

**Statement**  
**by H.E. Mr. Valeriy Kuchynsky,**  
**Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations**  
**at the Security Council meeting on the situation**  
**in Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**10 July 2002**

Mr. President,

Let me join my colleagues in congratulating you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Council. I would like to thank you for organising today's debate and to express our appreciation to Ambassador Paul Heinbecker of Canada for his initiative.

By holding this meeting, the Council promotes the principles of transparency and clearly indicates the readiness to hear the opinions of Non-Members, while considering one of the most important issues on its agenda.

This meeting also demonstrates, how indispensable are the issues of international justice for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

As a state-signatory to the Rome Statute, which intends to become its Party shortly, my country strongly supports the principles and values contained therein.

Being one of the biggest UN troop-contributors, Ukraine regrets that the Security Council is divided over the problem, which may undermine its credibility, question the legitimacy of its decisions and challenge the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping activities.

Therefore Ukraine is deeply concerned about the current impasse in the Council.

I do not intend to elaborate on the legal aspects of this matter – they are a prerogative of other bodies – but let me instead emphasize that under the present circumstances a decision of the Security Council would definitively affect the future development of the international law and influence the practice of the UN peacekeeping. We believe it should be worked out with outmost care and caution.

My delegation understands the concerns of the United States.

We hope that these concerns will be pragmatically addressed.

Moreover, we call upon every Member of the Security Council to extend all possible efforts to find a generally acceptable solution, which:

**First.** Should not weaken the UN peacekeeping.

**Second.** Should not harm the integrity of the Rome Statute.

**Third.** Should not create a precedent of interference of the Security Council with the sovereign rights of the Member-States in the treaty-making process,

And, **fourth,** should not create a conflict between the powers of the Security Council under the Chapter VII and the legal obligations, entered into by the Member-States in compliance with the provisions of the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

As a contributor to the international peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans Ukraine views a premature termination of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina leading to serious repercussions.

We deeply regret that, having achieved significant practical results, the Mission faces the possibility of an abrupt ending. This unfortunate scenario will, in our view, harm the positive tendencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the spheres of re-establishment of the rule of law, police reform, border control and fight against terrorism and illegal migration.

Ukraine fully supports steps taken by the European Union to avoid vacuum in international efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. My country is determined to contribute to these activities in the framework of the new EU police mission in the country and, if necessary, to speed up the relevant preparatory processes. However, we continue to look forward to a satisfactory outcome of the current situation, which will allow, both, to ensure smooth transition from the UNMIBH to the EU mission to preserve the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping activities and to maintain the US engagement.

I thank you.