



Security Council briefing on Yemen, 15 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Francesca Gatt

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I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank Special Envoy Grundberg and OCHA Director Wosurnu for their comprehensive briefings, and Ms Shakir for her strong testimony.

The nine-year conflict in Yemen has created dire humanitarian conditions for Yemeni civilians.

More than 17.5 million people face acute food insecurity, with numbers likely to increase in the coming months. Earlier, we were reminded how important it is for the international community to scale up support to the Humanitarian Response Plan, this at a time when this Plan remains drastically underfunded.



The essential delivery of humanitarian aid continues to be hampered due to humanitarian access impediments. Authorities must lift restrictions on women's freedom of movement. These restrictions exacerbate gender inequality and structural barriers hindering access to education, healthcare, and income for their families.

We are concerned for the increasing cases of cholera in Yemen, and call for a rapid, robust response by the international community.

Malta is concerned that space for mediation efforts remain constrained due to escalations in the Red Sea and the region. We call on the Houthis to immediately cease all attacks and actions against commercial shipping and abide by their obligations under international law, including full adherence to Resolution 2722.

Recent skirmishes in Yemen, including in Lahj and Marib, also reflect the tenuous security situation.



On the socio-economic front, the decision by the Houthis to issue new currency is concerning. Unilateral decisions that deepen the fragmentation of Yemen's already weakened economy only harms the well-being of Yemenis.

We call on parties to de-escalate tensions, and prioritise dialogue to find an agreement that will lead to sustainable peace. The establishment of a UN roadmap will be crucial to ensure the implementation of a nation-wide ceasefire and inclusive Yemeni-led and-owned political process under UN auspices. Women must be full, equal, and meaningful participants in all diplomatic efforts to find peace.

And as has been highlighted again today by Ms Shakir, we must not forget that Yemen is the third country most susceptible to climate-related impacts, and one of the least prepared for climate shocks.



According to a recent report by the UN Environmental Programme, environmental stressors such as water scarcity, desertification, and extreme weather events are highly intertwined with security concerns. In 2023, over three-quarters of newly displaced individuals experienced such displacement due to severe weather occurrences.

While women in rural communities remain greatly dependent upon agriculture for their livelihoods, we also acknowledge their pivotal role in helping ease tensions over natural resources. Furthermore, through the work of women-led civil society organisations, they help meet the essential needs of communities in remote and front-line areas.

The international community should support Yemen to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. This includes ensuring adequate access to climate financing, assisting in national preparatory systems, and investment in climate-resilient measures, through effective strategies integrated with conflict prevention efforts.



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The Security Council needs to recognise this nexus to address the multiple impacts on communities and enhance long-term stability in Yemen.

I thank you.