



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

21 April 2020

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your joint letter dated 9 April 2020, informing me of the decision by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to fully endorse my call for a global ceasefire to help contain the spread of COVID-19. The role of parliamentarians in fostering greater international cooperation for a global response to the pandemic cannot be overstated. I have been encouraged by the response that the appeal has received from world leaders and governments across the globe, as well as regional partners, civil society and religious leaders. It has also prompted initial positive responses from a substantial number of parties to conflict.

I am particularly concerned for those who are disproportionately impacted by conflict and are more vulnerable to the pandemic. I therefore continue to emphasize the need for unrestricted humanitarian access to assist those in need, and reiterate our shared responsibility to protect civilians, particularly women, children, and marginalized groups. As we strive for sustainable peace, women must remain at the centre of our peacemaking initiatives. This includes scaling up efforts to open the space for more inclusive processes and ensuring the full, meaningful and equal participation of women.

The United Nations will continue its engagements towards ending conflict, achieving lasting political solutions, and building sustainable peace. I count on your continued support for our efforts.

A similar response has been sent to His Excellency Mr. Roberto Montella, Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written over a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves downwards.

António Guterres

His Excellency
Mr. George Tsereteli
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Copenhagen