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'Full Stomach Peace' in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Economic Development as a Tool for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

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Oral Presentation O8.2

**'FULL STOMACH PEACE' IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AS A TOOL FOR POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING**

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In an age of limited financial resources and continued power struggles, laying the foundation for post-conflict peace-building is a laborious task. This is especially evident in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), which continues to be shadowed by its history of ethnic division and genocide. Experts on the ground claim, however, that politicians have only used 'ethnic' and 'religious' differences as an excuse to retract from actual economic problems, and that economic development should be prioritized in BiH's framework for long-term peace. The paper, hence, examines whether an economic-focused blueprint to peace is appropriate to BiH. Through a historical context of the war in the Former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, a report on BiH's economic indicators and present challenges, and an analysis of the economic reforms of the government, the World Bank and the European Union, the paper concludes that economic development needs to be emphasized in peace-building efforts, but not at the expense of forgoing political reforms and reconciliation efforts.