

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

to the United Nations Security Council

Yemen – Briefing + Consultations

New York, 22 November 2019

Mr President, I would like to thank Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and Assistant Secretary-General Ursula Mueller for their briefings.

Belgium welcomes the signature of the **Riyadh Agreement** between the Yemeni Government and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) on 5 November 2019.

We congratulate Saudi Arabia on its mediation and leadership.

We hope that this **positive momentum** can be maintained during the **next stages of the political process. This must be inclusive**, with the meaningful participation of women and young people, and must reflect the ethnic, geographical, social and political diversity of the population of Yemen.

We welcome the **de-escalation efforts**, although the civilian population is still suffering disproportionately. We encourage the continuation of these efforts until the termination of hostilities throughout the country.

Humanitarian access remains very difficult, as Ms Mueller informed us. It is essential that all parties facilitate the access of humanitarian aid and respect international humanitarian law. We call on the parties in particular to remove all restrictions to **humanitarian access and commercial imports**. We encourage the Yemeni Government to suspend the application of Decree 49 pending a lasting solution to the oil crisis. We encourage the Houthis to grant access to SAFER oil in order to facilitate the examination of the situation and avoid a possible ecological catastrophe.

At the same time, we continue to call on all parties to fully implement the **Stockholm Agreement**, including the Hodeidah Agreement, the prisoner exchange Agreement and the Statement of Understanding on Ta'iz.

Lastly, the parties must respect their obligations and commitments under **international humanitarian law and international human rights law**.

Thank you.