**Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council**

**Questionnaire on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms**

1. Do current processes in the State allow for, or encourage, a consideration of gender balance when nominating, electing and appointing experts for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes ensure publicity, transparency, and participation by civil society organizations and/or other actors?

In accordance with the Decision on the Procedure for Appointing Ambassadors and Other International Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina dated April 3, 2020 (Official Gazette 30/13), the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina nominates and appoints representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in international bodies and organizations. In accordance with Article 10 of the Decision, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, before submitting the proposal, consults with the line ministries and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The provisions of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 32/10) prescribe the obligation of equal representation of both sexes, and it exists in the case when one of the sexes is represented by at least 40%. Thus, Article 20 defines that state bodies at all levels of government and local self-government, including legislative, executive and judicial authorities, political parties, legal entities with public authority, legal entities owned or controlled by the state, entities, cantons, cities or municipality or over whose work a public body exercises control, equal representation of the sexes in management, decision-making and representation should be ensured and promoted. This obligation also exists for all authorized nominators when electing representatives and delegations in international organizations and bodies.

1. Does the State take into account the gender composition of the treaty bodies or the Advisory Committee at the time of nomination or election?

Bosnia and Herzegovina didn’t nominate any candidates to the treaty bodies or the Advisory Committee.

1. Does the State have any good national practices related to the nomination, election and appointing processes for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes take into account gender when nominating, electing, or appointing?

Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all its partners use every opportunity to point out the need for equal involvement of both sexes in the nomination, election and appointment processes.

1. How does the State take into consideration its obligations concerning non-discrimination and women’s right to equal access to participation, as well as its obligations under Article 8 of CEDAW to ensure women’s equal participation in the work of human rights organs when nominating or appointing candidates for those organs and mechanisms?

This is a legal obligation. Please see the answer on the question #1above.

1. How many women has the State nominated to human rights organs and mechanisms in the last five years (such as the Advisory Committee or treaty bodies)?

No persons were nominated to human rights organs and mechanisms in the last five years.

1. Does the State take any action to publicize and encourage women to apply for the special procedures mandate-holders vacancies?

The Public Call for submission of applications was practice in the past. The Call has been usually published by the relevant Ministry.

1. What are the main challenges within your country in tackling the issue of gender balance when nominating and electing candidates for human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, treaty bodies and the special procedures?

The main challenge is lack of opportunities for nomination and election of candidates for human rights organs and mechanisms.

1. Are there good practices by the State or other stakeholders that ensure gender parity? If yes, could you please share these practices?

As previously mentioned, Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its partners use every opportunity to promote and encourage gender parity inn all nomination, election and appointment processes.

1. Are there recommendations directed to States, international bodies, or other entities, that you wish to make in order to strengthen and inform this report?

We have no recommendation at this point.