

**Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>**

Country/ entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Exchange of letters providing for establishment of Stabilization Force (SFOR)
Date	2 Dec 1996
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s) ( Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001) )
Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bosnia peace process
Parties	Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Alija IZETBEOVIC, Kresimir ZUBAK, Momcilo KRAJISNIK, Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Milan MILUTINOVIC, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Dr Franjo TUDJMAN, President of the Republic of Croatia;
Third parties	Letters forwarded by: Jorge DOMECQ, Director of the Private Office of the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Alastair MERRILL, Deputy Director of the Private Office of the Secretary- General;
Description	This exchange of letters between the parties and the Secretary-General of NATO, provides for creation of a NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) as a follow up to the Implementation Force (IFOR).

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Agreement  
document

[BA\\_961202\\_Exchange of letters providing for establishment of Stabilization Force \(SFOR\).pdf](#)  
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## Groups

Children/ youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

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## Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
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Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

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## Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution Governance→Constitution→Constitution affirmation/renewal  
I take this opportunity to remind you that we still have not concluded the task started in Dayton, Ohio of interpreting certain regulations contained in the Transit Agreement for Peace Plan Operations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and NATO, signed on 21 and 23 November 1995. On 20 February 1996, we received a letter from Mr. B. de Vidts, Legal Adviser of NATO, which contained some interpretations of the provisions of the Transit Agreement, but these interpretations greatly departed from those agreed upon in Dayton. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Transit Agreement is subject to the approval by the Federal Assembly...

Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making  
Page 6-7, LETTER, From the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 3 December 1996

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## **Power sharing**

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
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Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
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Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
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Military power sharing	No specific mention.
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## **Human rights and equality**

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
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Bill of rights/ similar	No specific mention.
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Treaty incorporation Page 1-2, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 November 1996

...xAll international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Page 3, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 29 November 1996

...All international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Page 4-5, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the President of Croatia, 29 November 1996

...All international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

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## Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/  
access      No specific mention.

Protection  
measures      No specific mention.

Other      No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

NHRI      No specific mention.

Regional or  
international  
human  
rights  
institutions      No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

Criminal  
justice and  
emergency  
law      No specific mention.

State of  
emergency  
provisions      No specific mention.

Judiciary  
and courts      No specific mention.

Prisons and  
detention      No specific mention.

Traditional  
Laws      No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

Land reform/ rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/ nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.



Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.
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### **Security sector**

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
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Ceasefire	No specific mention.
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Police	No specific mention.
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Armed  
forces

Page 1, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the UN Secretary-General concerning the Stabilization Force, 2 December 1996

In my letter of 28 November, I informed you that NATO was proceeding with preparations for a follow-up force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 29 November allies agreed that this force would be named the Stabilization Force, or SFOR, that I should seek the acceptance of the Parties to the Dayton Accords of SFOR as the successor to the Implementation Force (IFOR)...

Page 1-2, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 November 1996

I have the honour to refer to the multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR), and the important role that it has played in the implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement initialled at Dayton on 21 November 1995, and signed at Paris on 14 December 1995 (the Peace Agreement). It is our understanding that Bosnia and Herzegovina would welcome a follow-up stabilization force (SFOR) to be organized and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is further understanding that Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes and invites action by the United Nations Security Council to continue the authorization granted in paragraphs 14 to 17 of its resolution 1031 (1995), with respect to the follow-up force and that it will cooperate fully. It is also our understanding that SFOR will be legal successor of IFOR. SFOR is entitled to the same rights, immunities, privileges and facilities as IFOR for all purposes. All international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Page 3, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 29 November 1996

I have the honour to refer to the multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR), and the important role that it has played in the implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement initialled at Dayton on 21 November 1995, and signed at Paris on 14 December 1995 (the Peace Agreement). It is our understanding that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would welcome a follow-up stabilization force (SFOR) to be organized and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is our further understanding that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes and invites action by the United Nations Security Council to continue the authorization granted in paragraphs 14 to 17 of its resolution 1031 (1995), with respect to the follow-up force and that it will cooperate fully. In this connection, it is also our understanding that all references to IFOR in the Peace Agreement (particularly its annexes 1-A and 2) and in all other relevant documents will be read as references to the follow-up force (SFOR). It is also our understanding that SFOR is the legal successor to IFOR. SFOR is entitled to the same rights, immunities, privileges and facilities as IFOR for all purposes. All international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR... Page 10 of 14

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/  
rebel and  
opposition  
group  
forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal  
of foreign  
forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/  
organised  
crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

Transitional  
justice  
general No specific mention.

Amnesty/  
pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner  
release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing  
persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

UN  
signatory UN Secretary-General is the recipient of letter exchange

Other  
international  
signatory No specific mention.

Referendum  
for  
agreement No specific mention.

International mission/  
force/similar

Page 1, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the UN Secretary-General concerning the Stabilization Force, 2 December 1996

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Page 1-2, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 November 1996

I have the honour to refer to the multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR), and the important role that it has played in the implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement initialled at Dayton on 21 November 1995, and signed at Paris on 14 December 1995 (the Peace Agreement). It is our understanding that Bosnia and Herzegovina would welcome a follow-up stabilization force (SFOR) to be organized and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is further our understanding that Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes and invites action by the United Nations Security Council to continue the authorization granted in paragraphs 14 to 17 of its resolution 1031 (1995), with respect to the follow-up force and that it will cooperate fully. It is also our understanding that SFOR will be legal successor of IFOR. SFOR is entitled to the same rights, immunities, privileges and facilities as IFOR for all purposes. All international instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Page 2, LETTER, From the Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 30 November 1996

We refer to your letter of 29 November 1996, concerning the status of a follow-up stabilization force in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be organized and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina herewith acknowledges receipt of your letter and confirms concurrence with its contents in full. We understand that the Presidency shall be consulted on the duration of the mandate.

Page 3, LETTER, From the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 29 November 1996

I have the honour to refer to the multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR), and the important role that it has played in the implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement initialled at Dayton on 21 November 1995, and signed at Paris on 14 December 1995 (the Peace Agreement). It is our understanding that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would welcome a follow-up stabilization force (SFOR) to be organized and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is our further understanding that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes and invites action by the United Nations Security Council to continue the authorization granted in paragraphs 14 to 17 of its resolution 1031 (1995), with respect to the follow-up force and that it will cooperate fully. In this connection, it is also our understanding that all of the instruments, all public and private agreements, contracts or arrangements of any kind and description, memoranda of understanding and all other relevant instruments involving IFOR shall remain in force and shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as referring to SFOR...

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Snezana Trifunovska (ed.) Former Yugoslavia Through Documents: From its dissolution to the peace settlement (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff 1999) pp. 584-589

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