

First Motion: „Achieving sustainable development requires more attention on human well-being and environmental preservation than on economic growth“

(7 September, 10:30-12:30)

Distinguished Speakers of Parliaments, Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you on behalf of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on my personal behalf.

When we talk about sustainable development, we actually talk about achieving three general goals that are intertwined, namely: stable economic development, fair distribution of social opportunities and environmental protection.

These goals do not necessarily have to be listed in this order, nor is one goal more important than the other precisely because sustainable development requires a balance between the demands for improving the quality of life, achieving social welfare, and the demands for preserving the environmental compartments as a natural asset on which depend both present and future generations.

Sustainable development, from the aspect of an individual country, must be placed in the context of the geopolitical environment and the current situation, which includes an assessment of all available resources.

The economy and the progress of society in the world today rely on the knowledge and use of information and communication technology, and the economy is also continuously strongly influenced by developments in the world market that create changes in important economic relations.

Recently, unfortunately, we have witnessed more frequent extreme weather conditions such as forest fires, heat waves and floods not only in Europe but also around the world.

These current changes that affect the climate of our planet and transform the world and cause irreversible consequences for the ecosystem of the area affected by these extremes, and which are the result of imbalances in gaining economic growth and making a profit at the expense of the environment and human well-being.

Precisely that type of economic progress, which is built to the detriment of environmental protection and human well-being, when viewed in the long run has negative consequences ultimately for economic progress itself, because due to e.g. earthquakes or fires the economic growth of the affected country is slowed down.

Therefore, sustainable development can only be the development that meets the needs of today, without compromising the needs of future generations.

From our point of view, being the legislators, this certainly means intensification of activities on creating appropriate legal regulations in order to contribute to sustainable development and preservation of the environment through the involvement of state administration institutions and bodies responsible for implementing strategic, development, programme and other documents from their scope of work and which arise from those legal regulations.

Furthermore, authorities of local government and self-government play a vital role in achieving the main goals of sustainable development at the local level.

Defining their local goals towards which economic and social projects are oriented to, strengthens the sustainability of the local community itself, which ultimately contributes positively to achieving overall sustainable development.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on an extremely significant and important topic.

Thank you once more.