

**Remarks by H.E. Mohamed Edrees**

**Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission**

**Inaugural Meeting of the Trade for Peace Network, 25 March 2021**

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**H.E. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, WTO Director-General,**

**H.E. Ambassador Alan Wolff, WTO Deputy Director-General,**

**Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 1- At the outset, I wish to thank the World Trade Organization for the kind invitation. It gives me a great pleasure to participate in this important event in my capacity as the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).**
- 2- I welcome the initiative of WTO to create this network as a platform for regular exchange between policymakers and experts from the trade, peace and humanitarian communities to explore areas of collaboration and actions, within their respective mandates, to support conflict affected states associated with WTO accession.**
- 3- It is also an initiative, which aims at promoting the multilateral trading system as a pathway to lasting peace and sustainable development, and create favorable conditions that would assist countries in moving out of conflict into stability and economic well-being.**
- 4- The T4P intersects with the work of the PBC, as the Commission which is an intergovernmental advisory body in the UN system fully dedicated to building and sustaining peace, seeks to bring sustained international attention and support to national peacebuilding priorities, and provide political accompaniment and advocacy to countries affected by conflict, with their consent or upon their request. Hence, national ownership represents an essential pillar of the work of the Commission. The PBC has today multiple demand-driven engagements with countries and regions**

