



**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
United Nations Security Council  
2021-2022**

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI DURING THE BRIEFING ON THE  
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: FOLLOW-UP ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2532 (2020)  
MONDAY , 25 JANUARY 2021 (10:00 AM)**

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**Thank you, Mr. President,**

1. I thank Rosemary DiCarlo, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Mark Lowcock, and Atul Khare for their briefings.
2. Kenya applauds the adoption of Resolution 2532 and its linking of the COVID-19 pandemic to international peace and security.
3. We also strongly applaud President Joe Biden's decision to rejoin the World Health Organization, and to make global efforts designed to stop and prevent COVID-19 a part of his strategy.
4. Kenya is proud of the concrete contribution to the continuity of UN work across Africa that will be enabled by the United Nations-The Nairobi Hospital (UN-TNH) Treatment Facility in Nairobi (as briefed by USG Atul Khare). The facility is equipped with 150 beds including 15 bed intensive care units and 45 bed high dependency units. It is a partnership between the Kenya Government, the UN, and Nairobi Hospital, which is Kenya largest private hospital. The facility will cater for UN staff in Kenya, Africa and beyond, and Kenyans.
5. The Kenya Government's commitment to this project reflects the importance we hold in hosting the only UN headquarters in Africa and the Global South. We continue to work with the UN to improve facilities and the processes that enable the UN to carry out its duties in Nairobi efficiently and effectively.

6. Mr President, I thought Mr Lowcock's assessment of the economic effects of the pandemic to be astute. I would highly recommend more briefers who specifically speak to this aspect, and especially the potential link between economic and political crises.
7. It is a clear in the historical record that economic crises have often sparked their political counterparts. And that the most pronounced economic troubles, particularly those that deeply upend the social order have led to sustained insecurity and even state collapse.
8. It is also a matter of fact that this pandemic is causing extensive economic stress globally, particularly in countries without expansive fiscal or monetary space.
9. It is therefore not a stretch to argue that without vaccine access for the most fragile countries, the destruction to their economies wrought by the pandemic may lead to threats to peace and security of a magnitude that compels the action of the Security Council.

**Mr President,**

10. It is of course understandable that states prioritise the care of their citizens. And, by some happenstance, it is largely the countries that have taken the lead in the production of vaccines that are also the hardest hit. We therefore find it entirely understandable that being in the grip of emergency, they will focus strongly on the domestic challenge.
11. However, there are now ominous signals that the lack of vaccination in entire stretches of the world, for long stretches of time, may in time lead to mutations that endanger us all. Including risk to those countries that today have the greatest access to the vaccine.
12. It is for these security and public health reasons that we discourage vaccine nationalism. It does a profound disservice to the very people it is invoked on behalf of, and along the way endangers global peace and health.
13. We urge the members of this Council, who include countries with above average resources and industrial capacities, to show global leadership by ensuring vaccine availability and affordability to the most fragile countries and regions.
14. We also know that beyond this pandemic, every country, and every region faces historic challenges that will require multilateral, connected solutions. From climate change to the dangerous political instability caused by inequality, and a growing trust gap between people and institutions, we are living on the brink of a rapid unraveling of global order.

15. The anger and alienation billions feel due to perceived and real marginalisation, alienation, indignity and the turn to religious extremism is leading to the rise of new fascisms.
16. A shot of faith is needed by those billions to know that the United Nations, as a collective of nations, and as an organisation, can reach out to them whether they are rich or poor, brown or white. The COVID-19 vaccine is the shot in the arm that will make them feel that we around this table are equal to the moment.
17. We stand on the fork of a road to different futures. Ensuring that the same old tired hierarchies of wealth do not apply to vaccine access will catapult us into a post-COVID future in which we can successfully tackle other pressing challenges together. **I thank you.**