



**Délégation Permanente de Bosnie-Herzégovine
auprès de l'UNESCO**

174, rue de Courcelles, 75017 Paris

tél : 01 42 67 34 22

fax : 01 40 53 85 22

No: 105-2-05-4-870/19

The Permanent Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to UNESCO presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the 40th UNESCO General Conference and has the honor to submit the text of addressing by the Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Adil OSMANOVIC to the 40th General Conference of UNESCO.

The Permanent Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to UNESCO avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the 40th UNESCO General Conference the assurances of its highest consideration.

Paris, 14th of November 2019



**SECRETARIAT OF THE 40TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF UNESCO**
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 P A R I S

40th UNESCO General Conference
Address of the Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
16 November 2019, UNESCO General Assembly, Paris

Dear Chairman,
Esteemed General Director,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to greet you on behalf of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and express my satisfaction for attending the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

I take this opportunity to express my support for the proposed Program of UNESCO for the next period, and to emphasize the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to active cooperation with UNESCO in order to achieve the goals set, as well as the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Everyone in Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes the essential potential of the 2030 Agenda implementation and sees it as an opportunity to promote social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the country.

Very important reforms are currently implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We are committed to building a modern education system oriented towards the needs of the labour market and based on lifelong learning. It is the UNESCO who is making a major contribution to the advancement of education, and, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Sarajevo, the activities to develop a data collection framework for education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4, are underway.

In the field of science, we strongly support initiatives and projects that contribute to addressing global issues and challenges through collaborative work and open access to science, and believe it is necessary to allocate more funding for science activities.

We aim to achieve smart growth by turning innovative and productive ideas into products and services that can lead to sustainable economic growth, while preserving natural capital and reducing inequality in society.

Recently, the UNESCO has completed the implementation of the first Phase of the DIKTAS, a regional project whose main objective is to strengthen the management of groundwater reserves in the Dinaric Karst. We are pleased that the second phase of this project is underway, taking into consideration the importance of this field and the results to be achieved.

In the field of sports, we believe that preventing violence at sports events and doping in sports is crucial. By investing in sports, we contribute to the development of a healthy society, while promoting sporting values nurtures peace, tolerance and human dignity.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is especially devoted to culture. We have ratified all UNESCO conventions and are continuously working to implement them. We are committed to preserving and promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the World Heritage Committee and, through our work, we want to contribute to the preservation, protection and promotion of the world cultural and natural heritage.

We are committed to combating the illegal trade in cultural property and to regional cooperation in this field.

As an example, I would like to highlight the project "Dialogue for the Future: Promoting Social Cohesion and Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina", because it mainly focuses on youth activities. The project was developed on the initiative and under the auspices of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is implemented jointly by the UN agencies in cooperation with local institutions.

I believe that today, more than ever before, the quality of the information received influences the decisions and procedures that follow, and media and information literacy is essential competence. Consultations on media and information literacy policies and strategies implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina have highlighted the need for an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to this complex issue. This is the reason why it is very important for us to continue the cooperation with UNESCO in this field in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me reiterate the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's goals and priorities and to thank UNESCO for its support for the activities implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thank you for your attention!