



Security Council Briefing on Yemen, 17 May 2023

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

Thank you, President, and I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg, Director Wosornu, and Ms. Yasmeeen Al-Eryani for their briefings today.

Malta is encouraged to hear that Yemen is continuing to experience the longest period of relative calm since the beginning of the war, with critical aspects of the truce continuing to hold, despite its lapse in October.

Last month, we witnessed tangible progress in the form of a prisoner exchange, a significant step in confidence-building from both sides. We call on parties to use this momentum and period of calm to continue meaningful and inclusive dialogue towards a permanent ceasefire.

Malta acknowledges the coordinated efforts of regional partners in their support for peace in Yemen and stresses the importance of Yemeni ownership in negotiating sustainable peace.

We are concerned to hear that women remain marginal to the intra-Yemeni dialogue and multi-track negotiations, and urge their full, equal, and meaningful participation at all levels.

All parties to the conflict must abide by international humanitarian and human rights law, and allow for independent and impartial human rights monitoring to bring justice and accountability for victims.



Alleviating the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen must remain a priority in any negotiations among parties to the conflict, and for this Council. As highlighted again today, the Yemeni people continue to suffer extreme hardship due to this protracted conflict.

Two-thirds of Yemen's population, over 21 million people, need humanitarian assistance, with over four million internally displaced.

Landmines are a leading cause of civilian deaths, particularly among children, and urgent demining efforts must be urgently ramped up.

Movement restrictions continue to cause hardship for the population, particularly women, and we call for greater freedom of movement for people across Yemen, as well as renewed efforts to open the roads in Taïz and other governorates.

Movement restrictions and other bureaucratic impediments obstruct humanitarian access to populations in need. We reiterate our call for the immediate lifting of the Mahram requirements that prevent female Yemeni staff from delivering critical services that only women can deliver. We also call for the immediate release of all United Nations staff and humanitarian workers who have been abducted or detained.

On the human rights front, we are alarmed by reports of forced and early marriage, and sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation. Grave



violations against boys and girls continue unabated, including killing and maiming, recruitment, and disruptions to education.

Yemen's fragile economy continues to be impaired by competing economic institutions and the depreciation of the Yemeni Rial. This is leading to inflation and high food prices, exacerbating food insecurity which impacts 17 million Yemenis. More must be done to stabilise Yemen's economy, as well as to protect the flow of commercial goods both into and within Yemen.

President

I conclude by commending the progress made in the implementation of the UN-coordinated plan regarding the FSO Safer oil tanker. We are very pleased to see the replacement vessel '*Nautica*' approaching its destination in the Red Sea.

This is a critical step towards removing the imminent threat of an environmental, economic and humanitarian disaster, and we hope to see the transfer of oil begin as soon as possible.

Ensuring the project is fully funded to allow for immediate and uninterrupted implementation is crucial. In this spirit, Malta made a financial contribution at the pledging conference hosted by the Netherlands and United Kingdom earlier this month. We echo the UN's call for further donations to fill the budgetary gap.

I thank you.