



Security Council briefing on Yemen, 13 May 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ambassador Vanessa Frazier

Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President.

I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg, and let me also take this opportunity to join colleagues in thanking USG Griffiths for his service to the Yemeni file.

As we have heard again today, Yemen continues to suffer a dire humanitarian crisis due to protracted conflict.

Public services and institutions continue to degrade, clearly indicated by the re-emergence of cholera and growing levels of malnutrition.

We are very concerned that cholera continues to spread rapidly in areas under Houthi-control.



The slowing spread of cholera in Government-controlled areas due to cooperation between the authorities and humanitarian community underlines the importance to support our humanitarian partners. This is the only way to ensure the necessary response to address the cholera crisis. Funding is desperately needed to restock essential supplies and strengthen water, sanitation, and hygiene systems.

A robust response can only be ensured if unimpeded humanitarian access is guaranteed. We reiterate our call on all authorities, particularly the Houthis, to allow for the free movement of humanitarian partners without interference or constraint. We also call for authorities to lift restrictions on women's freedom of movement which severely hamper the delivery of healthcare, social services, and essential aid to those most vulnerable.



Food and nutrition insecurity continues to drive untold suffering for millions of Yemenis. Humanitarian partners need more support to address these needs. We highlight the European Union's pledge of 125 million euro in humanitarian funding, and further call on the international community to scale-up support for Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan.

President

Malta is troubled that space for mediation efforts between parties to the conflict in Yemen remains constrained, aggravated by escalations in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. 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.

We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of the Galaxy Leader vessel and its crew, and the five remaining Bahá'ís who have been forcibly detained for over one year.



Yemen's fragmented economy also continues to be a driver of suffering for civilians. Unilateral economic decisions and policies risk further bifurcating the economic system. We call on parties to adopt a strategic and coordinated response to face challenges to Yemen's economy.

Parties must prioritise de-escalation and engage in dialogue to fulfil commitments made to the UN Roadmap, which aims to establish a formalised ceasefire, improve living conditions, and resume a political process under UN-auspices. A sustainable political process must be Yemeni-led and -owned, and include the participation of a wide range of voices, including women, young persons, civil society, and marginalised groups.

President,

Children continue to bear the brunt of suffering in Yemen, with millions not knowing a life without war.



Nearly ten million children are in need of humanitarian assistance. Six-point-five million children suffer food insecurity and almost one in every two children under the age of five are stunted from malnutrition.

Over 4.5 million children are unable to attend schools due to attacks and insecurity, jeopardising their futures and increasing protection risks. Children are also at a heightened risk of cholera, and are disproportionately killed and maimed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The international community must urgently scale-up support to reach vulnerable children in Yemen by investing in a robust humanitarian response, as well as comprehensive health services, education, demining, and explosive ordnance risk education.

Investing in Yemen's children is investing in Yemen's future.

Thank you.