

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT A

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PEACEBUILDING FINANCING

27 APRIL 2022

10:00 HOURS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL

Please check against delivery.

- **Mr. President of the General Assembly,**
- **Mr. President of the Security Council,**
- **Mr. Secretary-General,**
- **Mr. President of the World Bank,**
- **Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I wish to thank you, Mr. President of the General Assembly, for inviting me to participate in this important **High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing.**
2. Two days ago, I opened the seventh annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, which, as you know, reviews the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other financing for development outcomes, to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The Addis Agenda recognizes the major challenges to the achievement of peace and sustainable

development in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.

4. It also recognizes the need to step up efforts to assist countries in accessing financing for peacebuilding, including through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).
5. In many countries around the world, millions have been newly thrown into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. We are seeing the impacts of the war in Ukraine. Inflation, slowing growth, supply chain and production disruptions and rising food insecurity are further weakening the prospects for recovery in these countries.
7. The deepening of the climate crisis is not matched by similarly ambitious actions.
8. We need to hold ourselves accountable to the promises made in Addis Ababa in 2015 that we would step up our efforts to assist countries in accessing

financing for peacebuilding and development. The needs are great.

9. Think about these numbers: **2 billion people** live in conflict-affected countries; **84 million people** have been forcibly displaced because of persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations; and **296 million people** are estimated to require humanitarian assistance and protection this year – **61 million** more than 2021.
10. Pressure on humanitarian aid and peacebuilding is expected to continue to mount due to continuing conflicts, as well as emergence of new ones.
11. The Peacebuilding Fund' commitments for 2021 totalled over **\$195 million** in **32 countries**, up **44 percent** compared to 2019. Still, the Fund remains at less than half the Funding Compact target of **\$500 million** per year, which represents a low minimum for financing growing peacebuilding demands.

12. At the same time, the results of recent surveys of UNDESA show that voluntary contributing countries for operational activities do prioritize conflict and post-conflict countries in their funding decisions.
13. With the 2030 Agenda, we committed to leave no one behind, particularly those who are the most vulnerable and to reach the furthest behind first. So, how can we deliver on this pledge for people in post-conflict countries? How do we address the peacebuilding financing gap?
14. We must provide predictable and adequate development assistance to address emergency needs and longer-term needs. I certainly encourage development partners to contribute at least **20 percent** of their ODA to peacebuilding priorities in post-conflict settings.
15. The possibility of assessed contributions to support the UN's peacebuilding efforts should be discussed, in particular in terms of their predictability and flexibility. We should find ways to overcome restrictions related

to co-mingling of funds dedicated to development and humanitarian aid.

16. High priority should also be placed on building state capacity in conflict and post-conflict settings.
17. In addition to the urgent and important work of financing humanitarian needs, meetings of ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum have concluded on a number of occasions that ODA must become more risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and "resilience-smart," with stronger links to climate action to build sustainable and resilient societies.
18. This means addressing the links between conflict, instability and poverty in policies and actions. It also means mobilizing financing to incentivize institutional and behavioural change and pro-poor growth. And it means taking genuinely integrated approaches to achieving the SDGs.

19. Greater and well-tailored support should be provided to bridge the silos between humanitarian action, development cooperation and peace interventions.
20. ECOSOC could consider how development assistance can best support conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This discussion could be tied to issues that emerge from the experiences of the Peacebuilding Fund.
21. According to UNCTAD, an estimated **\$40 billion** of illicit financial flows were derived from extractive commodities in 2015 in Africa, a significant portion of which have sometimes also been used to finance conflict.
22. ECOSOC has addressed this issue through a dedicated meeting in March on how to prevent the use of natural resources for supporting conflicts. It showed many lessons can be learned from the Kimberly Process on the certification of trade in diamonds.

23. In many countries where conflict is rooted in issues related to the management of natural resources (oil, natural gas, mining minerals such as diamonds and gold), the international community must support Governments to ensure that these very same resources are harnessed to promote sustainable development.
24. The tax and broader fiscal system that applies to the extractive industries should ensure that the Government obtains an adequate and appropriate share of the benefits from its resources. Indeed, getting a better deal from the extractive sector can make a huge difference in terms of funding peacebuilding and the SDGs.
25. We must consider ways to better utilize ODA to leverage additional financing for development, including foreign investment and domestic resources.
26. I also note that the Commission on the Status of Women, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, is a space for accountability on Security Council Resolution 1325 on

Women, Peace and Security. It could also be the space for further reflection on the financing of local peacebuilding efforts, particularly for women-led organizations.

27. I also offer the ECOSOC Youth Forum, which also concluded on last week, as a space for additional discussion on financing youth, peace and security efforts at the local level.
28. As recognized by the historic Security Council Resolution 2250 adopted in 2015, youth must be part of sustaining peace.
29. Other important platforms include, besides the Financing for Development Forum, the Operational Activities for Development Segment, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and the newly created Transition Meeting on Relief to Development which will be held on 20 June.
30. Since the 2021 Operational Activities for Development Segment, Member States have welcomed the work of

the UN Joint Steering Committee to advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration as a platform to link humanitarian, development and peace actors, and its regular updates.

31. On the ground, Resident Coordinators have a critical leadership role to play to improve coherence and work closely with humanitarian, development, and peace actors to save lives, prevent conflict and mitigate crises.
32. According to the latest available data, over **three-quarters** of programme country Governments agreed Resident Coordinators contributed to building stronger synergies across development, humanitarian, and/or peacebuilding interventions.
33. The Council can work to further guide the UN system to reinforce its focus on developing integrated strategies to support conflict and post-conflict countries achieve better, faster and more sustainable development outcomes. This will hopefully attract more and better funding.

34. We need to find ways to more accurately monitor financial flows dedicated to peacebuilding and state building in conflict/post-conflict contexts.
35. In addition to the Funding Compact commitment for the Peacebuilding Fund, monitoring the predictability, flexibility and multi-year nature of funding is a priority.
36. The system should work with Member States to overcome definitional and practical issues including administrative impediments, earmarking and donor restrictions in integrating humanitarian and development funding.
37. As I conclude, you can count on the Economic and Social Council to break down silos between the main Organs and promote integrated approaches to peacebuilding -- including its financing -- with each intergovernmental body contributing based on their mandates and expertise.

38. Mr. President, you and I -- together with the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission -- have led by example in demonstrating the added value of collaborative and joint events. As I indicated during the preventive diplomacy event, organized during the Mexican Presidency of the Security Council last November, there is ample room to foster stronger collaboration between ECOSOC and the Security Council.

I thank you!