

**Virtual High-level Panel Discussion on
The private sector's contribution to peacebuilding**
23 November 2021

Remarks by the Chair of the PBC

Excellencies,

At the outset I wish to thank South Africa for organizing this initiative.

This event is not only very relevant for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission but it is also extremely timely.

Throughout its country-specific, regional and cross-cutting engagements, the Commission has always underscored the need to address the multifaceted challenges that conflict-affected countries are facing in an holistic and coordinated way.

Through its convening role, the Commission has provided a platform for national governments and Member States to build stronger partnerships with relevant peacebuilding actors. In 2020, 7% of the non-UN briefers at PBC meetings came from the private sector.

70% of them were women CEOs.

In 2021, we are on track to surpass last year's number.

Those voices shared powerful testimonies, for example of how local businesses can play a critical role in empowering women and youth and can contribute to lay the foundations for lasting peace and sustainable development.

In less than a week from today, we will meet at the Commission's annual session to have an informal and interactive discussion on financing for peacebuilding. Our objective will be to develop ideas that we want the PBC to transmit to the General Assembly High-level meeting on financing. We will be briefed by a diverse group of partners, from the UN, IFIs, the private sector and CSOs. Building on their inputs, we will have the opportunity to discuss ways in which we can secure a more adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

I am confident that today's discussion will provide important insights on how the private sector can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

I wish you a productive dialogue.