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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Council conclusions on Yemen
- Council conclusions (18 February 2019)

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on Yemen, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 18 February 2019.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON YEMEN

Foreign Affairs Council, 18 February 2019

1. The EU recalls its previous Council Conclusions on Yemen, and notably those of 25 June 2018 which continue to provide a policy framework on the Yemen crisis, and reaffirms its commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen.
2. The EU welcomes the "Stockholm Agreement" reached between representatives of the Yemeni parties under the auspices of the United Nations in December 2018. The progress made in Stockholm is the result of a collective engagement by the parties and the UN Special Envoy in which the European Union and its Member States were actively involved. The EU also commends the support provided by Sweden, Kuwait and Oman in achieving a resumption of political talks. The EU and its Member States will continue to actively engage with all the parties to the conflict and are committed to further support the UN-led political process, including through political dialogue with relevant regional actors, with the aim of continuing to produce tangible results, ending the conflict and fostering an improved regional environment.
3. The EU reaffirms that only a negotiated and inclusive political solution can end the conflict in Yemen. The EU calls on all the parties to maintain their commitment to the UN-led process in view of the upcoming talks. The EU reiterates that sustainable peace can only be achieved through negotiations involving the meaningful participation of all parties concerned, including civil society, women and youth.
4. The EU welcomes the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 2451 and 2452 underpinning the Stockholm Agreement and establishing the United Nations mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA).

5. The EU strongly condemns all actions that jeopardise the progress which has been achieved by the Yemeni parties at the UN-led talks in Stockholm. All sides must show utmost restraint, avoid actions that undermine the progress achieved and honour the agreements in letter and in spirit. The EU recalls the urgency of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Hodeidah Agreement including the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hodeidah and the ports of Hodeidah, Saleef and Ras Issa.
6. The EU welcomes the deployment of an advance monitoring team to Hodeidah and calls on all parties to positively engage with the Redeployment Coordination Committee and to facilitate the completion of the deployment of UNMHA personnel. All parties must cooperate fully with the United Nations, ensure the security and safety of UNMHA and UNVIM personnel, and facilitate the unhindered and expeditious movement into and within Yemen of personnel, equipment, provisions and essential supplies in accordance with UNSC resolution 2542, particularly those required to establish, commence and sustain full operations of UNMHA.
7. The EU welcomes the first meetings of the supervisory follow up committee on the implementation of the prisoner exchange agreement which took place in Amman. The EU also welcomes the subsequent release of prisoners by both parties as an encouraging signal and expects the parties to continue engaging constructively amongst each other and with the Special Envoy and the ICRC towards the continued implementation of this agreement ahead of the next round of negotiations.
8. With regard to the work of the Joint Committee established by the Statement of Understanding on the city of Taiz, the EU calls on the parties to fully implement its provisions with a view to reaching a fully-fledged ceasefire agreement.

9. The EU and its member states will continue to provide the United Nations with political, financial and other support in its efforts to implement the Stockholm Agreement and will actively look into further concrete options to this end. The EU welcomes all efforts undertaken to focus the attention on the need for rapid stabilisation initiatives, including by supporting a UN Peace Support Facility for Yemen directly connected to the peace process as discussed in the High-Level Strategy Dialogue on the Peace Process and Prospects for Stabilisation in Yemen which took place in Berlin on 16 January 2019.
10. The EU is also ready to support measures to reopen Sana'a International Airport, it recalls the humanitarian nature of this action, and encourages the efforts of the UNSE and all parties to reach an agreement on this key confidence building measure.
11. The EU calls on all parties to facilitate the delivery of commercial supplies, including fuel. In this context, the EU recalls that the functioning of the Hodeidah port alongside Saleef and Ras Issa ports is of paramount importance for the survival of millions of Yemenis. To this end, the EU will continue its support to the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) with a view to ensuring that commercial goods continue to flow into Yemen in full respect of all relevant UNSC Resolutions.
12. The EU also urges all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians, including children, and fully respect international humanitarian law as well as international human rights law. It calls on all the parties to the conflict to ensure the safe, rapid and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel to all people in need in all affected governorates.

13. The EU, which has since the beginning of the conflict contributed with over 560 million euros of assistance, recalls its concern for the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and stresses the importance of addressing its main drivers through proper coordination between security, political, humanitarian and development actions. Moreover, the EU reiterates the importance of supporting the resilience of the population and institutions at all levels, and that of economic actors, to prevent the basic functions of state from failing, keeping a base for reconstruction in the future. In this sense, the EU reiterates the need to support the capacities of the Central Bank of Yemen. Establishing a sound monetary policy and the full and regular payment of civil servant salaries and pensions across the country will relieve millions of citizens, including in areas where famine has already been detected.
14. The EU calls on all donors to make contributions at the next donor conference for Yemen which will be co-hosted by Sweden, Switzerland and the United Nations in Geneva on 26 February 2019 and which will respond to the largest UN Humanitarian Response Plan ever. The EU reiterates its call on all actors to channel their humanitarian pledges through the UN Response Plan as part of a well-coordinated international response to the crisis.
15. At this crucial juncture for the future of Yemen, the EU reiterates its full support for the UN and the work of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and of UNMHA. The EU calls on all parties in Yemen and in the region to respect UN Security Council resolution 2451 and 2452 and to work constructively towards a lasting and inclusive political solution for the benefit of the people of Yemen.
