



Annual Session of the Peacebuilding Commission

“Financing for Peacebuilding”

2 November 2020, 10h00-13h00

Mr. Chair

We commend the Peacebuilding Commission for placing the issue of financing on the agenda of its annual session of this year, and thank the distinguished briefers for their insights. We welcome participation by the World Bank and the African Development Bank in this meeting and the signal this sends for cooperation and coherence between these institutions and the UN. Our own engagement in the PBC, as Chair of the Burundi Configuration, has certainly convinced us of the importance of this partnership.

I want to touch upon three areas where we see a need for action:

First, **coordination and coherence**: We say it often, we hear it even more often, and yet it remains a major challenge. COVID-19 has thrown the problem of competition among funding instruments into sharp relief. One example for reducing fragmentation is the integration of the “*Saving Lives Entity*” (SALIENT) into the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund. We commend the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA) for their efforts in overcoming the challenges linked to this integration. If we call for an integrated approach to peacebuilding as member states, we must also support the necessary coordination efforts as donors, through a coherent approach to existing financial instruments.

Second, we are convinced that we can only “build back better” if we **strengthen civil society in countries affected by conflict**. Country platforms for funding should prioritize this objective. Local organizations can only build and sustain capacities if they have enough un-earmarked funding and a horizon of several years. We should exchange best practices and replicate positive examples more broadly. One of them is the Joint Funding Facility in Myanmar, which has been supportive of local civil society organizations.

Third, we believe collective efforts are required within and among governments to **diversify the donor base for peacebuilding**. Switzerland has a dedicated budget line for peacebuilding. The Human Security Division within our Foreign Ministry is leading on the implementation of peacebuilding activities. But we understand peacebuilding as a whole-of-system task. The Swiss contribution to the PBF is split: 70% comes from the Human Security Division, 30% from the Development Cooperation. To increase funding and to create a broad coalition of peacebuilding donors, we need to make the case at home that peacebuilding is not the task of just one single government branch or division. We have to communicate objectives and share success stories in a language understood by a diverse set of partners – including development and humanitarian actors, IFIs and the private sector.

Mr. Chair,

As we look forward to joining the Organizational Committee of the PBC in 2021, we can assure you that Switzerland will remain an active and committed partner in the effort to ensure sustained and predictable financing for peacebuilding.

I thank you.