

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**AT**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
(ECOSOC) AND THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION (PBC)**

**ON**

**“PROMOTING DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF RECOVERY FROM COVID-19”**

**15 DECEMBER 2021  
10:00 – 13:00 HOURS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL**

*Please check against delivery.*

**Distinguished Guests,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. As we conclude our joint meeting, I would like to express my appreciation to our Speakers for their inspiring presentations and to all of you for the fruitful discussion in the interactive dialogue.
2. Our continuing dialogue on the special and unique challenges of a conflict-sensitive response to the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore many challenges. These include unequal access to vaccines, the urgent need to scale up financing and debt relief to strengthen health systems and develop social protection mechanisms to cushion the effects of the pandemic, especially for vulnerable and minority populations.
3. As the discussion has shown, a whole-of-society approach, with full participation by women, youth, civil society organizations and the private sector, is required for building back better in a way that address the causes, drivers and triggers of conflict as well as create the conditions for long-term peace and development.

**Excellencies,**

4. We know that the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer us the opportunity to do exactly this. Every Goal of this comprehensive agenda is essential to the fulfilment of the other Goals with the aim of realizing a world that is just, equitable, inclusive and peaceful.
5. ECOSOC will continue working with the Peacebuilding Commission to bring attention to the development and peacebuilding needs of conflict-affected populations and countries, including those impacted by COVID-19.

6. The General Assembly, in its Resolution 75/290 A adopted in June 2021, encouraged the two Bodies to explore ways to work more effectively together and seek to reinforce their impact at the country level. Hearing directly from Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mali is a step in this direction.
7. With a view to solidify further collaboration and coordination between ECOSOC and the PBC, I have been in contact with the Chair of the Commission on the designation of an Informal Coordinator for the two bodies. It is my ardent hope that the designation of an Informal Coordinator at the beginning of the new year will help to further strengthen our work.
8. In the coming days, the PBC Chair and I will prepare a joint informal summary of this meeting, which will be available on the ECOSOC and PBC websites. The summary will also be shared with the United Nations system for follow-up.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**