



**Informal Interactive Dialogue between the Security Council and the
Peacebuilding Commission on the implications of COVID-19 on
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in conflict-affected countries**

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- I would like to thank you Mr. President, for convening this dialogue.
- I would also like to thank the Security Council and in particular, the representatives of Niger, Indonesia and the United Kingdom for their role as co-organizers of this meeting.
- The leadership of Canada to adapt the working methods of the Commission in these unprecedented times has been an example to all of us.

Mr. President,

- As Ambassador Louise mentioned, the PBC's response to COVID-19 has demonstrated the value of this platform as we



have gathered to discuss and advance in Peacebuilding priorities of different countries and regions.

- I would like to focus on some of the questions posed in the concept note for this dialogue.
- First of all, Colombia believes, as a principle, that the response to the pandemic must be guided by solidarity, inclusion, and human rights.
- We have to ensure that citizens' lives are protected as a priority.
- We need to maintain the capacity of our health institutions in response to the pandemic.
- Also, countries have to address the repercussions of the pandemic on their own economies.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a public health emergency, but also a socio economic one that affects the most vulnerable.
- Countries and the UN system are recognizing these hardships



to make it easier for the PBC and the PBF to establish successful and efficient support to each country response.

- It is critical to find the right balance between health care and economic activity.
- Efforts to foster social cohesion and resilience are important to face the challenges of the pandemic.
- In this sense, we need to empower local communities in all sectors by effectively supporting initiatives from women, youth, and other key actors.
- The engagement with International Financial Institutions, public and private donors and other organizations should focus on ensuring coordination in the flow of resources and information.
- National ownership implies that the country is the one that defines its priorities and leads the Peacebuilding process.
- We need to reach a global consensus with IFIs to increase resources in order to alleviate the payment of debt of



emerging countries and contribute to their development.

- Financing for Peacebuilding is linked with financing for development.
- Peacebuilding must also aim to attack development issues at the root causes of conflicts.
- Without economic growth, countries that are emerging from conflict situations, and now from the crisis posed by the pandemic, cannot generate enough opportunities for their citizens.
- PBF efficacy depends on the UN capacity *in situ*. This is why articulation between PBF and UN Country teams is fundamental to maximize their impact.
- Funds from international donors will never be enough.
- They work better as catalysts rather than ongoing sources of financing.
- Coming from a country with a Peacebuilding ongoing process, I want to highlight that Peacebuilding is not an easy task in an



ordinary context.

- Reaching a Peace agreement could be “the easy part” of a peace process. Achieving the transformations needed to make those agreements a reality, is very difficult. Without doubt, it is the longest and most challenging part.
- In that sense, neither the countries nor the UN system can disconnect from a complex context like the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Health and socio economic crisis can become a threat to peace and security.
- I would like to conclude indicating that this is the time for multilateral cooperation and international solidarity.
- We need to work together to achieve two goals: humanitarian attention and economic recovery.