Statement by
H.E. Dr Stanislav Raščan, in his capacity as Minister for Development Assistance of the Republic of Slovenia
at the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen,
1 March 2021

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by thanking the United Nations and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland for convening today's High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen.

We are deeply troubled by the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen, and alarmed by the increasing food insecurity and reports revealing the highest levels of acute malnutrition ever. As millions of people in Yemen struggle for survival, humanitarian assistance and unhindered access to humanitarian aid for all the people in need is of the utmost importance.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Slovenia has contributed EUR 400,000 for addressing the pressing needs of the people in Yemen. This year, we are committed to increase our aid pledge for Yemen by 20% compared to previous years. In this regard, I am pleased to announce Slovenia's contribution of EUR 120,000 to ICRC in the form of a multi-year donation for the period 2021-2023.

However, humanitarian aid alone cannot resolve the situation. Only an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process can bring an end to the conflict and heal the divides. Slovenia is deeply concerned by the news of renewed military escalation in Yemen. The Houthis should immediately cease their offensive on Marib. We urge all the parties to break the cycles of violence and engage constructively in the UN Special Envoy’s efforts to achieve peace in Yemen. We encourage the use of confidence-building measures. In this regard, the resumption of talks on a possible prisoner exchange between Yemen’s warring parties is a welcome step.

Slovenia is also seriously concerned by the conclusions of the Yemen Panel of Experts that all parties continue to commit violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law with impunity. These violations must stop immediately and those responsible must be held accountable.

In conclusion, Slovenia would like to encourage all actors of the international community to use their influence on parties to the conflict as well as UN Security Council members to redouble their efforts and support for a political settlement. In this context, Slovenia commends the increased diplomatic engagement and the priority placed by the United States on ending the conflict in Yemen.

Thank you for your attention.