

**Statement by Sweden on the occasion of the High-Level Replenishment Conference for the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund**

*Delivered by H.E. Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation*

Secretary-General, excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Like others, I would like to thank the organizers and the co-hosts for gathering us all here today for this important ministerial replenishment conference. The timing couldn't be more appropriate.

It has become clear that the consequences of the current pandemic risk destabilising the situation in fragile contexts. At the same time, the pandemic also presents us with opportunities to increase and refine our efforts to prevent conflict. To build peace through building back better and greener as well as more resilient.

Implementing the sustaining peace agenda must be an integral part of the global pandemic response. The work of the UN Peacebuilding Fund is in this regard a central component.

Its efforts will be key for the long-term sustainability of the humanitarian but also socio-economic pandemic response, in fragile situations.

UN peacebuilding has come a long way. The sustaining peace resolutions from 2016 offers a clear framework. **Our focus must now be on its implementation.** The UN Peacebuilding Fund is a glaring example in this regard.

Since its creation, the PBF has established itself as a beacon of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. Through engagement in over 40 countries and with an innovative design and catalytic approach, it has made a real difference.

PBF has contributed to bringing the UN system together and promoted collaboration between key actors.

Taking into account the effects of climate change in peacebuilding efforts is crucial. Cross-cutting approaches in the nexus of climate change, conflict prevention and sustaining peace need to be further developed. The global peace index indicates 1 billion people are highly exposed to climate change and 400 million of these people live in conflict affected countries. Sweden strongly supports the emphasis put on tackling conflicts resulting from global warming in the PBF Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

**Also, gender equality and the agenda of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) has also been integrated in many of the fund's activities.** Sweden strongly welcomes that 40% of PBF's projects are devoted mainly to promote gender equality and we hope this important work will continue and be even more strengthened.

In order for the fund to continue to deliver, continuous and additional funding is critical. **I am concerned by the current outlook presented here today.** The recent overview of the UN's peacebuilding architecture highlighted that ensuring adequate, predictable and sustainable financing remains one of the most critical challenges for peacebuilding in general. We must do more, and Sweden is ready to do its part.

**First, we will continue to support the fund financially and politically.** In 2021 we will contribute to the Fund with approximately 28 Million US dollar. From 2022, we aim to provide multi-year support.

**Second, through our initiative on Good Peacebuilding Donorship, we will together with other donors continue to champion funding for peacebuilding at large.** Increased volumes but also predictable, long-term and flexible funding, including to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, is key. But it also entails ensuring cooperation and coherent approaches within and between key actors, including international financial institutions, to foster synergies across funding instruments.

To conclude, if we are serious about implementing the sustaining peace agenda, we must be willing to offer more funding, including broadening the donor base.

**Investing in PBF is an investment for peace, for saving lives and a commitment for building back better, for everyone.**

Thank you.