

Statement by
H. E. Mr. Mohammad H. Fadaifard,
Ambassador and Charge d'Affaires, a. i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
before
the Security Council
on
the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
on 10 July 2002

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

I wish to begin by thanking you for holding this open debate on an important development in the Security Council, which is of great importance to the general membership of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) has thus far been a stabilizing factor for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the whole Balkan region. It has played a very important role in implementing the Peace Agreement in that country by helping its Government train and equip a professional police force. However, given the fact that the peace process is still fragile and the new Bosnian institutions continue to be under pressure from some nationalist forces, it is important that the Mission continue its work and orderly wind down at an appropriate time. There is no doubt that the premature termination of UNMIBH's mandate will leave its programmes uncompleted and jeopardize the previous achievements of the international community in Bosnia. Such a prospect may also hurt the ongoing efforts in the wider region too.

Mr. President,

It is unfortunate that the disagreement on the International Criminal Court is not only casting shadow on the existence of the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina but also jeopardizing the UN peacekeeping operations in other parts of the world. Therefore, we believe that the potential implication of the current impasse for the whole UN peacekeeping should also be taken into account. The UN peacekeeping is a very important and effective tool for the international community to promote peace and security across the world.

My delegation regrets that a one-sided approach adopted by one member of the Security Council, which frequently resorts to veto to serve its own national interests, is, inter alia, putting in jeopardy the future of the UN peacekeeping. The threat to do the same with regard to other peacekeeping mandates that come up for renewal is all the more troubling. Undoubtedly, such an approach runs counter to the spirit and letter of the UN Charter, especially article 24, which maintains that the Council acts on behalf of the general membership.

My delegation does not see any logic whatsoever in the attempts, over the past few weeks, aimed at disrupting the work of a successful UN mission, which includes, among other things, combating organized crimes and terrorism.

As far as the Statute of the ICC is concerned, we expect that all members of the Security Council take note of the fact and accept that the Council is not authorized to interpret or amend treaties concluded among States in accordance with the Law of Treaties—a Law that recognizes parties to a treaty only to be competent to interpret or amend it.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court, and studies are underway in my country with a view to presenting it to the Parliament for ratification. We believe that the principles and values laid down in the Statute will enable the Court to become an effective organ for the international community to combat the most serious crimes and render justice to victims of war crimes.

We hope that the ongoing consultations in the Council do not result in undermining the International Criminal Court.

Thank you Mr. President.