

Intervention of H.E. Monsieur Marc Pecsteen de  
Buytswerve, Ambassador, Permanent Representative

At the United Nations Security Council

### Briefing on Yemen

New York, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

Mr President,

I would first like to thank the United Kingdom for requesting this briefing on the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement. I would also like to thank Special Envoy Griffiths, the Under-Secretary-General Mark Lowcock and Major General Patrick Cammaert for their presentation.

Since this is our first time addressing the Security Council about Yemen, we would like to welcome the agreement concluded in Stockholm following negotiations with the Yemeni parties in the conflict, which were the first conducted by the UN in two years. This is a remarkable result obtained by Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and we are delighted with this outcome. We would like to stress our full support for the work of Special Envoy Martin Griffiths.

It is essential that this agreement is now respected and implemented within **realistic** timeframes. In view of the humanitarian emergency, the agreement about the Port of Hodeidah takes on a particular importance. This port is the *lifeline* for the rest of the country in terms of access for humanitarian aid and importing commercial goods. It is vital that the smooth operation of the port is ensured.

The situation is fragile and there is a huge amount of mistrust between the parties. There have been incidents, but we are calling on all parties to exercise restraint, to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric in the media and mutual accusations of ceasefire violations and to focus on implementing the Agreement in good faith. In addition, the parties must try to reach a common understanding regarding the implementation of the Hodeidah Agreement, including the terms. They must also try to agree on a monitoring mechanism within the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC).

In order to enable the UN to monitor the Agreement's implementation, it is important that the parties issue visas to UN personnel in time and that they give the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC) access to the entire territory of the Governorate of Hodeidah. Furthermore, the security of UN personnel must be assured.

Belgium wants the adoption of a resolution as quickly as possible to give a legal basis to a UN mission and we will constructively contribute to the negotiations for such a resolution.

Efforts to improve the humanitarian situation continue to be essential. According to the report, there are still bureaucratic obstacles to humanitarian access. It is paramount that all parties facilitate the access of humanitarian aid across the entire country.

Within this context, Belgium would like to emphasise its support for the work of the UNVIM (UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen).

We hope that the Stockholm Agreement can be used as a basis to build a consensus on a negotiating framework for future talks and to initiate an inclusive political process.