



Security Council Briefing on Yemen, 14 February 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President. I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg and Director Wosornu for their comprehensive briefings and tireless efforts.

Cognizant of mounting tensions in the region, it is of the utmost importance that parties to the conflict in Yemen remain dedicated to finding a political agreement that will lead to a sustainable peace.

The establishment of a UN roadmap will be crucial to ensure the fulfilment of commitments made by parties in December. More specifically, these include the implementation of a nation-wide ceasefire, improving living conditions, and engaging in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive Yemeni-led and -owned political process under UN auspices.



The humanitarian emergency in Yemen remains a critical concern for Malta. This must remain a priority for this Council. Nine years into this conflict, a staggering 18 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection services.

We welcome the appointment of Julien Harneis as the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen, and thank his predecessor David Gressly for his dedicated service.

The UN's Humanitarian Response Plan for 2024 is a lifeline for millions of Yemenis. We call on donors to support the UN in their efforts to deliver essential humanitarian aid.

The food insecurity situation is equally worrying. Over 12 million people lack sufficient access to safe drinking water, resulting in an alarming increase in cholera and other infectious diseases.

Chronic access impediments faced by humanitarian workers exacerbate the suffering for Yemeni civilians. We remind all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law.



Restrictions to freedom of movement for women aid workers limit access to basic services among Yemen's most vulnerable. In this regard, we reiterate our call on the Houthis to lift the Mahram requirements with immediate effect.

President,

Nearly two-and-a-half million children are out of school. A further eight million are at risk of leaving the education system due to the destruction and repurposing of school buildings, and internal displacement.

All parties must refrain from actions that impede access to education. They have the responsibility to safeguard, protect, respect, and promote the right to education in line with resolution 2601.



As we have heard today, Yemen is not only experiencing one of the world's worst humanitarian and development crises. It is also among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. This has been underscored by the damage and disruption caused by recent natural disasters, including excessive flooding.

Malta reiterates its call for synergies to be met with concrete solutions, with a focus on strengthening early-warning, anticipatory actions, and climate-resilient agriculture and food systems.

Malta is also deeply concerned by the impact of recent escalations in the region, and their implications for Yemen's roadmap to peace and humanitarian situation.

As recognised in resolution 2722, the Houthis must immediately cease all attacks on commercial shipping. They must also release any personnel or vessels that are being detained. Furthermore, we reiterate that all Member States defending their vessels must do so in accordance with international law.



Malta calls on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and prioritise diplomatic channels so as not to further escalate the current situation.

In conclusion, Madame President, the international community must safeguard the hard-won gains made towards peace in Yemen. We call on parties to remain dedicated to agreeing a UN roadmap for a formalised ceasefire and political process, and to guarantee the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid.

We must continue to support the people of Yemen, and ensure that, after nearly a decade of conflict, their path to peace is protected.

I thank you.