

Association Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005

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The **Association Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005** will organize, on 20-21 October 2005, an international conference on and for BiH. The conference will be held in Geneva under the title *“Bosnia and Herzegovina 1995-2005: Ten Years of Dayton and Beyond – International Conference for Bosnia and Herzegovina.”* It will gather recognized researchers and practitioners from BiH and other countries to discuss the future of this BiH. Its main focus will be to identify the conditions - including those created by the international community - that will allow BiH to perform its functions as a fully sovereign state towards its citizens and the world community. This transition will entail policies to transfer authority from international to domestic bodies following a strategy of responsible disengagement; therefore, special attention will be paid to exit strategies for the international community that involve the transfer of responsibilities to domestic authorities.

The Association was founded in Sarajevo in September 2003, when a number of individuals involved in the process of peace implementation joined forces in order to provide strategic input to the re-focusing of international support policies. Many of the pressing problems BiH is facing today result from an incomplete process of building stable, legitimate, accountable, and effective institutions, for which local politicians and the international community share blame. Most of the international bodies are phasing out their activities less because of any objective determination of “mission accomplished” but because of their own, institutional concerns and imperatives. It is of critical importance, therefore, that the transfer of responsibilities in BiH receive strategic guidance.

The main goal of the Association is to help overcome the contradictions and inadequacies that have marred international support policies from their very inception, many of them going back to the Dayton accords. The Association wants to take up the challenge of overcoming Dayton’s shortcomings by implementing its provisions to the fullest extent possible wherever appropriate. This can only happen through a forward-looking analytical approach that deals resolutely and pragmatically with the conditions needed for the success of international support policies and with the challenges the state of BiH will face in the future. Such a targeted and strategic approach must be based on solid analytical work.