



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

By

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to the United Nations

At the

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(Yemen)**

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United Nations Security Council

Good morning and welcome to our briefers. We recognize your steadfast dedication to the people of Yemen; however, it is with heavy hearts that we receive your sobering updates. First, allow me to express deep concern at the plight of migrants in and around Yemen, including those caught in the deadly fire that broke out in the migrant detention center in Sana'a and those who suffered at the hands of traffickers en route to Yemen. These matters must be thoroughly investigated and we call for a recommitment to the protection of migrants from all parties.

It is clear that Yemen is on the precipice of another catastrophe from which it may not be able to return. Yemen's weak economy, the ongoing hostilities, including escalations in Marib and Hodeidah, and the dire humanitarian situation, exacerbated by fuel shortages, the ongoing blockade of commercial imports in Hodeidah, and the COVID-19 pandemic, have combined to create unbearable suffering. Over 2 million children under five years old are projected to face acute malnutrition. Over half of Yemen's population is facing acute food shortages. And as we have heard before from, World Food Programme Executive Director, Mr. David Beasley, millions are knocking on the door of famine. The cost of this conflict is high and its consequences will reverberate for years.

The Special Envoy's proposed Joint Declaration has been a starting point from which Yemen can navigate these challenges. There is need for an immediate nationwide ceasefire. The ongoing violence, including cross-border attacks, is inimical to progress towards peace; and within Marib, hostilities threaten the worst mass displacement of the war. A ceasefire will mitigate the humanitarian situation by facilitating the delivery of life-saving assistance to the Yemeni people. Humanitarian access must be unhindered, and humanitarian responders must be sufficiently equipped with the resources necessary to provide much-needed reprieve.

The Virtual Pledging Event held on March 1st was an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm and reinforce its solidarity with the people of Yemen; yet, the outcome was disappointing. While we welcome the pledges made, and encourage these to be disbursed with a sense of urgency, we appeal to others in the international community to increase their support, by providing funds to ensure that life-saving humanitarian programmes are able to continue.

While the most recent round of prisoner exchange talks was not fruitful, we encourage the parties to continue their discussions and efforts to meet their commitments. We have already seen in the past that dialogue can result in progress and encourage confidence building.

Last week we celebrated International Women's day, recognizing the social, economic, cultural and political contributions and achievements of women. In so doing, we called for further action to ensure gender parity in all spheres. In Yemen, women's aspirations and needs must be realized. This must start by ensuring their equal participation in the peace process. We encourage the Special Envoy to continue his work with women in Yemen, including the Yemeni Women's Technical Advisory Group. Let us ensure that women have the platform and a safe space for their voices to be heard and not merely ventilated but translated into concrete action on the ground.

In closing, we affirm our commitment to the Special Envoy, Mark Lowcock and all actors working to promote peace in Yemen. We stand in solidarity with the people of Yemen. To that end, we call on all parties to prioritize safeguarding the environment by allowing, without delay, the

deployment of the UN Mission to the SAFER oil tanker in order to prevent a catastrophe in the Red Sea. Politicizing and weaponizing this issue only engenders a further threat to the lives and livelihoods of the Yemeni people. Thank you.