

**59th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - Bosnia-Herzegovina**

2 July 2025

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Delivered by Eunan McMullan OFM

Mr. President,

Franciscans International welcomes the Universal Periodic Review process undertaken by Bosnia-Herzegovina and notes that it has accepted most recommendations.

The constitutional situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is at the moment a fraught one, with the leadership of the Republika Srpska contesting the legitimacy of the High Representative and rejecting his decisions, as stated by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and association in his report following a recent visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina.¹ In such circumstances, it is essential to strengthen the institutions aimed at guaranteeing human rights. Accordingly, we urge Bosnia-Herzegovina to adopt and implement recommendations relating to the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman in particular for systematic and timely enforcement of that Office's recommendations which as the Special Rapporteur in the aforementioned report states are low.²

We welcome however, the recommendations supported by Bosnia-Herzegovina to provide protection and assistance to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and to adopt a human rights-based approach which will ensure their humane and lawful treatment. We equally welcome the commitment to the promotion of the right of a clean healthy and sustainable environment in the context of dealing with the air pollution which afflicts some cities badly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Within the last two years Sarajevo has topped the list on consecutive days as being the most polluted city in the world.³ By regularly informing citizens of the air quality, preparing action plans, and enforcing air quality standards, an overall reduction of air pollution can be achieved.

Thank you.

¹ A/HRC/59/44/Add.1

² Ibid at p.16 para 94

³ [Choking smog lands Sarajevo at top of Swiss index of most polluted cities for 2nd straight day | AP News](#)