Statement by
Federal Foreign Minister
Heiko Maas

at the
Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for
the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

Berlin, 1 March 2021
Excellencies, colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We just heard it from the Secretary-General: millions of people in Yemen are at risk of famine. It is the worst humanitarian catastrophe of our times.

And what is even more devastating: the human suffering caused by the conflict is entirely man made.

Over the last weeks, the humanitarian situation has become even worse as a result of the latest Houthi offensive in Marib.

**Enough is enough!**
- All parties to the conflict must immediately stop fighting and rally behind Martin Griffiths’ initiative for a country-wide ceasefire, confidence building measures, and the start of a comprehensive political process. Germany actively supports this through mediation and the United Nations’ Peace Support Facility.
- We also need to defend those who risk their own lives to save lives on the ground: humanitarian workers.
  Those who violate international humanitarian law by attacking civilian infrastructure must be held accountable.

- And we must put more pressure on those who continue to deny humanitarian access. They bear full responsibility for the suffering of the Yemeni people.

Ladies and gentlemen,
While we are meeting here today, the humanitarian operation on the ground remains alarmingly underfunded.
I am grateful to António Guterres and our colleagues from Sweden and Switzerland for bringing this tragedy to the world’s attention.
It is our **collective responsibility**, as donors, to provide the necessary means to stop the disaster that is unfolding before our eyes. But it is the parties to the conflict that must finally end this war!

Ladies and gentlemen,
At this point, funding is a matter of **life or death!**

**Germany** has been among the **strongest supporters** of the Yemeni people for years, by providing humanitarian assistance, stabilization and development to Yemen. We will **further increase** our humanitarian contribution this year and provide **200 million euro** to the Yemen **Humanitarian Response Plan - 146 million** of which have already been provided. In addition, Germany will continue its wide-ranging **stabilisation and development cooperation efforts.**

And we are **counting on all of you to join us in this fight.**

Thank you.