



Statement by H.E. Mr Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

Yemen – Briefing + Consultations

New York, 12 March 2020

Belgium remains extremely **concerned by the escalation of violence in Yemen since mid-January.**

It is now more important than ever for the **political process to resume**. Any de-escalation will remain fragile if it is not backed up by a political process. Talks between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis constitute a strong basis, but, at a given time, the government of Yemen will have to be involved in the talks and the process will have to be overseen by the UN. The **next steps in the political process** should start as soon as possible under the auspices of the United Nations. **It must be inclusive**, with significant participation by women and young people reflecting the ethnic, geographical, social and political diversity of Yemen's population.

The operational environment for humanitarian actors in Yemen, particularly in the North, remains difficult. All restrictions, obstructions and interferences violating humanitarian principles must be removed.

We continue to demand that the Houthis finally give access **to the SAFER oil tanker** so that the situation can be assessed and an ecological disaster avoided.

Lastly, all the parties must respect the obligations under **international humanitarian law and, if applicable, international human rights law.**

Thank you.