

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA PULAT
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
IN YEMEN
(16 March 2022)**

1. Türkiye is deeply concerned regarding the humanitarian situation in Yemen. Global developments and war in Ukraine should not divert our attention from the humanitarian tragedy taking place in Yemen, which is unfortunately the worst in the world.
2. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, while millions are displaced and starving. Tragically, almost 21 million people, around 70 percent of Yemen's population are in need of aid.
3. The ongoing military escalation in many parts of Yemen could result in an even greater humanitarian catastrophe, which is being worsened by COVID pandemic.
4. We strongly condemn frequent bombings in Yemen's cities, as well as the missile and drone attacks targeting the region. Hostilities between the sides has continued unabated despite alarming number of civilian casualties.
5. We appreciate and support efforts by Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General, Hans Grundberg to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict in Yemen. We hope consultations initiated in Amman, Jordan regarding his Framework Agreement will be fruitful.
6. Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UN and Houthis regarding SAFER oil tanker is a positive development. We hope this would avert an environmental catastrophe that could affect Red Sea and millions dependent on it.
7. Turkish humanitarian organizations have been active in Yemen, providing much needed humanitarian and development aid even before the war. At this occasion, we would like to point out to the obstacles faced by Turkish aid agencies. Turkish aid staff encounter difficulties to enter Yemen to conduct their humanitarian work. While Yemeni authorities welcome all contributions from Türkiye, delays in entry procedures caused by third parties exacerbate sufferings of civilians in Yemen unnecessarily and in a situation of reduced aid budgets from UN and international community. In our view, all parties involved must ensure the necessary support for efforts which aim to provide essential humanitarian aid to Yemen, without delay. Thus, we call upon all parties involved and Arab Coalition, to facilitate entry procedures for Turkish aid workers to efficiently address urgent humanitarian needs of Yemen.
8. An urgent ceasefire is needed in Yemen. An inclusive political solution to the conflict based on UNSC resolutions and agreed parameters is the only way forward. Political unity and territorial integrity of Yemen must be respected and protected. We must reject separatist ideas. Division of Yemen and further deterioration of conditions affecting Yemeni people will have lasting affects for Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East, in general.

Thank you for your attention.