



Security Council briefing on Yemen, 11 December 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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Thank you President. I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg, and USG Fletcher for their briefings. I also welcome USG Fletcher to the Council. I also thanks Ms Al-Omeisy for his testimony and for sharing his personal experience with us today.

President,

It has been one year since parties to the conflict made commitments to measures seeking to implement a nation-wide ceasefire, improve living conditions, and engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process under UN auspices.

We deeply regret that such progress has not been realised, and that escalating tensions in the region have hampered Yemen's path to peace.



Houthi attacks against merchant and commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the region have also escalated tensions and impaired progress.

Although the levels of violence are lower than the period prior to the truce, military escalations and armed clashes between the sides are deeply concerning.

We call on the Houthis to cease their escalations in Yemen, the Red Sea, and the region. We urge the parties to return to the negotiating table and recommit to the commitments made one year ago.

A sustainable political process in Yemen must be inclusive. Women and under-represented groups must have a voice in shaping Yemen's political future. It is not an option for them to be left out.

Regrettably, women in Yemen continue to face grave rights violations. Restrictions that limit women's freedom of movement and access to health care and education are unacceptable and must be lifted. We stress the importance of gender-responsive humanitarian action and urge all stakeholders to prioritise the needs of women and girls.



President

This month also marks six months since the illegal detentions of more than 50 UN personnel, and staff from non-governmental organisations, civil society, and diplomatic missions by the Houthis.

Throughout our elected term on the Council, humanitarian workers and UN staff have been targeted at unprecedented levels across the world, particularly national and locally recruited staff who are the backbone of humanitarian operations.

Humanitarian workers must be able to perform their critical work, free from fear of being targeted. Those arbitrarily detained must be immediately and unconditionally released. Such detentions are a violation of international law.

As we have heard today yet again, the needs in Yemen remain immense and growing. Millions of people are experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of water, healthcare and sanitation services, spread of preventable diseases, and displacement.



The leveraging of economic means by the parties has escalated the dire humanitarian situation, while Yemeni's vulnerability to the effects of climate change also further aggravates these needs.

Yemeni children suffer disproportionately accounting for more than half of the people in need. All parties to the conflict must comply with the obligations under international law to ensure the protection of children.

Despite the difficulties, the UN and other humanitarian organisations continue to operate on the ground. The international community must support these efforts and scale-up funding to Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan. Now is not the time to scale back.

In closing, President, since this is the last mandated meeting on Yemen during Malta's tenure on the Council, I would like to thank Special Envoy Grundberg and all his team for their efforts, as well as OCHA colleagues who continue to work in very challenging circumstances. The international community must continue to support Yemen.



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We remain firm in our belief that peace is possible. We reiterate our call on parties to the conflict to prioritise the people of Yemen and engage in negotiations to this end, and to the international community to continue to offer the necessary support.

I thank you.