



S L O V A K I A

Statement by His Excellency

Mr. Ivan Korčok

**Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
of the Slovak Republic**

**at the High-level Replenishment Conference
for the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund**

New York, 26 January 2021

Mr. Chair,

First of all, I would like to thank you for organizing the High-level Replenishment Conference for the Peacebuilding Fund. I am convinced that this timely event will generate more focused attention on the necessity of adequate, predictable and sustainable financing to support national peacebuilding efforts.

The Peacebuilding Fund is an extremely important tool in providing sustained support to conflict-affected countries. Nowadays, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of the Fund in mobilizing critical financial support for conflict prevention and peacebuilding is even more important than ever. Direct and secondary consequences of the pandemic coupled up with pre-existing humanitarian crises add another layer of complexity to already fragile situations. The pandemic put the sustaining peace and development gains of the post-conflict countries and countries in transition at risk of being reversed. Slovakia therefore fully supports the Secretary-General's calls for increased contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which should be provided over a longer term to ensure that the support is both responsive and predictable.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to underline our continued commitment to the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda. Slovakia, as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2020-2021, has worked closely with all the partners to ensure predictable and sustainable financing of UN peacebuilding activities in order to enable people in fragile countries to live in peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies. We especially welcome the Peacebuilding Commission's efforts to support national and regional responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries engaging with the Peacebuilding Commission are facing critical challenges and the gloomy perspectives brought by the pandemic amplify the fragilities and the need for resolute action.

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia strongly supports full implementation of Security Council Resolution 2532, adopted on 1 July 2020, demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on the Council's agenda in support of the Secretary-General's global ceasefire appeal to combat the pandemic. This resolution also cautioned that peacebuilding and development gains made by

countries in transition and in post-conflict situations could be reversed as a result of the pandemic.

We also recognize the fact that the UN Peacebuilding Architecture needs to adapt to the new type of challenges that the world is facing. Slovakia welcomes the wide participation in the 2020 review of the Peacebuilding Architecture that offered an opportunity for adapting to immediate challenges to sustaining peace in countries with high levels of institutional, security and social fragility. We also appreciate that Security Council Resolution 2558 unanimously adopted on 21 December 2020, together with a similar resolution of the General Assembly, encouraged further action by the whole UN system to advance coherence in peacebuilding efforts. In this context, Slovakia has been in particular promoting that adequate attention be paid to Security Sector Governance and Reform as a key component of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Mr. Chair,

In response to Secretary-General's call for support to the Peacebuilding Fund, I am pleased to confirm that Slovakia will contribute to the Fund in 2021 and we will seriously consider further contributions over a longer term.

Mr. Chair,

Let me thank you again for providing this opportunity for an exchange of views on sustainable peacebuilding and priorities for multilateral peacebuilding efforts. I believe that it is critical that all relevant UN bodies and organs take part in further discussions on how to advance and intensify our collective work and system-wide approaches to financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Thank you.