

## **Yemen 2021: Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

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Excellences

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Malta, I would like to thank the organisers for holding this Conference, encouraging us to come together once again to curtail further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen. Malta fully supports the timely convening of the 2021 High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. Almost seven years have elapsed since the outbreak of this protracted conflict, which has resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. This Conference provides an opportunity for the international community, as well as regional actors, to work together in a constructive and cooperative manner, for the benefit of the people of Yemen.

Malta is fully supportive of the role and presence of the UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations in all parts of the country that ensure that the vital humanitarian assistance reaches the intended

destination. My country also wishes to pay tribute to all the humanitarian actors in their relentless effort to deliver life-saving support to all those in need in very challenging circumstances.

In this context, Malta joins other countries in encouraging all parties to the conflict to allow unhindered, immediate delivery of life-saving assistance to intended beneficiaries, while respecting the international humanitarian law. Even though this humanitarian crisis can mainly be solved through a political solution, a scale-up of the humanitarian effort to respond to immediate needs on the ground is unarguably critical at this juncture. We fully support that “Vaccine ceasefires” be declared in conflict zones to enable health care workers to inoculate local populations against the ongoing pandemic. Global access to COVID-19 vaccines should be an urgent international priority making sure that no one is left behind especially in regions facing instability and armed conflict, including Yemen.

Malta also welcomes the recent positive announcements and decisions towards a de-escalation of hostilities within the Yemeni war. In this vein, it is time for the international community to build on this

momentum and call upon all parties to lay down all weapons, agree to a nationwide ceasefire, and return to the negotiating table.

Malta considers the Stockholm Agreement as a milestone in the process of peacebuilding and augurs that all sides, notwithstanding the numerous challenges, will persevere in the realisation of this agreement. In this regard, Malta reiterates its full support to all UN-led peace efforts, particularly those of UNSE Martin Griffiths. Malta hopes that a negotiated settlement that respects the independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen is achieved without further delay.

To conclude, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Malta is again dedicating part of its yearly humanitarian budget in aid of the people of Yemen to assist in mitigating their challenges.

The hardship faced by the people of Yemen, especially the children as the most vulnerable group of the population, continues to touch a chord with the people of Malta. Assisted by the Maltese Government, a women-led NGO is dispatching goods including essential items for babies and children of Yemen, that have been generously donated by

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Yemen Pledging Conference

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the people of Malta.