

**Peacebuilding Fund
Replenishment Conference
26 January 2021 (virtual)**

EU intervention, EU HoD Amb. Olof Skoog

- Firstly, thank you to PBSO for organising this important event, congratulations to Canada for having carried out an excellent job of chair of the PBC, and to Egypt for assuming this important role now.
- In the interventions this morning, I noted three recurrent messages: inclusive development is a prerequisite for enduring peace; much better support to women, youth and the civil society is needed and we need to do better in financing.
- The UN is the EU's main multilateral partner and key strategic counterpart in the area of **peace and security**. Both organisations are committed to contributing to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and effectively responding to global and emerging threats and the EU has made the support to multilateralism one of its key priorities for the years to come. Over the last decades already, the EU and the UN have been working very closely together in promoting and upholding peace and security, defending human rights, contributing to sustainable development and the fight against climate change.
- Example: In **Libya**, the EU supports the peace process through a range of activities at the local, national and international level. By **consistently engaging with national powerbrokers and reaching out to communities across the country**, the EU fosters broader Libyan ownership and creates political incentives towards a more inclusive peace and rehabilitation

process. Our initiatives have helped prepare the ground for last year's (October) cease-fire agreement, and now support the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.

- The UN and the EU are both committed to help reduce the rising levels of violent conflict globally, and with the increasingly complex causes of crises and their linkages to regional and international peace make **partnership between the two organizations not a choice, but an imperative**. The EU puts its political support behind the peacebuilding work of the UN and we are continuously strengthening our strategic cooperation. Jointly with the Peacebuilding Fund, the EU has already identified a number of priority countries for conducting joint analysis, and for aligning our peacebuilding targets. We are expecting to take this work further in 2021.
- The PBF and the peacebuilding architecture is increasing the impact and results on the ground through cooperation across the UN system and increased cooperation with other main actors – national or international. With a strengthened and results focussed coordination between the PBF and the PBC and better exploration of the potential synergies, both organisations will take steps towards implementing their mandates still more effectively.
- Financing peacebuilding and conflict prevention is the starting point for meaningful impact. With a focus on support to multilateral solutions to conflict and on the link between humanitarian work, development and peace, an important part of the **EU's peacebuilding funds is being channelled to the UN's work in this complex area**. Between 2016 and 2020, the EU committed €336 million to early crisis response, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and stabilisation efforts through UN actors. The EU is fairly new to the PBF as an institution, and we have so far granted a first contribution of € 2million to the PBC.

- As part of the EU's commitment to support multilateralism, we expect this contribution to be only a first step in an increasingly close partnership with the PBF, built not only on financial support but also on joint analysis, action and learning in the field. Against this background, and with the start of the EU's new Multiannual Financial Framework this year, we will have **the opportunity to explore possibilities to further increasing the EU's support to the PBF.**