



Security Council Briefing on Yemen, 15 March 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President

I thank Special Envoy Grundberg and Assistant Secretary-General Msuya for their briefings today. I also extend our appreciation to Albania, as Chair of the 2140 Committee, for their report. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Yemen to this meeting.

President

It has been six months since the UN-mediated truce formally lapsed on the 2nd of October last year. Though this was a great disappointment, it is encouraging that key elements underpinning the truce broadly continue to hold, and that the situation on the ground remains relatively stable.

This current period of calm provides a crucial opportunity for parties to advance in dialogue towards sustainable peace.

We acknowledge the coordinated efforts of regional partners in their support for peace in Yemen and stress the importance of Yemeni ownership in both the negotiation and implementation phases of any agreement.



An inclusive Yemeni-led process under UN auspices, with full, equal, and meaningful participation of women is the only way to achieve sustainable, long-lasting peace.

Independent and impartial human rights monitoring in Yemen is crucial to document serious violations on the ground. All parties to this conflict have the responsibility to protect Yemeni civilians, to fully abide by international humanitarian and human rights law, and build on progress made for peace. Accountability and justice are essential foundations to build a stable future in Yemen.

Malta is encouraged by the seventh meeting of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Detainees' Exchange Agreement, which opened in Geneva last weekend. We commend the Office of the Special Envoy and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their work, and encourage parties to engage constructively in these discussions.

President

Malta remains deeply concerned by reported impediments to humanitarian access across Yemen. Parties must work to limit and overcome bureaucratic obstacles to ensure that lifesaving aid reaches those who need it in a timely manner.

We also underline the need for adequate and predictable funding. It is in this spirit that Malta has made another financial contribution to the



Humanitarian Response Plan at the high-level pledging event held in Geneva in February. We commend Member States who have also pledged their support and encourage other countries in the region and beyond to contribute in a generous manner.

President

The imposition of Mahram requirements in Houthi-controlled areas continue to prove a major detriment for Yemeni women's access to essential services, exacerbating their already vulnerable situation. Women humanitarian workers must be allowed to perform their crucial work without impediment.

The increasing security issues faced by humanitarian actors also remain of grave concern, and authorities must ensure the safety of aid workers and supporting staff.

As mentioned by the ASG Msuya, we too are concerned about the detained UN staff in Sanna by the Houthis and call for their immediate release.

Women and children continue to bear the brunt of suffering in this conflict, accounting for more than three quarters of the 4.5 million displaced persons in Yemen, and experience compounding vulnerabilities.

Millions of children not only suffer from acute hunger but continue to be exposed to child recruitment into armed groups, forced marriages, trafficking, child labour and even commercial sexual exploitation.



Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to kill and maim innocent civilians on a regular basis, and are the main causes of death for children since the truce began.

Landmines also exacerbate the devastating impacts of the conflict, denying many Yemeni families access to their homes, farms, and other sources essential for their livelihoods.

In this respect, Malta calls for greater efforts in the demining process, particularly in the Hudaydah region. To this end, we commend the 'UN Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement' (UNMHA) for their efforts on this pertinent issue.

President

I would also like to reiterate our thanks to Albania for its work as chair of the 2140 Committee, which has proven to be an important tool to advance peace and security in Yemen.

In late February, a joint operation by the United Kingdom and the United States led to the seizure of anti-tank guided missiles and missile components in the Gulf of Oman. This underlines the continued fragility of the situation, and the need to ensure strict adherence to the arms embargo.



President

In conclusion, Malta would like to extend its appreciation to United Nations colleagues for their tireless work regarding the FSO *Safer* oil tanker. The purchase of a Very Large Crude Carrier last week is a critical development in the UN Coordinated operation to avoid a catastrophic environmental, economic, and humanitarian disaster.

We hope that in achieving this major step, the UN's plan will be expedited to ensure that this imminent threat to Yemen and the region is resolved without further delay.

I thank you.