

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Ellis, Alex
Subject: ICYM: Serbia's Response to Draft Resolution on Srebrenica Genocide Commemoration

Greetings,

In case you missed it, Serbia issued a formal letter expressing strong concerns about the proposed UN Draft Resolution on the 1995 Srebrenica Genocide, highlighting issues of transparency and regional consensus. The letter is included below.

Best regards,
Alex



СТАЛНА МИСИЈА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ ПРИ УЈЕДИЊЕНИМ НАЦИЈАМА
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

18 May 2024

Excellency,

In connection with the latest letter sent by the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Rwanda to all United Nations Member States on 17 May 2024 as main sponsors and co-facilitators of the Draft Resolution *International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica*, I wish to draw the attention to the following:

Contrary to their claim that there is a strong regional support for the Draft Resolution, the co-sponsors continue the practice of one-way communication without a possibility to ask questions and make comments, as well as without open consultations which would allow all the United Nations Member States to participate. This confirms the fact which the Republic of Serbia has pointed to from the very beginning: the lack of transparency of the process and a broader regional consensus and agreement reveals the true intention behind the proposed Resolution. Contrary to all the procedures and practices of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the distribution of the 'revised' text, agreed upon within a close circle of the co-sponsors, is in fact an attempt to mislead the Member States that substantial amendments have been made, which should convince them to support the text.

The assertion of the co-sponsors that criminal accountability is individualized in court proceedings, however, is meant for other purposes, i.e. to conceal, in a wider political discourse, the intention to attribute moral responsibility for genocide collectively to an entire people. Having suffered enormously and the subject of extermination and genocide

attempts, the Serbian people, having been on the side of truth and justice during two World Wars, will never acquiesce to it.

As a matter of fact, the phrase 'regional ownership' from the latest letter of the main co-sponsors is aimed at masking, unconvincingly, the consistent assertion of the Republic of Serbia that the Draft Resolution related to the sensitive issue of the victims of a tragic war must be, first and foremost, the 'ownership' of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, it is ignored altogether that the initiative on such a sensitive issue has not been launched in agreement with all three peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in contravention of the letter of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and without the consent of its 3-member Presidency.

The recent statement by Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Elmedin Konaković to the effect that "such Serbia deserves contempt, not a hand of cooperation" and that Bosnia and Herzegovina will request in all other ways compensation of war damage and the renewal of the review of the judgment against Serbia is indicative of the true intent of the Draft Resolution. Such irresponsible and inappropriate statements by the high-ranking official reveal also the Draft Resolution's true intent and, surely, do not contribute to the stability either in Bosnia and Herzegovina or the region, to which Serbia has pointed from the very beginning.

The United Nations Member States, brought in an unenviable situation by the will of the co-sponsors, should not be further confused by the submission of an allegedly revised text. Neither should the Member States be confused by the claims that this is the right time to initiate such a Resolution for, contrary to the efforts to present 2024 as the most adequate year, the year which we are living through is characterized by complex geo-political circumstances and the raising of the historically sensitive topics serves only to deepen divisions and may bring additional instability to the Balkans.

Bearing in mind the unforeseeable consequences of the Draft Resolution, manifested already at this stage, for the fragile process of reconciliation by the opening of the old wounds, we call once again on the sponsors to withdraw the text of the Draft Resolution in the interest of all, of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first place, as well as all the United Nations Member States, lest they are brought in a situation to vote on the sensitive issue that requires consensus.

If that does happen to be the case, we have to point out that this initiative has already caused deep divisions in the international community and led to the complication of the process in the entire region, wherefore we call on all the United Nations Member States to oppose the adoption of the said Draft Resolution.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Saša Mart
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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