials for the financing. Basically they focus on several areas in the process of the first preparation of the assessment of the development finance, and try to indicate where are the possible sources of the finance apart from the budgets at all levels of the government and try to see which sectors would accelerate the most the implementation of SDGs and the accomplishment of the Agenda. In this process, the Working group and all partners involved in this activity agreed that there are 3 priority sectors. In the I phase 2024-26, they try to focus on digitalization, infrastructure and energy as well as research and development. They try to propose the instrument and use the current mechanism and the current facilities existing in the development agencies in the country in order to start that process as soon as possible. In the II phase this document envisages the implementation of the measures or the instruments in the period 2027-30+, which will take more time to implement or to set up the instruments or to revise the current existing instruments in the country.

Ms Basta, noted that the presentation was excellent and very simple, yet very comprehensive. Also, there is an additional value, the presentations of the 4 UN agencies which provided lots of information. She expressed the satisfaction that Bosnia and Herzegovina has the UN on its side and a long excellent relationship with the UN system. Ms Basta then opened the discussion on the UN presentation and asked if someone would like to make a comment or some observation.

Ms Gibson-Smedberg, Sweden, noted it's encouraging that the results groups are ongoing and thanked the UN for that.

Mr Hasanovic, MoFT, Deputy to the Minister of Finance and Treasury, thanked the UN for excellent presentation and thanked to Ms Basta and her team on their effort. He welcomed all meeting participants and noted that the detected priorities are OK. However, behind these priorities there should be action plans with smart goals. Smart goals are specific and measurable, achievable, realistic and time correlated, e.g everybody needs to have tasks with deadlines to be more effective. Regarding mentioned gaps, retention plans should be created to close these gaps.

Mr Messerli, Swiss, thanked for UN presentations which reflected the solid and excellent work done in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the UN agencies, which is very much appreciated. Swiss also funds a number of those activities which are progressing well. He is looking forward to the fact that now the country has Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework which is a very important document adopted by the Council of Ministers. In terms of using this document and bringing it to life, now the question is what comes next? Lot of issues which are rightly presented there, are the issues which should not rest only on UN agencies to tackle but the role of institutions is very important also. On this note, the Swiss would like to see now with the new government, the new energy in these development processes and leadership is moving forward with all those issues on the agenda, not only on the SDGs side but also the funding which is very important and the EU accession.

Ms Basta, noted on behalf of the Ministry of Finance that they will do their best to be on track within their limits. This is not the beginning but the continuation of cooperation with the UN system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She commended the Swiss being very cooperative and taking numerous activities in the last period, particularly in terms of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and PIMA Assessment.

Ms Daguda, CPCD, noted she is present at the meeting in the capacity as a Chair of the Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for cooperation with the CSOs. She used the opportunity to thank all for thorough presentations and stressed out that there should be even more inclusive process of the SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is a very important process for the citizens of BiH. She believes that more communication with the public, with the CSOs, with citizens is needed. However, this should be really translated in understandable language since this process if bringing back some hope, so it is needed that the citizens are informed on what is happening. Also, there should be more local ownership, different levels of government should be involved and to feel it as their process and not that SDGs are something that the UN is doing.

Ms Peric, RS MoF, referred to Mr Messerli's arguments and noted that precisely the financial framework for the achievement of the SDGs is basically the continuation of the framework that was adopted at the level of the country. So basically now the new energy would be in place and reflect by timely adoption of these document by all levels of the government. This would be operationalization of the SDGs framework in the country which precisely offers the first and the second phase of the specific financial instrument on how they are going to implement the specific measures defined in the framework in the country. She added that all levels in the country are now in the process of introduction of the programming budget. Basically, in the assessment of the development financing, this document is used as the base for preparation of the financial framework. There are several recommendations to link this process with implementation of the SDGs. This is taken in consideration in terms of connecting the programming budget process and to make more connections with implementation of the SDGs and basically recognizing and labelling the money for implementation of the SDGs.

Ms Macdonald, concluded that all ministries of finance have been actively engaged in this process and they are part of the WG supported by the UN. UN is looking forward with the presentation of the VNR in New York in July at the high level political forum and with the fact that BiH is seeking to co-convene the high level side event on SDGs financing together with Serbia, Indonesia and Sweden. In terms of Civil Society, she agreed that the SDGs do not belong to the UN but to the member states, in line with the 2015 agreement, which sets out that the 2023 Agenda is owned by the member states, by the Civil Society, by the private sector, and the UN is here to support everybody in terms of their engagement. When it comes to the EU accession, clearly the SDGs and the EU accession are fully complementary, and the SDGs are broader in terms of the expectations in terms of health and education which is of critical importance for the people of BiH. Ms Macdonald addressed the argument of the Deputy Minister regarding the smart objectives, saying that the UN is going through lots of processes. However, the UN can provide more information on the Joint Work Plans with all of their activities against indicators that are agreed. Those are compiled globally but as well as reflected nationally across state and with the entities and everywhere where the UN is engaged. The UN presents reports on these activities and agree on Joint Work Plans together in their Joint Steering Committee with various parts of the Government, in a transparent manner.

Mr Sesum, UNESCO, briefly reflected to Mr Messerli's arguments. He confirmed that all processes are run by the institutions, and all priorities presented today are not the UN priorities, they are defined together with the BiH. Also, any initiative that was based on the fact that does not include all relevant institutions would cease to exist once money is spent. That is why the UN is bringing more institutions about priorities which are of common interest to advance different agendas. One of the basic issues are both the SDGs Framework as well as the UN Cooperation Framework take in consideration the EU Agenda, EU priorities, EU reforms and processes for the region and as Ms Macdonald stated they are fully compatible.

● AD 3: *Tour de table*

Ms Basta, noted that it is not always about the money, but about the partnerships. She was glad to see so many of DCF participants and only if development partners and institutions work together they can achieve something. Nobody is an island, if they work together they can expect something to be achieved. In terms of aid coordination, e.g. Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation exercise, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury received information on focal points almost from all that would participate in this year's exercise. The Ministry is still waiting for the links and the database that would be prepared by the OECD and then the Ministry will approach to all involved in this exercise. Having in mind the summer vacations, September will be the best time to start the activities related to this exercise. As usual, right now the Ministry is preparing the DMR report, which is in the final phase. Ms Basta then invited DCF participants to inform on their current activities and most important developments in their agencies as well as in BiH institutions.

Ms Salihagic, KfW, introduced herself as a Senior Sector Specialist in the KfW. She recalled that almost 15 years ago she was a part of the team which organized the DCF event, which over time evolved in a traditional gathering of all donors in BiH. In terms of the KfW activities in BiH, German Development Bank is active in the country since 1988 and the current focus is still the energy sector. KfW mainly finance huge infrastructure capital investment projects in the area of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Specifically, KfW placed stronger emphasis on winds and is considered as the front-runner in this field since it financed the first wind park in BiH in 2018, while the second wind farm was financed in 2021. KfW recent activities include preparation of financing (together with EIB) 3 additional wind parks in BiH, wind park Vlasic, Bitovnja and Potocani. Recently KfW expanded their field of engagement to solar energy and financed the Feasibility Study for construction of the solar park near Stolac. KfW's work also relates to Energy Efficiency in public buildings and in residential buildings. It will continue to support the revitalization of the BiH energy sector, supporting both the renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the sustainability of the BiH energy sector, with the emphasis on the environmentally friendly energy sector in BiH.

Ms Friscia, EIB, introduced herself as the EIB representative for BiH and Montenegro and informed that EIB is the EU bank which is lending to Bosnia and Herzegovina for more than 45 years already in several sectors. EIB is mainly lending in the public sector but as well as in the private sector, where half of the portfolio (61%) is in the transport sector with the Corridor 5C, which they co-finance with the EBRD. Also, 30% of EIB's portfolio is in the private sector financing SMSs, while the rest covers financing of energy projects, water, waste water, health, education, etc. This portfolio also includes EIB grants that are financing energy sector and the water sector. They are also supporting the EU WBIF grants in the amount of almost EUR 400 m, mainly to co-finance the Corridor 5C. Last year EIB signed the first impact incentive loan for BiH to enforce the youth deployment agenda equality to finance SMSs and Mid Caps. She concluded that EIB established a branch last year called EIBGlobal, with local staff teams in Belgrade to assist with projects in the region. Among other IFIs in the country, EIB is the key financier in the economic and investment plans in partnership with others, entities and cantons, working on extensive pipeline of projects. EIB will also support the Green Agenda, digital transition, connectivity and SMSs. In co-financing with the EBRD, EIB is also planning to continue financing the Corridor 5C with two remaining sections, Tunnel Prenj and Ivan Ovcari. Other projects cover renewable energy, decarbonisation process, education, health and rehabilitation of roads, construction of medical complex in Republika Srpska, flood protection measures, and many others.

Mr Vannini, EUD, noted that in their activities in the framework of the Pre-Accession Assistance, they provide horizontal support in several sectors, from the quality of education to the rule of law and to the social cohesion. EU has also provided the specific energy budget support within 2023 Pre-Accession Assistance, and already paid EUR 63 m to the Ministry of Finance. They plan to complete this transfer to the Energy sector as well as to support the social consequence related to the increase of prices in the Energy sector in the overall amount of EUR 70 m. In terms of their assistance, they are finalizing cooperation with the authorities their intervention for 2024, the Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 3), which is another framework of intervention that will be led by the country, and supervised by the EU. The maturity of the project will be very important as well as the activities of the beneficiaries, and the activities of the ministries will be very important also, due to the fact that in the future EU financing, the competition will be introduced between the different countries in the Western Balkans, meaning that the EU systems will have different windows such as development, quality of education, the rule of law, etc., and then all countries will be assessed on the basis of project proposals, their maturity and their capacity to address the needs. So, it will be very important for BiH to be active in order to secure the funds for the future.

Mr Hakon, Norway, informed that Norway's commitment levels will remain the same as in the last year. Prioritized areas are complementary and consistent with the SDGs, with strong focus on sustainability and local ownership throughout the scope of their projects. Improving capacity building, good governance and democratic development by strengthening the rule of law and human rights are crucial aspects of several projects. Freedom of the media and civil society support is also the precondition for that. Demining efforts will remain a key priority for Norway and they will continue their activities related to mixed migration flows in BiH and the region. They will remain committed to provide support to BiH in the upcoming period in the mentioned areas.

Ms Nagashima, JICA, informed that JICA offices in Belgrade cover all 6 WB countries and briefly presented JICA's activities, while JICA is supporting this region since 1970-ies. For BiH the priorities remain the same as the last year, which are social cohesion, promotion of private sector development and tackling environmental problems. JICA has several schemes, which are ODA loans, also technical cooperation projects, training schemes and some other grant schemes. Under ongoing projects, under promotion of private sector development, there is a technical cooperation project which support SMSs development, so JICA established and strengthen the so-called mentoring service system both in FBiH and RS. This is also regional project which is also implemented in Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro, which involves a lot of interregional collaboration and ongoing exchange. In terms of the environmental sector, there is an ongoing technical cooperation project which is supporting Sarajevo public transport management and operation capacity development. In this sector, there is an ODA loan that was concluded in 2019 which supported the Ugljevik thermal power plant. There is a planned project already endorsed by the Government of Japan, the eco system based Disaster Risk Reduction project, which will be formulated in collaboration and close cooperation with the Ministry of Security. JICA is also planning to support the tourism sector, aiming to sustainable economic development and sustainable tourism, empowerment and participation of women in rural areas, SMS support and so on. On yearly basis, JICA is providing about 11 courses for different, mostly government officials from BiH, which are implemented in Japan, covering different topics and sectors.

Ms Ganem, EU4Justice, noted she is representing the French Cooperation Agency and the EU4Justice project which has the mandate to develop and implement the donor coordination mechanism for the Judiciary, which will be implemented by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH and will be closely associating the Ministry of Justice as well. She thanked both Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance and Treasury for being invited today since she is very interested to understand what kind of donor coordination processes are there in BiH, so they can better adapt the mechanism that will be developing in terms of the local and best practices implemented here. She also thanked the Ministry of Justice for their collaboration on the EU4Justice project which aims to enhance the judicial professionalism and fight against organized crime and corruption by the judiciary. In this context, they will be touching upon subjects such as integrity, judiciary career management and monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Justice Sector Reform Strategy. This context also includes monitoring and evaluating strategic documents that they wish to implement through this donor coordination mechanism. For them it is very important that this donor coordination mechanism is linked to strategic documents, such as the EU Accession documents, the Partnership for strategic development, the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and other local strategic documents. The aim of this donor coordination mechanism is for the judiciary to be well informed what kind of project they have being implemented by donors in BiH but also to inform donors on what areas are being covered by these projects and informed them in reference to their strategic planning and budgeting. She concluded they hope to develop a very useful tool for both their local partners and for the donor community.

Mr Stinsky, Germany, thanked for very insightful presentations and information. German bilateral portfolio with BiH has two main focus areas, the first is energy and climate as Ms Salihagic from the KfW presented. The second priority issue is private sector development which is in the framework of the EU alignment. In terms of bilateral portfolio with the BiH, they also have quite extensive portfolio in regional cooperation with the Western Balkans countries, with the novelty in this field, the so-called regional climate partnership which was launched in October 2022 in Berlin at the Berlin Summit as a part of the process of regional integration in the Western Balkans. Last week a meeting was held of the regional climate partnership in Tirana, and unfortunately there was not a representative from BiH present at this meeting.

Ms Grubescic, MoJ, informed on the current and planned activities of the Ministry of Justice regarding to the accession to the EU Justice Program and announced that her colleague Mr Mujkic will present the information on the Justice Sector Reform Strategy. On behalf of BiH, in March 2023 the Ministry of Justice expressed its official interest to participate in the EU Justice Program 2021 – 2027. After this, the European Commission submitted to the Ministry of Justice the draft association agreement for participation of BiH in the 2021 – 2027 Justice Program. The Ministry of Justice of BiH is in the process of implementing the procedure of collecting of opinions from the competent government levels and the Council of Ministers on the draft association agreement in order to join the program by the end of 2023.

Mr Mujkic, MoJ, gave short information on the Justice Sector Reform Strategy. After 2 years, the Ministry of Justice of BiH held a conference of the ministers of justice of BiH, FBiH and RS, representatives of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and Judicial Commission of Brcko District, with the aim to implement the strategic control and consultation in order to determine the proposal for the Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2023-2027, and the associated Action plan with the review to non-agreed questions. At the conference, support was expressed for the presented draft of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and its Action plan. Also the Working group is tasked to finalize the afore mentioned documents at the session held on June 14, 2023, and submitted them to the conference of the ministers of justice, as well as the HJPC representative and the Judicial Commission of Brcko District. It is going to be followed by sending the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and the Action plan for adoption to the Council of Ministers of BiH, entity and Brcko District governments.

Mr Munn, UK, the key message from the British Embassy is that there have not been any changes and priorities remained broadly consistent to those 12 months ago. In short, 3 areas they focus are: security, e.g. cyber security, misinformation, the second is support for democracy and reconciliation efforts which covers work on gender based violence, missing persons, they also support the media freedom. The third priority includes the rule of law and serious and organized crime, so they are doing some work with the anti-corruption office in Sarajevo but also with the HJPC. They are engaged in 16 bilateral projects which will remain for the next 12 months at least. However, they are transitions to a new big bucket of programs expecting to be launched next year.

Ms Sandzaktarevic, Slovakia, from the Department of Development Cooperation informed they will continue the dynamics from the previous year in supporting BiH especially in the topics which are fundamental for the EU path of BiH. One of the first instruments of development cooperation are small grants and at the moment they have open call for small grants up to EUR 10.000) where they are focused on several SDGs such as quality of education, health, good governance, food safety, agriculture, infrastructure, sustainable use of natural resources. They are also focused on cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, environment and climate change, as well as on several topics such as support for the rule of law, civil society building, promotion of media freedom and safety of journalist, promotion of freedom of religion and belief, youth empowerment and empowerment of most vulnerable groups of society. They are very open for creative solutions for some smaller local problems and provide small grants for this purpose. They also have good cooperation in terms of migration where they provided financial support for social workers in Bihac. In the upcoming period, they plan to closely cooperate and ensure the expertise in migration, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia and Ministry of Security of BiH. They also plan to focus on the least developed segments of society (Roma communities) and also supporting the minorities in the country through several mechanisms and one of these mechanisms are scholarships for future teachers for example of Roma language. Finally, she noted they have a very good cooperation with the UNDP, where they support several activities.

Ms Raic, PARCO, informed that they extended their PAR Strategic Framework and the Action Plan until 2027 and recently in the first quarter of 2023, they produced their first Monitoring Report. Unfortunately, the progress is only 14%, which is not much but they hope now they will do some kind of revision and take out some priorities from the current Action Plan. At the end of 2023, they plan to organize the donor conference and offer to all donors some kind of projects proposal and ideas for financing in the next one of two years.

Ms Hodzic Isovica, MoFTER, from the Sector of Agriculture, noted that almost all their ongoing projects are related with the Green Agenda and sustainable agriculture, which is actually the main core of all their projects. She noted she is very grateful to donors for all their projects and that the results in the field are obvious which it is really important to see the satisfied people in the field. She informed that the Report for international support for agriculture sector will be sent soon to the Council of Ministers within a month.

Mr Kronin, USAID, from the Democracy and Governance office gave a quick update on 2 activities, one is the Diaspora Invest which for they signed the agreements with their ambassadors and majors in 26 municipalities across the country and waiting to include 4 more. They also signed agreement with 10 municipalities for the new Local Governance program, and plan to include 20 more in the coming year. In the pipeline, there will be a 4 year Election Integrity support program which should be starting by September this year. They will also design and procure other programs related to anti-corruption, rule of law as well as reconciliation by September 2024.

Ms Gibson-Smedberg, Sweden, noted they have the same Strategy for Sweden's Reform Cooperation with the Western Balkans and Turkey 2021 - 2027. Listening at today's presentation, she concluded that they are all working on different aspects, while some are government agencies, some donors and some implementers, they are also working in the same areas. In terms of the Global Partnership for Efficient Development, Sweden is the co-chair for this initiative and BiH has entered this year. It's an excellent opportunity for all to make advancement when it comes to development cooperation. Here in BiH, Sweden has accepted to take the unofficial liaison role which will allow even some extra coordination.

Ms Basta, thanked all participants for their attendance at today's meeting and closed the DCF meeting.

The meeting was closed at 13:15 hrs.