



Security Council Consultations on Yemen, 10 July 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Madame President

And I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg, Assistant-Secretary-General Msuya, and Resident Coordinator Gressly for their briefings today, and we welcome the participation of Yemen and the Netherlands.

Yemen is at a pivotal point in this protracted conflict. The truce from last year continues to deliver benefits for the Yemeni people, and we welcome the steps made by parties to build an environment for constructive dialogue.

We also welcome the acts of reconciliation between parties in recent months, including the first direct flights between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in nearly seven years.

We urge parties to keep up the positive momentum and engage constructively in peace talks to bring a formalised and permanent ceasefire. Parties to the conflict have an obligation to build on the progress made to date, and to take decisive steps towards a peaceful and comprehensive solution.

An inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, under UN auspices, is the only way to bring lasting peace to Yemen.



Malta remains gravely concerned by the dire humanitarian situation, with 21 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Yemen remains one of the most food-insecure countries in the world, with nearly 17 million people, or half the population, estimated to suffer food insecurity.

Financial contributions are urgently needed for Yemen's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, which remains chronically under-funded over half-way through the year.

This shortfall is increasingly threatening the delivery of life-saving aid and livelihood assistance.

The international community must scale-up its response to help the millions of people who are displaced across Yemen, including migrants and refugees. Tens of thousands of migrants have crossed into Yemen in the first half of 2023, and suffer widespread violence and exploitation, while perpetrators act with impunity.

Chronic access impediments for humanitarian workers remain a key driver for suffering across Yemen. Restrictions of movement for Yemeni women aid workers have severely disrupted the delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly for women and girls, and we reiterate our call for the immediate lifting of the Mahram requirements.



We also support the recommendation made by the Special Representative for Conflict Related Sexual Violence to ensure that specialised gender-based violence services are made available.

Bureaucratic and administrative constraints also continue to hamper and delay humanitarian operations across Yemen.

All parties to the conflict must facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

We also call for immediate release of detained UN and NGO staff, and those recently abducted from the Baha'i community.

We remain concerned by reports of recruitment, killing, and maiming of children in Yemen, as well as the military's use of schools and hospitals. We reiterate our call on all parties to the conflict to swiftly implement relevant UN action plans to ensure the safety of children in all parts of Yemen.

President

Let us take this opportunity to welcome the strong progress made in the plan on resolving the major threat posed by the FSO Safer oil tanker.

We commend Resident Coordinator Gressly and UN colleagues on their tireless work to prevent a catastrophic environmental, humanitarian, and economic disaster.



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We echo our UN colleagues in calling for further donations in funding for the Safer plan to eliminate this threat once and for all.

Finally, we are pleased today to see the unanimous adoption renewing the mandate of the UN Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement.

Malta commends our UN colleagues in Hudaydah who perform critical work to bring peace and stability to the Governorate, as well as working to maintain the civilian nature of Hudaydah's ports which is essential for humanitarian response.

And I thank you President.