

Trilateral New York Declaration of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Croatia and Turkey

The three Heads of State, His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, and His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, met in New York on 23 October 1995 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations to hold trilateral consultations at the summit level.

The Presidents reviewed the latest developments for achieving a peaceful settlement to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They lauded the efforts of the international community, noting with particular appreciation the American initiative which has progressed to holding proximity talks in the United States of America at the end of October with the leaders of the three countries concerned. They reiterated their support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for a pluralistic and democratic society of the three peoples and the "others" of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also expressed deep concern for the continuing occupation of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem, and urged an early and peaceful settlement.

The Presidents emphasized their commitment to the Contact Group peace proposal and the Agreed Basic Principles of New York and Geneva and reiterated their firm belief that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide the basis for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Presidents reaffirmed that trilateral consultation and cooperation mechanism among Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Turkey is a major contribution to the peace process and to the building of stability and cooperation in the region. They welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Mission of Goodwill and Joint Police Forces for Action "Return" as a concrete result of the trilateral mechanism. They reiterated their call for the inclusion of Turkey into the expanded International Contact Group.

The Presidents welcomed the offer of legal assistance by Turkey to the democratization process in general and preparation of constitutional arrangements in particular of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Presidents further expressed their conviction that mutual recognition of all States in the region within the internationally recognized borders would pave the way for the normalization of the situation in the region.

The Presidents underlined the vital importance of economic assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and humanitarian aid for the rehabilitation of all refugees and displaced persons returning to their homes following the peace settlement. To this end, the Presidents decided to establish a joint economic committee to coordinate their activities and cooperation in this field. They also expressed their appreciation for the establishment of the Assistance Mobilization Group within the Organization of the Islamic Conference for economic and humanitarian assistance. The Presidents of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia reiterated their support to Turkey as a coordinator of this Group.

The Presidents reaffirmed the determination and political will of their respective countries to strengthen trilateral cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and Turkey in various fields.