

BANJA LUKA DECLARATION

ON PARTICIPATION OF OMBUDSMEN IN THE AREAS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo* , N. Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia, members of the Network of Ombudsmen for the Environment and Human Rights, following the working meeting on “Environmental Protection – the Role of an Ombudsman” held on 27 – 28 February 2019 in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- continuing the work of the Network of Ombudsmen for the Environment and Human Rights in accordance with the Ljubljana Declaration on co-operation of Ombudsmen in the area of the environment and human rights,

- wishing to upgrade this work thus contributing to the preservation of healthy environment for future generations, protection of human rights and freedoms in the area of health and well-being of all people and the overall life on the planet,

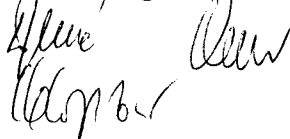
The Ombudsman institutions, members of the Network of Ombudsmen for the Environment and Human Rights undertake the following obligations:

1. Remain committed to development of the Network, identification of pollution cases requiring the cross-border co-operation where Ombudspersons would have the common stance.
2. Depending of the funds availability will consider the possibility of hiring an expert in ecology and environmental protection issues, who would, in addition to tackling the ecology and environmental protection related issues in their respective countries, commit to co-operation within the Network.
3. Since the Network is organized on the basis of a rotating chairmanship, every member once in a while organizes a meeting that brings together representatives of relevant authorities of that country, the academic community and the non-governmental sector, members of the Network will be committed to maintaining and improving so created links and relationships in an effort to upgrade the situation in the field of pollution reduction, maintaining biodiversity, monitoring trends in the area of organic food production, and the awareness raising of the importance of taking care of the environment in all human actions.
4. Members of the Network hereby invite the members of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), in particular the countries with which they directly or indirectly share the ecologic space to consider the possibility of accessing the Network.
5. Members of the Network hereby agree in accordance with their capabilities to adopt the overall graphic design in the future to be used in all Network activities. Every Network member is free to give suggestions and a final decision will be adopted by consent reached through email communication.

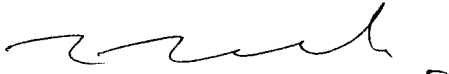
*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

Signatures of Ombudspersons from the following countries:

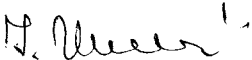
Bosnia and Herzegovina:



Croatia:



Kosovo*:



Montenegro:

N. Macedonia:



Serbia:



Slovenia:

