

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

to the United Nations Security Council

Yemen – Briefing + Consultations

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Mr President, I would like to thank Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and Under-Secretary-General Mark Lowcock for their briefings.

Regarding **Hodeidah**, we warmly welcome the effective functioning of the de-escalation mechanism and the *Joint Operations Centre*. Once again, we call on all parties to fully implement the withdrawal agreement, completely respect the ceasefire and resolve the remaining points of disagreement.

We welcome the **release of prisoners** by the Houthis and call on all parties to take additional measures to implement the Agreement on prisoner exchange and the Taiz Agreement. The full implementation of the **Stockholm Agreement** is essential.

At the same time, Belgium continues to encourage the Special Envoy to continue preparing **the next steps in the political process. This process must be inclusive**, with the meaningful participation of women and young people, and must reflect the ethnic, geographical and political diversity of the population of Yemen. As the Presidential Statement (PRST) of 29 August stressed, a negotiated political agreement after an inclusive dialogue is the way forward to resolve disputes and address the legitimate concerns of all Yemenis, including those in the south. In this context, we welcome the **talks organised by Saudi Arabia in Jeddah** to try to find a solution to the situation in the south and we call on all parties to engage constructively. We note with interest Mr. Lowcock's announcement that several vessels transporting fuel are currently under way.

Efforts are needed to **improve the humanitarian situation** which, as we have heard, remains **catastrophic**. We commend the humanitarian agencies on their outstanding work despite the difficulties. It is essential that all parties facilitate the access of humanitarian aid and respect international humanitarian law.

We are concerned about the impact of fuel shortages on the humanitarian situation, including the risk of rising food prices, and the impact on the

functioning of pumping systems and hospitals and clinics. We urge the parties to the conflict to cooperate with the Special Envoy to address these economic challenges in a constructive fashion.

We would like to highlight the excellent **report of the Group of Eminent Experts** on human rights violations in Yemen and we welcome the renewal of its mandate by the Human Rights Council in September. We call on the parties to respect their obligations and commitments under **international humanitarian law and international human rights law**.

**Violence** continues in the rest of the country, aggravating the lack of trust between the parties. This violence also has an impact on **access to humanitarian aid**. We call on all parties to cease hostilities throughout the country.

Belgium remains very concerned by the high number of **child victims** of air strikes and ground fighting, and demands that all parties take immediate measures to protect children.

Finally, Belgium shares the disappointment of Under-Secretary-General Marc Lowcock regarding the obstacles met by the team of experts sent by the United Nations to assess the situation of the SAFER tanker, which led the team to abandon its mission.

Thank you.