



**Statement by H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of  
the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations during the  
2022 High-level Pledging Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen  
March 16, 2022**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Guyana welcomes the convening of this important high-level pledging Conference. We remain deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian situation in Yemen and the devastating impact that seven years of crisis has had on the country.

We thank the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, and the United Nations for co-hosting this event and for raising awareness of the urgent need for funding support for the Yemen humanitarian response plan.

Guyana calls on all parties in Yemen to work together to find a durable solution to the ongoing crisis and to restore peace and economic stability in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have heard here today that the already dire situation in Yemen is likely to become worse in the months to come. Compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and cuts to humanitarian funding, the situation has become critical. Millions of people are now at risk of losing access to food, water, healthcare, protection, and other life-saving assistance. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) report of 7<sup>th</sup> March estimates that 10.9 million people will lose access to food assistance, including 2.5 million nursing mothers and children.

Sadly, rising humanitarian crises around the world, including the current conflict in Ukraine, also threaten to further deepen the funding crisis in Yemen and other conflict areas. We simply cannot afford to let this happen. Increased conflict and suffering in one part of the world, does not diminish the need for life-saving aid in another. We urge donors to be generous in their pledges and to provide flexible, balanced, early and strong support for the humanitarian response in Yemen.

I am pleased to announce that the Government and people of Guyana will contribute USD 50,000 to assist in sustaining life-saving assistance to the people of Yemen.

We hope that this modest contribution will aid in maintaining critical programmes in the areas of food security, healthcare, nutrition, education, and support to IDPs, migrants and refugees.

The international community has a moral responsibility to break the cycle of violence in Yemen and to usher in an era of peace and security for its people. Guyana is committed to doing its part. We commend the Governments, donors and UN agencies that have stepped up to bolster humanitarian action in Yemen. We also salute the many humanitarian workers who, despite the critical funding shortfall and challenging operating environment, work around the clock to alleviate suffering and provide a lifeline to millions of Yemeni men, women and children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The collapse of Yemen's economy and basic services – which stem from the ongoing conflict – are the main drivers of the humanitarian needs in the country. As we continue to search for a durable solution to the political crisis, let us also focus our attention on restoring economic stability in the country. The new UN economic framework provides a roadmap of measures that the international community can undertake to immediately support the stabilization of the Yemeni economy and to restore and preserve existing basic services – including healthcare, education, water networks, livelihoods, and social protection.

Let us redouble our efforts to eliminate the underlying drivers of the conflict and support the United Nations' efforts to end the suffering in Yemen.

I thank you for your attention.

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