SUBJECT: OHCHR – Information about Resolution 19/20 adopted by the Human Rights Council

According to state and entity laws, there are a number of institutions that have a mandate to promote, improve and protect human rights at the state, entity and Brcko District levels. The basic mechanisms for the protection of human rights in BiH are the Constitutional Court of BiH, the Entity constitutional courts, the Ombudsman for Human Rights and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees.

Training and education of the public service to promote, protect and respect human rights, independence, accountability, transparency and the highest levels of efficiency, competence and integrity are organized by the Civil Service Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Civil Service Agency of the Federation and the Public Administration Agency of Republika Srpska.

The Civil Service Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state-level authority tasked to conduct the hiring process at the request of institutions, to help other state-level authorities to implement their personnel policies and organization development and to introduce a unified information system for human resources management in the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Agency prepares an annual training program, provides training and development of the public service.

The Civil Service Agency of the Federation reviews civil service jobs, establishes uniform criteria, rules and procedures of recruitment, selection and appointment of civil servants in the civil service of the Federation and plans and implements the process of recruitment of civil servants at the request and in accordance with needs of the authorities. The Agency organizes and provides in-service training of civil servants and employees in the civil service and ensures development of the civil service.

The Public Administration Agency of Republika Srpska is responsible for introducing uniform rules and procedures of recruitment, selection and appointment of civil servants, promoting ethical code of conduct all civil servants should comply with, promoting and ensuring equality of civil servants while selected and appointed in public competitions. The Agency prepares and implements training curricula operating for the purpose of vocational guidance and career promotion for all civil servants, keeps a central register of employees and establishes and promotes the highest standards of rules and procedures in the public administration management.

The Civil Service Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina annually organizes about 160 training for 3300 civil servants. Topics in the Agency’s training that are regularly planned each year are inter alia the constitutional protection of human rights and civil liberties and civil dialogue in practice.

In March 2012, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated the adoption of the Decision on Establishment of the Commission for the Implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
According to the tentative Decision, the Commission would be of inter-ministerial nature. Its mandate would be to, in accordance with the Plan of Action, which was drafted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, make an analysis of the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, set priorities and design a national strategy for the Implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. Also, the Commission would be in charge of implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support from UNDP, is preparing activities to develop modules in human rights education. The modules would also cover topics related to the prevention of corruption.