

DRAFT STATEMENT OF H.E. MRS. OLTA XHAÇKA  
THE MINISTER FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HIGH-LEVEL REPLENISHMENT CONFERENCE OF THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 15.00 – 18.00 (09.00 – 12.00 EST)

Dear Mr. Chair,

Allow me on behalf of the Government of Albania, to congratulate you<sup>1</sup>, alongside High Representatives of Sierra Leone, Sudan, Germany and Canada, as co-Chairs of the Peace-building Commission, for convening this High-Level Replenishment Conference of the Peace-building Fund.

On this 75<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the UN, we are more convinced than ever of the importance of the UN as the cornerstone of the multilateral rule-based cooperation for sustainable peace. And we strongly support the vision of the SG, as expressed in the Strategy for 2020 – 2024 – a very clear, ambitious and yet realistic document – on the need for a multidimensional approach to conflict prevention.

To this end, the Secretary-General's Peace-building Fund (PBF) is indeed an indispensable financial instrument in advancing the implementation of peace-building and prevention actions. Albania adds its voice to the other delegations in support of exploring opportunities for new partnerships and innovative financing models which become all the more indispensable in light of the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A crisis which has revealed how significant are the risks of a persistent underinvestment in peace-building and conflict prevention efforts.

Albania is a staunch believer in the value of multilateralism and a UN led rules based order in addressing today's challenges and problems. It

peace and security. In that context, I want to emphasize Albania's strong commitment to working together with all Balkan countries, including the new State of Kosovo, in the service of peace, security and prosperity of our region.

Albania has played and continues to play a role, however modest in the global scale, to strengthening peace and security in the world, and to ensuring a sustainable and equal development for all. In relation to its population, Albania has given a considerable contribution to peacekeeping and peace-building initiatives, having provided around 8,000 troops to

promoting Albania's attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030, as the framework for collective efforts to build peaceful, just, prosperous and inclusive societies. Albania will continue to support regional cooperation, dialogue and trust-building and in this context we welcome increased engagement of PBF in the Western Balkans region in the future.

Thank you!