**Adriatic-Ionian Initiative**

**Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022/23**

**"Mid-term Evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in AII member states"**

Banja Luka, 4-5 May 2023.

Concept note

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Chairmanship of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative has the honour to announce that the meeting “*Mid-term Evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in AII member states*” will take place in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 4-5 May 2023.

Top priorities of Bosnia and Hercegovina’s Chairmanship of the AII and Presidency of the EUSAIR in 2022-2023 include acceleration of the EU enlargement process, youth, tourism, culture, environment protection and connectivity in the region. As noted in the Chairmanship Programme of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Adriatic-Ionian Region will be an important cross-cutting issue to be dealt with.

The event is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of the Government of Republika Srpska, the BH Council for Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDG Agenda 2030 implementation, and the United Nations and UNDP Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The meeting will be an opportunity to have better regional analysis of the state of play of the Agenda 2030 implementation process in our 10 countries, taking into account that we are at the midterm of the period since SDGs were adopted in September 2015 until 2030.

After welcoming speeches and addresses by high officials from the country and international organizations, we will have a key note speech, followed by the session where governmental experts from our AII countries dealing with the Agenda 2030 at home are going to elaborate their successes, concerns, challenges during the SDG implementation process. After that, we are going to have an international expert panel on this topic, three panelists from EU, one from the UNDP hub in Istanbul, with the famous British economist being a moderator, followed by a short Q&A part. The afternoon session will be dedicated to the localization process of the Agenda 2030, where representatives of local communities (one from every AII country) recognized as champions in the SDG field are expected to share their best practices and lessons learnt with us in the round table format. At the end we will have a short wrap-up session and conclusions.

The outcomes and highlights from this event will be presented at many future international meetings dealing with SDGs, including UNECE Regional Forum, HLPF in New York in July this year and at the SDG Summit to be held in New York before the General debate in September, thus contributing to better visibility of our Region.

**The organizers will cover the cost of two-night accommodation for two persons from every AII country, one for the government and one for the local community representatives.**

On the eve of the meeting, a high-level dinner and a reception will be organized (by invitation only).

For any further information, details and for the registration, please contact Ambassador-at-Large of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Milos Prica via e-mail: [milos.prica@mvp.gov.ba](mailto:milos.prica@mvp.gov.ba) and Mr. Nemanja Kovacevic at [N.Kovacevic@meoi.vladars.net](mailto:N.Kovacevic@meoi.vladars.net)

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DRAFT AGENDA

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| Title | Adriatic Ionian Initiative Meeting: Mid-term Evaluation on the Implementation of the SDG’s |
| Date | May 4 to May 5, 2023 |
| Venue | Hotel Courtyard by Marriott  Prvog Krajiskog Korpusa 33, Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina, 78000 |
| Hosts | Under the Bosnia and Herzegovina AII Chairmanship, the event is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by the Government of Republika Srpska, the BH Council for Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDG Agenda 2030 implementation, and UN-UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Language | Simultaneous translation in BHS languages and English |

**Day 1: Thursday, 4 May 2023**

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| Time | Agenda |
| All day | Arrival of participants |
| 18:00 | High-level Dinner and Reception (by Invitation Only) |
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**Day 2: Friday, 5 May 2023**

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| Time | Agenda |
| 08:30-08:55 | Registration |

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| 09:00-09:50 | Opening Remarks:   * H.E. Ms. Zeljka Cvijanovic, Chairwoman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; * H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konakovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia And Herzegovina; * H.E. Mr. Radovan Viskovic, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska; * H.E. Mr. Giovanni Castellaneta, Ambassador, Secretary General of the AII in Rome; * H.E. Mr. Fabio Pigliapoco, Ambassador, Head of The Permanent Secretariat of AII In Ancona; * H.E. Ms. Ingrid Mc Donald/Ms. Steliana Nedera, Heads of the UN/UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina; * H.E. Roberto Antonione, Secretary General of The CEI; * Ms. Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General of the RCC; * Mr. Gilles Kittel, EC, DG REGIO. |
| 09:55-10:20 | Main objectives and activities of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Presidency of the EUSAIR:   * Mr. Midhat Dzemic, Directorat for the European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina   Keynote Address: SDG’s Mid-term – Rethinking Sustainable Development   * H.E. Mr. Milos Prica, Ambassador at Large, MFA of Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 10:20-11:50 | Plenary session (AII countries government representatives) with introductory remarks by H.E. Ms. Ingrid McDonald, UN Resident Coordination for Bosnia and Herzegovina  Q&A session |
| 11:50-12:05 | Family Photo  followed by Coffee Break |
| 12:10-13:30 | Experts’ Panel: Agenda 2030 in Adriatic Ionian Region: Challenges and Way Forward   * EU Country Representative * EU Country Representative * UNDP Regional Hub Representative * EU Commission Representative   Moderator: Peter Middlebrook, economist  Q&A session |
| 13:30-15:00 | Luncheon |
| 15:00-16.30 | Round table discussion: Localization of the SDG’s  Followed by Q&A session (as time allows) |
| 16:30-17:00 | Wrap-up and Final Remarks and Conclusion of the Event and Recommendations to 2023 HLPF:  Mr. Nemanja Kovacevic, BH SDG Council, RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation Conclusions and |

17:30 Banja Luka Sightseeing Tour (Optional)

**Day 3: Saturday, 6 May 2023**

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| Time | Agenda |
| 07:00-10.00 | Breakfast and Check-out |
| All day | Departure |



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