

Remarks of SRSG Zahir Tanin
UNKT Strategic Prioritisation Retreat
Emerald Hotel, 11 March 2020, 09:05 a.m.

Dear Prime Minister. Dear Ministers. Excellencies. Dear United Nations colleagues. Dear guests.

We gather here today in an important time, a time that is burdened with multitudes of serious concerns and global uncertainties. The threat and concerns about the Coronavirus that humanity and the world have been struggling with is a metaphor for all the unknowns we face. Paradoxically, however, there are also renewed hopes and expectations of people worldwide for responsible leadership and inclusive societies—more just, and sustainably developed.

1. *For the United Nations*, 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of its foundation. The United Nations was established 75 years ago, after the end of the Second World War, the most devastating and disastrous page in human history. Nothing is more essential for a better and reliable future than peace, and exactly for this reason we should celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations as a critical moment in a threatening and difficult time. This is also *is* an opportunity to look to the past and think about the future. To mark that occasion, the Secretary-General has launched a global conversation about how all of us, TOGETHER, can build the *future* we hope for and how we can bring about the *change* we expect.
2. *Here in Kosovo*, clearly reflected in last year's election results, the hope of the people - for change and for new beginnings - lies firmly with their government.

Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to congratulate you again on your premiership and I wish you all due success in implementing the wide-ranging programme of work you have set forth for your government. It is an ambitious reform agenda, particularly in the areas of rule of law and economic development. The success of these efforts will require political will and commitment as well as the support of the international

community. The United Nations stands ready to support you in all appropriate ways.

For the United Nations in Kosovo 2020 is the year to define its priorities for the coming five years. As Special Representative of the Secretary-General, let me commend Ulrika and the UN Kosovo Team for the excellent work they have done in conducting an extensive analysis of the Kosovo context and wide-reaching consultations. These will ensure that UNKT's proposed priorities for the years 2021 to 2025 are fully aligned with government agenda.

Ulrika, colleagues, let me assure you that we stand with you. We are "One UN," and we will support you, as family.

Nearly two years ago, the United Nations convened the **Kosovo Trust-Building Forum** in Ljubljana. 120 community representatives developed 135 recommendations, which we call "the trust-building agenda." So far, nearly 300 initiatives have been launched based on those recommendations, by Kosovo civil society, by central and local-level institutions, media professionals and all relevant parts of the society, supported by the UN family and also other international partners.

[Building trust](#) is a critical step on the longer road toward lasting reconciliation and lays the foundations of an enduring peace and a sustained, inclusive and stable society in Kosovo. Going forward, we are determined to continue supporting the people of Kosovo, the institutions and civil society in these endeavours.

In that spirit, I wish you and all of us a successful Retreat.

THANK YOU.