

Statement by Mr Mantas Adomenas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, at the Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen, 1 March 2021

Dear Mr Guterres, Mr Cassis, Ms Linde and Mr Lowcock,

I would like to thank the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland and the United Nations for convening High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen.

We heard a lot about the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen. Unfortunately, the situation on the ground rapidly is deteriorating. So, today no one at all is in any doubt about urgent need of humanitarian assistance for Yemeni people.

As the origins of the ongoing crisis are political, ultimately the solutions to it must be political too. So, it is crucial to make progress in finding a political solution.

In this context, Lithuania strongly supports the UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths in his tireless efforts to engage with Yemenis and other relevant stakeholders in order to reach comprehensive political agreement.

This conference is vital to mobilise financial contribution for humanitarian assistance in Yemen. Another important step that this life-saving aid pass unhindered to reach those in dire need. So, it is crucial that we use this meeting to send a clear message that we will not tolerate constraints on the delivering critical humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable affected by this terrible crises.

As we heard today, the UN-led humanitarian response remains vastly underfunded, further driving the risk of famine. So it's critical that donors increase their engagement in 2021. For our own part, Lithuania has been consistently supporting the people of Yemen since 2014. Continuing with our commitment this year Lithuania will contribute 100 000 EUR to the joint financial support for dealing with humanitarian crisis in Yemen. I can assure you of my country's continued engagement in this collective effort.

Thank you very much