



OPCW

Executive Council

109th Session
8 – 11 July 2025

EC-109/S/1
10 March 2025
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**NOMINATION BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA OF A CANDIDATE
FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

1. At its 108th Session, the Executive Council (the Council) adopted a decision on the “Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the Next Director-General in 2025” (EC-108/DEC.5, dated 6 March 2025), requesting the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council’s behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by no later than 16 May 2025, to enable their consideration by the Council.
2. The Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW has submitted to the Technical Secretariat a note verbale informing it of the nomination by Bosnia and Herzegovina of H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW, as candidate for the position of Director-General.
3. In accordance with EC-108/DEC.5, the above-mentioned note verbale is herewith conveyed to the members of the Council.

Annex (English only):

Note Verbale No. 135-52/25 from the Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW Dated 10 March 2025



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE NO. 135-52/25 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE OPCW DATED 10 MARCH 2025**

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ambasada – Veleposlanstvo
Hag



БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Амбасада
Хаг

N: 135-52/25

The Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of the Netherlands/Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and, referring to the letter of the Chairperson of the Executive Council dated 10 March 2025, ref: L/PMO-558/25, has the honour to inform that Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to submit the candidacy of Ambassador Almir Šahović, the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Portuguese Republic, and the Permanent Representative to the OPCW, for the position of Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

H.E. Mr. Almir Šahović is a distinguished diplomat with extensive experience in both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Over the years, he has played a crucial role in strengthening international cooperation and promoting the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention. His tenure as Chairman of the 29th Conference of the States Parties to the OPCW demonstrated his strong leadership, deep understanding of the organisation's mandate, and commitment to consensus-building among Member States.

Given his outstanding diplomatic expertise, extensive engagement with the OPCW, and unwavering dedication to disarmament and non-proliferation, Bosnia and Herzegovina firmly believes that H.E. Mr. Almir Šahović is an ideal candidate to lead the organisation in the coming period.

For all these reasons, Bosnia and Herzegovina respectfully submits Ambassador Almir Šahović as a highly qualified candidate for the position of Director-General of the OPCW and looks forward to engaging constructively with all Member States throughout the selection process.

The Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of the Netherlands/Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) avails itself of this opportunity to render to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its high consideration.

The Hague, 10 March 2025

Enclosed:

- Letter by H.E. Mr. Elmedin Konaković, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Ambassador Šahović curriculum vitae

International Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Technical Secretariat
The Hague



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sarajevo, 10 March 2025

Dear President of the Executive Council,

On behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have the honor to submit the candidacy of Ambassador Almir Šahović, the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Portuguese Republic, and the Permanent Representative to the OPCW, for the position of Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Ambassador Šahović is one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's most distinguished diplomats, with extensive experience in both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served in numerous high-level positions, including:

- Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to France, Algeria, Monaco, and Andorra;
- Ambassador, Permanent Representative to UNESCO;
- Ambassador to the Council of Europe and President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations and Political Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Currently, Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Portuguese Republic, as well as Permanent Representative to the OPCW.

His strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy and disarmament has been evident through his active engagement in the work of the OPCW. Notably, he was elected as the Chairman of the 29th Conference of the States Parties, demonstrating the trust and recognition he has earned from Member States.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has long been committed to the objectives and activities of the OPCW, strongly supporting the Organisation's mission to eliminate chemical weapons and strengthen international peace and security.

We firmly believe that Ambassador Šahović's leadership, experience, and vision make him an ideal candidate to guide the Organisation at this crucial time.

Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the Eastern European Group has never had the opportunity to provide a Director-General for the OPCW. Electing a candidate from our region would contribute to greater regional representation and diversity within the Organisation's leadership.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For all these reasons, Bosnia and Herzegovina respectfully submits Ambassador Almir Šahović as a highly qualified candidate for the position of Director-General of the OPCW and looks forward to engaging constructively with all Member States throughout the selection process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my high consideration.

Elmedin Konaković

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Konaković" with a stylized flourish at the end.

H.E. Mr. Andres Teran Parral, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OPCW
Chairperson of the Executive Council of the OPCW
The Hague

Curriculum Vitae

Name : SAHOVIC
First Name : Almir
E mail : almir.sahovic@mvp.gov.ba

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

1992-1993: College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium
Master of Arts in European Studies, Central and East European Programme

1986-1991: University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Law Faculty
Diploma of Law (State Law Degree)

LANGUAGES:

Bosnian: mother tongue
French: fluent
English: fluent
Italian: Passive

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE RECORD:

03.05.2021. – ongoing	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW Chairperson of the 29. Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary non-resident of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Portuguese Republic
01.04.2016 – 03.05.2021.	Ambassador, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations, (in charge of the departments for UN, Regional organisations, Peace and Security, Disarmament, Human Rights, International Financial Organizations, EU) Political Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina

	Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina US-ADRIATIC CHARTER (A5) Chairmanship in office (2020) Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina SEECP Chairmanship in office (2019) Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina WBF Chairmanship in office (2018) Coordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina MARRI Chairmanship in office (2018)
05.12.2015-01.04.2016	Head of Department for the strategic planning Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina
17.09.2012 – 04.12.2015	Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe
19.05.2015 – 10.11.2015	Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (at the ambassadorial level)
01.12.2011 -16.09.2012	Ambassador, Head of Department for the NATO, Peace and Security Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina
01.08.2011-01.12.2011	Head of Department for the international cooperation in the field of culture, education, sciences and sport Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.04.2008 -01.08.2011	Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina in France Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UNESCO Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary non- resident of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Algeria, in Monaco, and in Andorra
01.11.2006 -10.04.2008	Head of Department for the Economic Diplomacy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo
15.08.2005 - 01.11.2006	Diplomatic Adviser Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

15.06.2002. – 15.08.2005	Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Bosnia en Herzegovina in Paris (Deputy Head of the Mission)
01.04.2001. – 15.06.2002.	Minister-Counsellor, Head of the Unit for Reconstruction (Co-ordination of international assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
01.06.1998.- 01.04.2001.	Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (at the rang of Counsellor)
01.11.1997. – 31.05.1998.	Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to France and the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UNESCO, Paris, France Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission a.i.
01.12.1996.-31.10.1997.	Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to France and the Permanente Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UNESCO, Paris, France Attaché
27.05.1996.-30.11.1996.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo Division for Reconstruction Head of the Unit for EU and International Organizations Co-ordinator for PHARE MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMES in the Office of the National PHARE Co-ordinator
01.12.1993.-27.05.1996.	Permanente Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU and NATO, and Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Benelux Countries, Brussels Deputy Head of the Mission a.i.
08/92-10/92	Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Protocol Bureau
1991-1992	“Sahovic-Kulic” Law Firm, Sarajevo

Other:

Vice-President of the ARS AEVI Association (Initiative for the construction of Sarajevo Contemporary Art Museum)

Spokesman of the First Sarajevo World Urbanism Forum (September 2012)

Honorary Vice-President of the Association for the organization of the Second Sarajevo World Urbanism Forum in 2014

Member of the Strasbourg Film Festival Jury (2015)

Member of College of Europe Alumni Association

Member of Monaco Ambassadors Club