

**Speech Minister Meryame Kitir – UN Genève**  
***High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen***

16 maart 2022

Dear Excellencies,

7 years have passed and yet still millions of people in Yemen continue to suffer. The humanitarian situation is serious.

Famine and violence does not only lead to a tremendous loss of lives;

We're currently risking the biggest loss to conflict and war: the loss of humanity, the loss of a sufficient humanitarian response for millions of people in dire need.

It is unacceptable that our humanitarian partners, because of a lack of funding, have to cut their assistance in Yemen when needs are higher than they have been in the past.

The work of humanitarian organizations is the last lifeline for millions of people. They make the difference between life or death every day.

The people of Yemen must not be forgotten by the international community, as more recent crises receive more attention.

We should never accept that the needs of one group of people outweigh the needs of others.

All people deserve protection during armed conflict. Because we are all human beings. We are all connected.

This is not mere rhetoric.

It is a bitter reality, as the war in Ukraine is threatening the world's wheat supply and will almost certainly generate a new humanitarian crisis, a new food crisis in Yemen and many other regions in the world.

That's why this meeting today is crucial to ensure adequate funding to humanitarian efforts in Yemen.

We cannot lose our urgency to help the people in Yemen when they need our help the most.

That's why Belgium will contribute 5 million euro to the Yemen Humanitarian Fund in 2022 as it did in 2021.

We remain committed to a qualitative approach to humanitarian aid, as we provide 40 million euro in unearmarked core funding to humanitarian organizations active in Yemen and provide 29.5 million euro to Global Humanitarian Funds.

Belgium believes that the negotiation of a ceasefire and a durable political solution is the only way for the Yemeni conflict to come to an end.

Until that day, our humanitarian efforts in Yemen must not falter.

Because I would like each of us to remember that there is a person behind those huge numbers of people in need.

Let's not forget them.

Let's not fail them.

Thank you.