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## PeaceNexus Covid-19 statement

As the world is confronted with a major menace, that has complex impacts on every nation, PeaceNexus applauds the leadership of the UN Secretary-General in calling for a Global Ceasefire to facilitate our joint struggle against Covid-19. We further congratulate the efforts of the UN Peacebuilding Office to increase funding for Covid-19 protection and response efforts in the most vulnerable, including conflict-affected, contexts. We call for other donors to follow this lead and ensure that peacebuilding work remains a priority despite the urgent needs presented by Covid-19.

We acknowledge the rapid and constructive response of our other international and local partners. Many of them have changed how they work and what they do. Some work to ensure that Covid-19 emergency responses do not exacerbate insecurity, conflict, and inequalities, and include support for the most vulnerable. Others have redoubled their efforts to ensure that civil society retains a robust role in holding duty bearers to account, fact-checking, sharing reliable information and strengthening social cohesion in times where it is easily undermined by fear and misinformation.

For our part, we continue our work to strengthen our partners, enabling them to adapt and better collaborate in response to their changing contexts. Aligned with our mission - and in the spirit of addressing this new “nexus” of conflict, peace, and Covid-19 – we are striving to be:

- Flexible – we have adapted many partnership plans by changing timelines and revising priorities.
- Adaptive – we have supported partners to consider the implications of the pandemic and to adapt how they work. This includes responding to negative social and political trends accelerated by the pandemic as well as seizing opportunities to support social cohesion in their Covid-19 emergency response.
- Committed – to sustaining peace where the pandemic has increased xenophobia and inequality or undermined the protection of democratic norms and civil liberties.

We are proud of what our partners are doing – and plan to do in the coming months. From acting as reliable channels of information in West Africa and Myanmar, to constructively tackling prejudice and holding governments to account in the Western Balkans and Central Asia, to re-vamping global strategies to build-back better, they are demonstrating every day the resilience and creativity of genuine peacebuilders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Cravero".

Kathleen Cravero  
Chair, PeaceNexus Governing Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catriona Gourlay".

Catriona Gourlay  
Executive Director