

United Kingdom

SPEAKING NOTES – 410 words

COVID-19 has brought many challenges - in health, in development, in humanitarian and security spheres, and it has done so on an unprecedented scale.

It is clear that its secondary effects will be present for many years to come and that these effects include increased instability and conflict.

To address this, we need agile tools at our disposal, like the Peacebuilding Fund.

The UK has long supported peacebuilding work that brings together political, humanitarian, and development responses. We are a strong, historic supporter of the Peacebuilding Fund.

Because COVID-19 increases instability, the Fund's catalytic support will be fundamental in leading the UN's efforts to build peace and prevent conflict. It will form a core part of helping us to Build Back Better.

We commend the Peacebuilding Fund's new Strategy and the ambition shown to expand the Fund's work.

We are encouraged by its focus on transparency and evaluations, which is fostering innovation.

Financing

Financing has been a key challenge in peacebuilding for many years. Predictable and sustainable financing is important for the Peacebuilding Fund to work effectively.

We Minister o. And we commend the Peacebuilding Support Office's efforts to leverage funding from other partners and broaden their donor base.

We will remain champions of the Fund and its work.

Partnership

As the nature of crises around the world changes, effective interventions need to bridge humanitarian, development and peacebuilding operations.

The Fund should build on the excellent work it is doing with other parts of the UN system as a result of the Secretary General's reforms. We continue to encourage partnerships, including joint working between the World Bank and UN bodies like the Peacebuilding Fund.

It is critical that the UN works collaboratively, systematically and strategically with international financial institutions in fragile states. These institutions can provide crucial financial support to conflict prevention and encourage innovative financing methods.

Demonstrated delivery in-country should be at the heart of peacebuilding. In-country delivery should be facilitated within UN Country Teams, in consultation with UN Missions, and critically, in close cooperation with local actors and national governments.

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks are an important opportunity for this, and we will support the UN in developing this kind of coherent, strategic thinking.

The global response to COVID-19 has shown the value of the multilateral system. The UK stands by you and looks forward to working with you all towards building sustained peace.

Thank you.