



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention at

High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on
Financing for Peacebuilding

New York, 27/04/2022

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Your Excellencies, President of the General Assembly,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The Secretary General could not have been clearer when he addressed the Peacebuilding Commission in March: "Peace is the most important task we have at the United Nations."

(Many before me have made the case for the Peacebuilding Fund. So I shall go straight to the heart of the issues at hand.)

M. le président,

S'engager pleinement en faveur de la prévention et de la consolidation de la paix est la voie la plus efficace et la plus durable pour tenter d'éradiquer le fléau de la guerre.

La Belgique a eu l'honneur d'assurer la vice-présidence des consultations sur le volet de 'Notre programme commun' dédié au nouvel agenda pour la paix, les 21 et 22 février. Il en est ressorti une attention particulière des États membres en faveur d'un financement adéquat, prévisible et durable pour la consolidation de la paix.

M. President,

Belgium is in favor of assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund. It would ensure a broader, predictable and sustainable baseline to the Fund.

We stress the importance of maintaining the fundamental characteristics of the Fund, such as its flexibility, holistic approach, its speed and its catalytic role. **Flexibility does not exclude transparency or oversight** by the Membership.

The Fund should keep paying particular attention to community based organizations, and to promoting the role of youth and women. We are particularly appreciative of its activities in cross regional, cross-border and transition contexts.

On a bilateral level, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus lies at the heart of Belgium's development cooperation engagement with partner countries.

M. le Président,

La question du financement est en effet cruciale, à l'heure où le Fonds pour la Consolidation de la Paix est de plus en plus sollicité, mais ne dispose malheureusement pas de ressources suffisantes, et repose uniquement sur des contributions volontaires, comme vous le savez.

La Belgique prend ses responsabilités. Nous sommes l'un des 20 principaux bailleurs du Fonds. Depuis sa création, la Belgique a versé 12,8 millions USD. Mais il faut être réaliste. Le fait que trois pays représentent à eux seuls la moitié des contributions n'est tout simplement pas une solution pérenne.

M. President,

Unfortunately, what we are witnessing today is in stark contrast with the fundamental principles of peacebuilding. Russia must withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. As long as Russia will not stop its unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine, peacebuilding will remain an empty word. An immediate ceasefire is the most urgent; this war has already cost too many lives.

I thank you.