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High-level Replenishment Conference for the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

26th January 2021

Statement by Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Foreign Minister of Finland

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished co-chairs, Excellencies and Colleagues,

Responding to Secretary-General's appeal, Finland made a commitment of 3 million euros to the Peacebuilding Fund in October 2020. Our commitment in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic is a clear indication of the political will and interest to build a stronger UN in peacebuilding through multiple instruments.

The Peacebuilding Fund forms an important part of the UN peacebuilding architecture. Sustaining peace has become the overriding agenda for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the UN's work. For Finland conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding are a strong priority and the UN has been our key partner for many years seeking to solve violent conflicts.

We welcome the new PBF strategy, which establishes the priorities for investments and main work areas to sustain peace before, during and after an escalation of violent conflict: to facilitate transitions, to implement peace agreements, to enable dialogue with the goal to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Peacebuilding is always a UN system-wide effort. A good coordination, cooperation, coherence and complementarity of the actions are needed. We need to do the right things, but we also need to do them right.

The need for the Peacebuilding Fund is evident. The experiences and results speak for themselves. The PBF has proven to be flexible and agile, helping countries under conflict and different circumstances, with planned investments in more than 40 countries. I encourage us all to learn together whenever and wherever possible in our peace endeavours to identify practical strategies and solutions. The Peacebuilding Fund can provide further incentives for the partners to work jointly in peace processes. The Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative is a good example of finding new approaches and involving new partners.

The Fund has a great task ahead to develop its strategic and facilitating role within the UN system and deepening its links with other actors in multilateral and national partnerships. Finland is committed to remain as a close partner and contributor, looking forward to our further collaboration in conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

I want to wish you all peace and prosperity, a new year of hope and solidarity. I thank you.