



## Security Council Briefing on Yemen, 16 January 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President

I begin by thanking Special Envoy Grundberg and Under-Secretary-General Griffiths for their insightful and powerful briefings today.

President

It is clear from what has been portrayed by our briefers, that the situation in Yemen remains dire. We commend the efforts of the Special Envoy and echo his call for the truce to be re-established with the utmost urgency.

We know this is possible, as we witnessed the signing of a UN-brokered truce last year in April, which was extended until October. These six months were the longest period of calm since the war began eight years ago, and brought a measure of respite and hope to the Yemeni population. Though the truce has lapsed, we welcome that some elements of the agreement have continued to hold and that we have not witnessed a return to large-scale hostilities.



Nevertheless, the situation remains precarious. Intermittent episodes of violence and confrontation continue to be observed. It is crucial that all parties refrain from any escalatory or confrontational measures.

Malta calls on all sides of the conflict, in particular the Houthis, to refrain from imposing maximalist demands, and to put the Yemeni people first. There can be no military solution to the conflict in Yemen. Parties must immediately re-engage in the negotiation process, in good faith, and work towards re-establishing a truce. This would serve as fertile ground for further efforts to resolve the conflict.

## President

Malta is gravely concerned with the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen. Over 21 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, two-thirds of the Yemeni population. Nearly 13 million of those in need are children, many of whom have known nothing but the terrors of war.

Seventeen million people are projected to experience crisis-level food insecurity or worse. Millions of Yemenis are internally displaced and lack the most basic access to essential needs. This is unacceptable from a moral and humanitarian point of view and we must collectively do more to alleviate this situation.



We urge all parties to the conflict to refrain from any hostilities that could worsen this humanitarian disaster, and underscore their responsibilities to fully abide by and respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

We call on the Houthis to open the roads around Taiz and end the city's blockade, which has caused untold suffering for its inhabitants for several years. It is time to put the people of Taiz first.

We also call for the rapid implementation of the first phase of the UN-facilitated plan to remove the oil from the Safer Oil tanker to prevent a potentially catastrophic environmental disaster.

## President

An inclusive process leading to a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political solution is the only way to bring lasting and durable peace to Yemen. Such a process must facilitate the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, and the involvement of youth and civil society.

The persistent exclusion of women from peace talks and formal politics continues to undermine the prospects for realising that peace. Women play an indispensable role at the local and grassroots level, and their participation is crucial for a successful political process.



The increasingly limited space allowed to women in Yemen, particularly in light of the mahram requirement in Houthi-controlled areas, is concerning.

Yemeni women need to be able to move freely. Women humanitarian workers must be allowed to pass without impediment to deliver live-saving assistance. Anything preventing Yemenis from accessing critical aid is unacceptable.

President

We reiterate our full support to all UN-led peace efforts, especially those of Special Envoy Grundberg. We call on all parties to the conflict, as well as regional actors, to continue to push for a commitment to genuine dialogue and compromise. We also acknowledge the flexibility and constructive approach of the Government of Yemen on key issues, and call for the Houthis to also engage for the benefit of the Yemeni people.

Thank you, President.