

Statement on behalf of 59 countries in their national capacity and as members of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict and/or the Group of Friends of the Protection of Civilians

**March 30, 2020
New York**

We welcome and fully support the United Nations Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We echo the Secretary-General that it is, "time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives."

As the global COVID-19 pandemic spreads, we are concerned about the plight of women, children, and all civilians caught in armed conflicts and other humanitarian crises, including the displaced and marginalized, older persons, persons with disabilities, and the wounded, sick, and detainees. These populations are already impacted disproportionately by armed conflict. An immediate global ceasefire would markedly reduce these impacts, allow for much-needed humanitarian assistance and protection, and hopefully diminish the spread of COVID-19.

We fully support the efforts of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, and other specialized agencies, funds, and programs in responding to COVID-19. Their efforts are helping to ensure vulnerable civilians living in conflict-affected countries are protected. Furthermore, we extend our thanks and support to the humanitarian and healthcare workers on the frontlines of the response.

We stand together with all those affected by COVID-19, including civilians and vulnerable populations caught in armed conflicts and humanitarian crises around the world.

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| 1. Andorra | 21. Ghana | 41. Namibia |
| 2. Argentina | 22. Guinea | 42. The Netherlands |
| 3. Australia | 23. Hungary | 43. New Zealand |
| 4. Austria | 24. Iceland | 44. Norway |
| 5. Bangladesh | 25. Indonesia | 45. Peru |
| 6. Belgium | 26. Ireland | 46. Philippines |
| 7. Brazil | 27. Italy | 47. Poland |
| 8. Canada | 28. Jamaica | 48. Portugal |
| 9. Chile | 29. Japan | 49. Qatar |
| 10. Colombia | 30. Jordan | 50. San Marino |
| 11. Costa Rica | 31. Kenya | 51. Slovakia |
| 12. Cote d'Ivoire | 32. Republic of Korea | 52. Slovenia |
| 13. Croatia | 33. Kuwait | 53. South Africa |
| 14. Czech Republic | 34. Liechtenstein | 54. Spain |
| 15. Denmark | 35. Lithuania | 55. Sweden |
| 16. El Salvador | 36. Luxembourg | 56. Switzerland |
| 17. Estonia | 37. Mali | 57. United Arab Emirates |
| 18. Finland | 38. Malta | 58. United Kingdom |
| 19. France | 39. Mexico | 59. Uruguay |
| 20. Germany | 40. Montenegro | |