

# *UN chief says pandemic threatens peace and risks new conflicts*

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United Nations, August 13 (RHC)-- Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, warns that the COVID-19 pandemic not only threatens gains in fighting global poverty and building peace but risks exacerbating existing conflicts and "fomenting new ones."

The UN chief told a Security Council meeting a number of warring parties took steps to de-escalate and stop fighting following his March 23rd call for an immediate cease-fire in conflicts around the world to tackle the coronavirus.

"Yet, regrettably, in many instances, the pandemic did not move the parties to suspend hostilities or agree to a permanent ceasefire," Guterres said.

The pandemic has also raised growing questions about the effectiveness of health systems, social services, trust in institutions and systems of governance, he said. "All of this means that our commitment to sustaining peace is more urgent than ever."

The UN chief also warned that "without concerted action, inequalities, global poverty and the potential for instability and violence could grow for years."



**Radio Habana Cuba**