



Security Council briefing on Yemen, 23 July 2024

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 and Acting-USG Joyce Msuya for their briefings.

As emphasised yesterday, Malta remains deeply concerned about the escalations posed by the recent developments.

We firmly condemn the Houthi-claimed drone attack on Tel Aviv on 19 July. We call on the Houthis to immediately cease all attacks.

We similarly call on them to cease their actions against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The retaliatory airstrikes by Israel in and around the port of Hudaydah left many victims and casualties while causing considerable damage to civilian infrastructure. This is concerning. We once again underscore that all parties are obliged to protect civilians under international law.



Hudaydah port is a lifeline for millions of people in Yemen who rely heavily on imports of essential items such as food, medicine, and fuel. It is essential for the port to be open and operating.

Moreover, Hudaydah Port is in a densely populated urban centre where thousands of people live. Any military campaign in its vicinity risks having devastating consequences for civilians.

Ongoing military actions in the region risk disrupting ongoing mediation efforts. They hamper progress towards a formal nationwide ceasefire and a broader political solution to the conflict in Yemen.

The resumption of an inclusive Yemeni-led and -owned political process, with the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women, remains key.

Given the risks of broader conflict in the Middle East, it is essential for all parties to exercise restraint, to de-escalate, and to pursue peaceful solutions to all disputes.



Malta condemns the arrests and arbitrary detentions conducted by the Houthis of UN personnel, civil society, and staff working for non-governmental organisations and diplomatic missions in Yemen. These individuals must be immediately and unconditionally released.

All parties to the conflict must fully comply with their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law, including the prohibition against the arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

This situation is having far-reaching ramifications on the delivery of humanitarian aid into and throughout Yemen, at a time when the country suffers heightened levels of food insecurity.

We call on all parties to ensure unimpeded and timely humanitarian access to those in need, as well as a safe operating environment for humanitarian actors.



We further call on the international community to support a robust response to Yemen's humanitarian crisis, and urgently scale-up funding for Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan.

President

Malta welcomes the convening of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Detainees' Agreement. We call on parties to continue to engage on this matter to fulfil their commitment to the Stockholm Agreement to release all conflict-related detainees, and those arbitrarily detained.

We also welcome this Council's recent renewal of UNMHA which performs crucial work supporting the Hudaydah Agreement.

The economic war that has been conducted by parties to the conflict has fragmented and destabilised Yemen's economy and currency. Such actions have caused inflation to rise and surging the prices of essential goods, serving as a major driver of suffering.



We are pleased with the announcement last night that the Government of Yemen and the Houthis agreed on several measures to de-escalate in relation to the banking sector and Yemenia Airways.

We echo the Special Envoy for the need for the parties to collaborate towards an economy that benefits all Yemenis and supports the implementation of a nationwide ceasefire and the resumption of an inclusive political process.

In conclusion, President, Malta is deeply concerned by the political, humanitarian, and economic situations in Yemen. We urge parties to constructively engage with the Office of the Special Envoy on commitments made to the UN Roadmap.

We echo the Secretary-General's in expressing our deep appreciation for the invaluable work done by UN personnel and partners to try to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people.

I thank you.