



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr. President. We begin by welcoming the remarks provided by ASG Khaled Khiari and USG Martin Griffiths, with whom it is a pleasure to continue working. We also welcome Ms. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF and thank her for remarks.

The recent report entitled “education disrupted” is illuminating. The figures highlighting the number of children out of school and those in need of emergency education support is of concern, as well as the number of children in need of humanitarian help, including those without access to safe water, sanitation or hygiene, all of which contribute to a very desolate and disheartening picture. Of particular concern, is that some of these children born into this conflict have only ever known this dismal quality of life—that is indeed heartbreaking. A life that occurs against the backdrop of crisis-level food insecurity, a pandemic, ongoing hostilities, and a humanitarian crisis so grave that it has been designated the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. The restricted access to education directly impacts these children, and indirectly damages the prospects for building a stronger and more stable Yemeni civil society. **We take this opportunity to welcome the work that UNICEF and its partners have been doing to combat the collapse of the education situation, provide access to formal and non-formal education, and ensure the healthy and sustainable growth of children.**

On the humanitarian front, we welcome the additional funding to Humanitarian Response Plan, which has preserved a number of lifesaving humanitarian operations. We also welcome the recent funding announcements made by international partners, and **call on the international community to maintain this momentum.** We take this moment to underscore the link between the economic situation and the humanitarian situation, both of which are dependent on each other. Without support for the economy, many Yemenis are unable to afford basic food and services needed for everyday survival. **In this context we emphasize the importance of remittances from abroad, on which many Yemenis rely. These remittances are a crucial lifeline to those within Yemen, the loss of which would only exacerbate the humanitarian and economic situations.** We must also emphasise a humanitarian and existential risk that is beyond the control of the parties in Yemen and that is **climate change.** Let *all of us* around this table fulfil our responsibilities to the most vulnerable in this world and tackle the problem of climate change earnestly.

As the world continues to grapple with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, let us not forget that for many in Yemen, this is another toxic dimension to the conflict that further exacerbates its socio-economic impact. We recognise all international efforts made towards providing aid to Yemen, but there must be internal accountability as well. We urge all authorities

to continue their efforts and divert their attention away from fighting. The pandemic is affecting an already vulnerable population and a fragile healthcare system is now breaking under the weight of it all. **We call on all actors within Yemen to ensure unhindered an equal access to healthcare, and to humanitarian assistance.**

Mr President,

Khaled began his briefing this morning by underscoring that since his last briefing to this Council there has been no progress. Let me close by emphasising that the unrelenting efforts towards military gains, the impact of which is unjustifiably borne by the civilian population, must cease immediately. Nothing in the 6 years of this conflict has indicated that this approach is an appropriate or justified one. The only way to achieve a successful end to the war, is through an inclusive and balanced Yemeni-led, Yemeni-owned, and Yemeni-focused dialogue. **We call on all actors on the ground, and those with influence over them, to concentrate efforts on achieving a nationwide ceasefire that would support credible, political negotiations, undertaken in good faith and in the spirit of compromise.**

Thank you.