

**Check Against Delivery**

**Statement of President of the Security Council at the Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) - "Fostering Global Solidarity and Conflict-Sensitive Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its Socioeconomic Impacts" - Thursday November 19th, 2020**

Thank you Mr. President/Chair,

It is my esteemed privilege to deliver a few remarks at today's event in my capacity as President of the United Nations Security Council and I thank Ambassadors Akram and Rae for extending their warm invitation for my participation in this discussion.

Excellencies,

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most complex crisis since the Second World War. As this pandemic continues to profoundly alter our global conditions of life, living, and production, it is only through a unity of purpose and a shared sense of multilateral

solidarity can we achieve our common objectives of lasting peace and sustainable development.

Amidst the immense challenges provoked by COVID-19, a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity—to strengthen national ownership over peace processes, and enhance inclusivity to work to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account—is made even more urgent. In this regard, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has played a crucial role in convening a range of partners including the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), regional and sub-regional organizations and the international civil society, to assist Member States in advancing their peacebuilding priorities. So too has the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) provided a supporting platform for mobilizing comprehensive development responses to peacebuilding challenges at the local, national and regional levels. ECOSOC has been vital for maintaining a hard-fought, positive momentum against the complex challenges of conflict, COVID-19, energy

poverty, climate change, environmental degradation, acute food insecurity, and forced displacement.

For our part, the Security Council has endeavoured to address possible security implications related to the impact of the pandemic by adopting resolution 2532 which reinforces the Secretary-General's calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to engage in a durable humanitarian pause in order to enable the safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance. We have also held a number of important events over the past months, notably under the Presidencies of Germany, Indonesia and Niger, to assess the range of challenges emanating from this pandemic and to provide sustained advocacy for a global ceasefire. Most recently, at the high-level open debate on the Contemporary Drivers of Conflict and Insecurity held on November 3rd, Council Members were united in our calls for adequately financed, integrated and sustainable approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in line with the principles of international law.

As we endeavour to fulfil the aspirational goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our primary blueprint for a peaceful and prosperous world, we need, more than ever a comprehensive and collective approach.

I Thank You.