

*For immediate release*

**Statement by Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on the ban on convicted war criminals to run for elections and be appointed to public offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

(New York, 2 April 2024) The United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, acknowledges the amendment to the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), introduced convicted by any international or domestic court of the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes may stand as candidate for elections or hold any elective, appointive or other office.

The Special Adviser recognizes the importance of this step as contributing to strengthen trust-building in the country both in institutions and among communities impacted by the denial of genocide and related crimes, and to advance inter-communal healing.

The Special Adviser also notes the recent Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Justice and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, enabling that criminal records of Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens and people born on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina who have been convicted by the international tribunals of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide are registered in the criminal records. The Special Adviser considers this as an important step to affirm the recognition of the rulings of the international tribunals and counter revisionism, denial, and the gl

caused must be stronger than the voice of those who deny them. Many civil society actors have for decades undertaken remarkable work in that regard, but this is primarily the responsibility of authorities and institutions, at all levels, to build a peaceful and inclusive society, emphasized the Special Adviser.

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