Your Excellency Secretary General,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

allow me to begin by thanking you, Secretary General and governments of Switzerland and Sweden for convening today's high event.

Slovenia is appalled that after more than seven years of conflict violence is again on the rise. We are devastated over the surging number of civilian casualties, many of them children and women. Slovenia strongly condemns Houthi cross-border attacks against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Since the beginning of the war in Yemen, the situation in the country is often described as "the largest humanitarian crisis in the world". Yet, the international humanitarian response in Yemen has been one of the most underfunded. It is imperative, that Yemen is not left behind even while facing a new large humanitarian crisis, such as in Ukraine.

For the current situation not to worsen, continuous cooperation and coordination is crucial. It is imperative to ensure a safe and unhindered humanitarian access, in accordance with international humanitarian law and principles. We all need to defend those who risk their own lives to save lives on the ground - humanitarian workers.

Slovenia is happy to announce additional pledge for the 2022-2023 period for Yemen through WFP in the amount of 80,000 EUR along with the 90,000 EUR through ICRC already announced last year. Slovenia has contributed more than half a million EUR since the beginning of this crisis.

However, humanitarian aid does not suffice. Slovenia looks forward to the UN Special Envoy's framework plan to move the parties towards an inclusive political settlement and calls on all parties to exercise restraint and engage constructively with the Special Envoy without preconditions.

It is also essential that all parties respect the international humanitarian law, prevent further harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure and facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to all in need.

Thank you.