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New York

President:	Mr. Bonnafont	(France)
Members:	Bahrain	Mr. Alrowaiei
	China	Mr. Fu Cong
	Colombia	Mr. Gaona
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr. Mukongo
	Denmark	Ms. Landi
	Greece	Mrs. Balta
	Latvia	Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes
	Liberia	Mr. Karyah
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Panama	Mr. Alfaro de Alba
	Russian Federation	Ms. Evstigneeva
	Somalia	Mr. Mohamed Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Foster
	United States of America	Ms. Neidhart

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hans Grundberg, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Grundberg.

Mr. Grundberg: When I briefed the Council last month (see S/PV.10208), I warned that Yemen was facing the greatest risk of a return to large-scale conflict since the 2022 truce. That risk has now turned into a harsh reality.

Over the past 24 hours, the fighting has intensified across multiple front lines, especially along the strategic west coast. Ansar Allah launched a major offensive, including on Mukha', the port city that lies roughly 75 kilometres from the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the chokepoint linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden through which a substantial share of global trade and energy passes. As of right now, they have gained control of Mukha', giving them a direct presence on the approaches to one of the world's most vital straits, although fighting is ongoing and the situation remains fluid. This development is raising serious concerns within the international community about the threat to freedom of navigation.

The developments in Mukha' follow weeks of escalation. In early September, Ansar Allah launched extensive attacks in Ta'izz and Hudaydah, setting off increasingly intense confrontations with government forces. The fighting has since spread to Ma'rib, Jawf and Bayda'. Civilians have reportedly been killed in Ta'izz, Hudaydah, Bayda', Jawf and elsewhere, and the shelling of displacement sites in Ma'rib has reportedly killed children and destroyed shelters. According to humanitarian actors, more than 11,400 households have been reported as newly displaced countrywide since 3 September, the majority in Ta'izz and southern Hudaydah. Ongoing fighting continues to drive displacement.

Ansar Allah has also conducted attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These attacks wounded dozens of civilians, and the United Nations has condemned them. I repeat my call on Ansar Allah to cease its attacks inside Yemen and across the border into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to cease attacks and threats against commercial vessels.

This renewed war should alarm us all. It effectively marks the end of the relative calm that Yemen has experienced for more than four years since the United Nations-brokered truce. It not only threatens to plunge Yemen into a prolonged and expanding war but also risks yet again dragging the country into the wider and unresolved regional confrontation, with global repercussions.

This situation was not inevitable. Yemeni demands can be addressed at the negotiation table, and in the lead-up to the escalation, I put forward proposals that offered a credible alternative. I will continue to engage the Government of Yemen and Ansar Allah to identify feasible ways forward and to keep open options for off-ramps.

I will work in close partnership with regional actors, whose engagement is indispensable to help contain the situation. This is my role. What is negotiated and what is ultimately agreed is for the Yemenis to decide.

Let me state plainly what I am asking at this stage.

First, channels of engagement need to stay open even during hostilities. My Office will continue to make such channels available, including through the Military Coordination Committee, which offers a practical platform to facilitate exchanges on military and humanitarian incidents and to agree on measures to protect civilians and facilitate their freedom of movement.

Secondly, international humanitarian law must be upheld at all times by everyone. Civilians and civilian objects must not be targeted, and constant care must be taken to spare them from the effects of military operations.

Thirdly, the pathway to a political settlement needs to be preserved. For years, my Office has consulted Yemenis in all their diversity — political parties, women, youth, civil society and the private sector. Across the country, their demands are strikingly consistent. They ask to reopen roads and airports, pay salaries, improve public services, release detainees and stabilize the fragmented economy. They want guarantees for equal citizenship, social and economic justice and State institutions that serve citizens equitably. Such a political future for Yemen will need to be forged through inclusive dialogue and agreement. The United Nations stands always ready to accompany the Yemeni people along that path.

The question before the international community is no longer whether Yemen's war will resume but how to address a new and more dangerous phase, one whose consequences, if left unchecked, will not stay within Yemen's borders.

That is why the unity and sustained engagement of the Council matter now more than at any point in years. Yemen cannot be allowed to slip from the Council's attention. It needs the active investment of every member of this body to contain what could be the precipice of a far more dangerous conflict.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Grundberg for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): We would like to thank the French presidency for its prompt response to the request made by my country and the United Kingdom to convene today's meeting. This meeting aims to discuss the terrorist attacks launched by the Houthi militias against the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, 8 September, as well as the dangerous military escalation in Yemen following the Houthi seizure of the coastal city of Mukha', located on the Red Sea near the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The Kingdom of Bahrain also welcomes the participation of Mr. Hans Grundberg, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, in today's meeting and thanks him for his valuable briefing. I also welcome the participation of the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen.

At the outset, allow me to deliver a statement on behalf of the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), namely the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait and my own country, the Kingdom of Bahrain. The GCC States condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks launched by the Houthi militias against the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, specifically the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian facilities and infrastructure, which constitute a flagrant violation

of the rules of international law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations. The GCC States reiterate that the continuation of these attacks represents a dangerous escalation and a direct threat to the security, stability and safety of the region and its peoples.

The GCC States reiterate their full support for and solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting any threats to its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We emphasize that the Kingdom's security and stability are an integral part of the security of all GCC States. Furthermore, we affirm our support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to protect its citizens, residents and national assets, as well as its exercise of its inherent right to self-defence in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

The GCC States also condemn the Houthi militias' continued targeting of maritime navigation, which threatens freedom of navigation at sea. This constitutes a blatant challenge to the international community, poses a direct threat to regional and international peace and security, exposes international trade to grave risks and threatens the safety of vessels and their crews.

The GCC States emphasize the need for the international community, in particular the Security Council, to shoulder its responsibilities by adopting a firm stance against these violations, holding the perpetrators and their backers accountable and ensuring full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions — foremost among them resolutions 2216 (2015), 2722 (2024) and 2817 (2026) — in order to halt these attacks and safeguard regional security, stability and freedom of navigation.

I will now deliver a statement on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain in its national capacity.

First, the Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemns and denounces the terrorist attacks carried out by the Houthi militias against civilian targets in Abha, Khamis Mushayt, Jazan and Najran. These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the United Nations Charter, resulting in 73 civilian injuries, including women and children. The Kingdom recalls the Security Council press statement issued on 7 August (SC/16429), in which the Council condemned the Houthi attacks of July 2026. The recurrence of such attacks, despite explicit international condemnation, underscores the Houthi terrorist militias' persistence in their escalatory approach and their disregard for the international community's stance and repeated demands to halt such attacks.

Secondly, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that the Houthi terrorist militias' continued targeting of maritime security and threats to freedom of navigation extend beyond the region. They constitute a blatant challenge to the international community and a direct threat to regional and international peace and security. These militias would not have been able to continue their attacks were it not for their persistent circumvention of the sanctions regime. Accordingly, the Kingdom calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities, adopt a firm stance regarding these violations and hold the perpetrators and their backers accountable, including by applying the listing criteria stipulated in resolution 2801 (2025) against those responsible for these attacks and the networks enabling them.

The Kingdom also calls for expanding the scope of the Secretary-General's periodic reporting to include attacks targeting the territories and vital facilities of GCC States, alongside attacks on commercial vessels, thereby enabling the Council to grasp the full picture of the Houthi threat and its regional and international repercussions.

In this context, the Kingdom emphasizes the need for Member States to tighten enforcement measures regarding the targeted arms embargo; enhance efforts to combat the smuggling of weapons and their components; and ensure the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

Thirdly, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that the aggression of the Houthi terrorist militias against States in the region is an extension of their hostile conduct within Yemen, where they continue to obstruct the path to peace through further escalation and to shut the doors of hope on the brotherly Yemeni people. This occurs at a time when international efforts are converging to end their suffering. However, recent attacks launched on multiple fronts against the Yemeni Government — most notably the attempt to seize the city of Mukha' — clearly violate the truce and de-escalation efforts. These actions have resulted in civilian casualties, new waves of displacement and infrastructure damage, thereby exacerbating the humanitarian tragedy, undermining de-escalation efforts and steering Yemen away from the path to peace. This dangerous development enables the Houthi militias to target international shipping in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, posing a direct threat to the security of maritime lanes and to regional and international peace and security.

In this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain commends the diplomatic, humanitarian and developmental efforts undertaken by the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support Yemen and its people. The Kingdom also reiterates its support for the legitimate Yemeni Government and the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to preserve Yemen's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to fulfil the aspirations of its brotherly people for security, stability and prosperity.

Ms. Foster (United Kingdom): I thank Special Envoy Grunberg for his briefing and welcome the representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia to this meeting.

I will make three points.

First, the United Kingdom joined Bahrain in calling for this urgent meeting following the serious escalation by the Houthis in Yemen and their reckless attacks against Saudi Arabia. The United Kingdom strongly condemns the Houthis' decision to resume conflict in Yemen and their continued strikes on Saudi Arabia, including the targeting of civilian and energy infrastructure. We call on the Houthis to cease their attacks immediately. We offer our condolences to all those killed, injured and affected by the violence, and we stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia and the Government of Yemen in the face of such threats. We reaffirm the right of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to defend their security and sovereignty in accordance with international law. We should be clear: the Houthis bear full responsibility for this crisis. Their attacks once again undermine regional stability and threaten freedom of navigation, transit passage and vital trade routes through the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The Houthis' advance towards the Bab al-Mandab Strait will only heighten risks to international shipping, maritime security and global trade through this critical waterway. This is felt first and hardest by developing countries.

Secondly, the Houthis' decision to restart conflict in Yemen puts the most vulnerable Yemenis at further risk and is deepening humanitarian suffering. More than 22 million Yemenis already require humanitarian assistance, while more than 18 million face acute food insecurity. The Houthis' continued detention of United Nations and non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel is contributing to this suffering and obstructs the very people trying to help vulnerable Yemenis at a time of acute humanitarian need. The Houthis must immediately and unconditionally release all detained personnel from NGOs, civil society and diplomatic missions, as well as the 73 detained United Nations staff.

Thirdly, Iran's long-standing support for the Houthis continues to fuel instability in Yemen. We reiterate the importance of full implementation of resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015), including measures to prevent the transfer of arms, military support and dual-use components that enable Houthi attacks and undermine peace and security in the region. All Member States must uphold these obligations to help prevent Houthi attacks against civilians, neighbouring States and international shipping.

The United Kingdom remains steadfast in its support for the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy to secure lasting peace in Yemen. We urge the Houthis to place the needs of Yemenis first, cease their attacks immediately and reengage in the peace process. Today the Council should send a clear and consistent message: the Houthis must de-escalate, cease their attacks and return to a path towards peace. The United Kingdom will continue to work with partners in support of this goal.

Mr. Mukongo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African members of the Security Council (A3), namely, Liberia, Somalia and my own country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his comprehensive briefing. We also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia in this meeting.

The A3 express their deep concern over the latest escalation of violence in Yemen and the surrounding region and wish to address the following points.

First, the A3 reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen. These principles, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be respected by all. Yemen must not become the theatre of a broader regional conflict. We call on all parties, as well as influential regional actors, to exercise restraint, to avoid any actions that could exacerbate the conflict and to preserve the necessary room for diplomacy.

Secondly, the A3 condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the rocket and drone attacks carried out by the Houthis against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 8 September, which struck the cities of Abha, Khamis Mushayt, Jazan and Najran. These attacks reportedly injured 73 civilians, including women and children, and damaged civilian and energy infrastructure. Attacks targeting civilians and civilian objects are unacceptable and must cease immediately. The A3 express their solidarity with the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reaffirm the importance of respecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. We urge the Houthis to cease all cross-border attacks and any other actions that threaten regional peace and security. At the same time, we call on all parties concerned to exercise the utmost restraint and prevent any escalation through retaliation that would expose civilians in Yemen and throughout the region to further danger.

Thirdly, this latest escalation demonstrates once again the urgent need for a comprehensive political settlement. Military action cannot resolve the conflict in Yemen. We reaffirm our unwavering support for the Special Envoy's efforts and for the United Nations-led mediation process aimed at achieving an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political settlement. All parties should engage constructively and without preconditions, rebuild trust and prioritize the interests of the Yemeni people over any narrow political or military calculations.

Fourthly, the humanitarian situation remains extremely grave. Civilians continue to suffer the consequences of the conflict, economic deterioration, population displacement and insufficient humanitarian financing. We call for full,

safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access; the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure; and adequate, predictable and flexible financing for humanitarian operations. We also remain deeply concerned about the prolonged detention by the Houthis of United Nations personnel, humanitarian workers, non-governmental organization staff, civil society representatives and personnel associated with diplomatic missions. We reiterate our call for their immediate, safe and unconditional release.

In conclusion, the A3 call for immediate de-escalation and a return to dialogue. The sovereignty and security of States must be respected, civilians must be protected and every effort must be made to prevent Yemen from being drawn into a broader regional conflict. Lasting peace can only be achieved through an inclusive political process based on dialogue, compromise and sustained engagement.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Special Envoy Grundberg for his briefing and welcome the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia to today's meeting.

Over the past week or so, the situation in Yemen and the surrounding areas has escalated significantly. Fierce fighting has erupted in Ta'izz, Hudaydah, Bayda' and other areas in Yemen, while energy and civilian facilities in Jazan, Najran and Abha in Saudi Arabia have come under intense attack. China expresses concern about the sharp increase in the intensity of this round of conflict and is deeply distressed by the injuries sustained by innocent civilians and the destruction of critical infrastructure resulting from the conflict. We condemn all indiscriminate attacks on civilians and non-military targets. The parties to the conflict are duty-bound to comply with international humanitarian law. Civilians and civilian facilities must not be targeted, and their safety must be respected and protected by all parties.

The situation in Yemen has reached a critical juncture. The international community should heighten its sense of urgency, strengthen its commitment to peace and intensify peace efforts to help the country break the cycle of recurring turmoil and embark on the path to lasting peace.

To this end, I will make three points.

First, sovereignty and territorial integrity must be effectively upheld. Fundamental principles such as the sovereign equality of all States and non-interference in internal affairs, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, are universally recognized as basic norms of international relations. The sovereignty of all countries in the region, including Yemen and Saudi Arabia, must be fully respected and their territorial integrity effectively upheld. The security of personnel, facilities and institutions of all countries in the region must be effectively ensured. Yemen's future and destiny should be in the hands of the Yemeni people themselves.

Secondly, we must make every effort to advance dialogue and consultation. Military means cannot fundamentally resolve the Yemeni issue, and confrontation and conflict will only deepen the suffering of the Yemeni people. China calls on all parties to the conflict to move towards each other, work together to de-escalate the situation and create conditions for a political solution to the Yemeni issue. China supports a greater role for the United Nations in this regard and the mediation efforts of Special Envoy Grundberg and countries in the region to this end. The parties to the conflict should make full use of the United Nations Military Coordination Committee mechanism, fully implement the prisoner exchange agreement previously reached, take confidence-building measures and gradually rebuild mutual trust. Through dialogue and communication, they should effectively address each other's legitimate

concerns and seek the greatest common denominator that accommodates all parties' demands.

Thirdly, an integrated approach is needed to resolve the security and development dilemma. Resolving the Yemeni issue requires focusing not only on easing immediate tensions but, more importantly, on addressing the deep-rooted causes of the conflict. Yemen faces one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world. Persistent extreme poverty often leads to more conflict and violence. Due to the recent escalation of the conflict, humanitarian needs in Ta'izz and Hudaydah, among other places, have become even more urgent. China calls on the international community to step up humanitarian and development assistance to Yemen and help the country alleviate its humanitarian crisis, strengthen its internal drivers of development and, by growing the development pie, enhance internal unity and bridge social divides.

China has always stood firmly on the side of peace, on the side of dialogue and on the right side of history. The international community universally recognizes Yemen's legitimate Government. China has consistently supported the preservation of Yemen's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. We are willing to continue working with the international community to play a constructive role in promoting a comprehensive ceasefire, an end to the war and the launch of national reconstruction in Yemen, fostering long-term stability and lasting peace and restoring development and prosperity in the region.

Mrs. Balta (Greece): I would like to thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his briefing. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia in the meeting.

I will raise the following points.

De-escalation is of utmost importance at this alarming moment, as Special Envoy Grundberg has just underlined. Yemen must not become entangled in a wider conflict in the Middle East. Over the past month, we have witnessed a deeply serious military escalation in Yemen, culminating in the recent Houthi attacks against civilian and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that resulted in multiple civilian casualties. Greece condemns in the strongest terms these attacks. We reaffirm our unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia, which must be fully respected. Equally, the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Yemen must also be upheld. Any actions that further fuel regional tensions must immediately cease.

The escalatory attacks by the Houthis are unacceptable and risk further destabilizing an already fragile regional security environment. We urge an immediate de-escalation of all hostilities and an end to attacks that risk igniting a broader military confrontation. All parties must exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from actions that could lead to a full-scale war with consequences extending far beyond the region.

The protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure must remain an absolute priority. We reiterate the obligation of all parties to comply fully with international humanitarian law in all circumstances. Civilian infrastructure must never be deliberately targeted, and civilians must never bear the consequences of hostilities.

We further reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained by the Houthis, including members of civil society and non-governmental organizations, diplomatic personnel and the 73 United Nations staff members. The safety and security of humanitarian personnel must be fully respected. All parties must ensure the necessary security conditions for humanitarian personnel

to carry out their vital work in full accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law.

Maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, including the strategically important Bab al-Mandab Strait, are vital to regional and global stability. Greece strongly condemns the repeated Houthi attacks against commercial and merchant vessels, which pose a serious threat to the safety of seafarers, disrupt international trade and undermine the free and unhindered flow of commercial shipping. Such attacks are unacceptable and must cease immediately.

Greece remains firmly committed to safeguarding freedom of navigation in the region. The European Union's Operation Aspides continues to play a vital role in protecting commercial vessels and ensuring their safe passage in the Red Sea in accordance with its defensive mandate and with full respect for international law.

Yemen has already endured more than a decade of conflict, and a return to large-scale hostilities would have grave consequences for the Yemeni people and the wider region. A political solution to the Yemeni conflict is both essential and achievable, and the necessary space for diplomacy to succeed must be preserved. We reiterate our full support for the dedicated efforts of Special Envoy Hans Grundberg to advance dialogue and a sustainable political solution. An inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process under the auspices of the United Nations remains the only viable path to lasting peace and stability in Yemen.

We call on all parties to contribute constructively to this effort, engage meaningfully with the United Nations and support international efforts towards de-escalation and a return to dialogue leading to a durable and comprehensive political settlement in Yemen.

Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes (Latvia): First, I thank the French presidency for convening this emergency meeting at the request of Bahrain and the United Kingdom. I also thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his briefing and welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Latvia condemns in the strongest terms the recent Houthi attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which struck several locations and caused civilian casualties, including women and children. We express our solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Yemen and all families affected by these attacks.

In recent months, we have witnessed a series of Houthi strikes and threats, with Saudi Arabia and Saudi-linked commercial shipping in the Red Sea emerging as the primary target. Iran's continued support for the Houthis' actions and capabilities is intensifying regional destabilization.

These Houthi attacks, which place civilians at disproportionate and indiscriminate risk, are unacceptable and contrary to the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

As noted by Special Envoy Grundberg, the security situation within Yemen itself has deteriorated sharply, with the Houthis' decision to resume conflict and their advances further south, including the capture of Mukha', alongside intensified fighting across several other front lines and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The latest hostilities signal a dangerous escalation, with potentially dramatic consequences for the entire region, and represent a further blow to efforts aimed at bringing the conflict in Yemen to a negotiated and lasting end. The Houthis bear full responsibility for this escalation.

Latvia calls on the Houthis to immediately cease attacks against Saudi Arabia and to end attacks inside and beyond Yemen. We also call for full compliance with the relevant decisions of the Council, including resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015).

Once again, Yemeni civilians are bearing the consequences of a conflict they have endured for far too long, and the humanitarian consequences are immediate. According to the International Organization for Migration, in just 72 hours since the escalation of hostilities on 3 September, approximately 18,500 people have reportedly been displaced along Yemen's west coast, with displacement continuing to rise by the hour. Continued fighting makes movement for families increasingly dangerous, while humanitarian organizations face growing difficulties in reaching those in need. Families fleeing violence must be able to reach safer areas, and humanitarian organizations must be able to operate safely and without obstruction. These are not political or military concessions. They are obligations under international law that all parties to the conflict must respect. We once again call on the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally release all detained United Nations, humanitarian, civil society and diplomatic personnel.

The escalating humanitarian needs are unfolding against an already critical funding shortfall. Meeting urgent additional humanitarian needs requires strengthened international financing, complemented by continued support from leading donors, such as the European Union.

Latvia remains firmly committed to Yemen's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and to a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, facilitated by the United Nations. Achieving this requires restraint from all parties and a genuine willingness to return to the negotiating table. In this regard, we reiterate our strong support for the tireless efforts of Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and his Office. At this critical moment, their work to preserve the space for dialogue and advance a peaceful resolution is more indispensable than ever.

The people of Yemen have paid an intolerably high price in this conflict. They deserve a decisive break from violence and a credible political horizon that can lead to lasting peace, stability and a more hopeful future. I believe that the Council must remain actively engaged on this matter, and Latvia is ready to do so.

Mr. Alfaro de Alba (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, for his briefing and for providing us, as is his custom, with a clearer perspective on the most recent developments, which are very serious and even affect the freedom of navigation. We also acknowledge the presence of the representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, who honour us with their participation in this meeting.

Since the beginning of our term as an elected member of the Council, we have been repeatedly warned about the catastrophic consequences of Yemen being dragged back into a large-scale armed conflict. Regrettably, in recent months, we have observed how the Houthis, through the use of coercive tactics and actions that deliberately escalate tensions, have once again chosen a path of confrontation. This decision is particularly concerning, as it threatens to trigger a new spiral of violence, deepen an already fragile situation and jeopardize the progress, however modest, made towards a political solution.

The multiple attacks in various parts of the country have resulted in a high number of fatalities among the parties, further deepening the pain and suffering of the population and widening the divisions that have fuelled this conflict for years. Added to this are the attacks now being perpetrated against cities and infrastructure in Saudi

Arabia, which we condemn and which, according to the authorities, have left at least 73 people injured and caused significant damage to civilian infrastructure.

We have reiterated that attacks on essential facilities and assets in the energy sector are particularly alarming. Such actions not only endanger human lives but also can disrupt essential services for the civilian population and generate economic and humanitarian repercussions that extend far beyond the immediate location of the attacks. We express our support and solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with all those affected by the recent attacks, particularly the victims and their families.

Despite the efforts made by the Council to contain tensions and move towards a political solution, the situation, which appeared to have remained relatively stagnant, is now deteriorating. This is particularly concerning, given that our attention to the Middle East region is becoming increasingly fragmented by the escalation and prolongation of various interconnected conflicts. Furthermore, attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea are a source of deep concern, as they endanger the lives of crews and threaten the freedom of navigation and a strategic route for international trade.

We reiterate that the Red Sea must not become another theatre of confrontation or an instrument of geopolitical pressure, and that maritime security and the freedom of navigation must be respected. Therefore, the Council must remain united and act with determination to prevent a new spiral of violence, protect the civilian population and preserve the space needed for a political solution.

Ms. Landi (Denmark): Let me also thank Special Envoy Grundberg for his briefing and welcome the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to this meeting.

Denmark is alarmed by the most recent escalation and strongly condemns the latest Houthi attacks in Yemen and against Saudi Arabia. We express our condolences for all those who have been killed and to all those injured in these unlawful attacks.

These attacks constitute a dangerous escalation and risk further undermining efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Yemen. Denmark calls on the Houthis to immediately end all attacks inside and outside Yemen, including attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

Yemen has already endured more than a decade of conflict, and the only viable pathway to peace remains through a negotiated solution and an inclusive political process under the auspices of the United Nations. We reiterate our full support for the efforts of Special Envoy Grundberg to facilitate dialogue between the parties to this end. We strongly urge the Houthis and Iran to refrain from dragging Yemen into a broader regional conflict.

We also reiterate our demand for Iran to refrain from any provocation or threat to countries in the region, including through the use of proxies. Iran must cease its support for the Houthis, which threatens not only Yemen’s stability, but also the stability of the region.

This recent escalation is compounding an already catastrophic humanitarian situation, with more than 22 million people — half of the population — across Yemen in need of humanitarian aid. We are deeply concerned about the thousands of Yemenis forced to flee their homes, many for the second or third time.

We underscore the need for full adherence to international law and Security Council resolutions. All parties must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and allow for safe passage away from active combat zones.

In this vein, the Houthis must immediately and unconditionally release all United Nations, non-governmental organizational and civil society personnel who have been arbitrarily detained. We urge consistent, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to allow humanitarian actors to reach people in need across all of Yemen. Further disruption to humanitarian efforts could have catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

In closing, we once again urge the Houthis to cease their escalatory attacks and engage constructively in the peace efforts under United Nations auspices for the benefit of the Yemeni people.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): We would like to join our colleagues in thanking Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his briefing. Let me also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen in this meeting.

Pakistan condemns, in the strongest terms, the reprehensible attacks carried out by the Houthis against civilian and economic targets in Abha, Khamis Mushayt, Jazan and Najran in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom and undermine efforts towards a peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict in Yemen. As the Prime Minister of Pakistan has underscored, such dastardly attacks threaten innocent lives, as well as regional peace and security.

Pakistan reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and stands in complete solidarity with its leadership, Government and brotherly people. Consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, we fully support the Kingdom’s legitimate right to take all necessary measures to defend its territory, protect its citizens and residents, and safeguard its national assets against any threat.

The situation in Yemen has entered a deeply alarming and dangerous phase. The sharp escalation of hostilities across multiple front lines, continued Houthi attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea, attacks against civilian and economic targets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation are a matter of grave concern. These developments, with potentially far-reaching consequences for Yemen and the wider region, also underscore the urgent need to prevent further escalation and preserve space for diplomacy.

It is worth recalling that the relative calm maintained since 2022 was the result of painstaking diplomatic efforts. It must not be allowed to unravel. A return to hostilities would further compound the suffering of the Yemeni people and risk drawing the country deeper into wider regional tensions. The immediate priority must therefore be de-escalation and restoration of a credible political process.

Pakistan therefore supports an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process under United Nations auspices. We commend the Special Envoy for his continued engagement with the parties and regional stakeholders. Yemen’s acute humanitarian crisis also requires sustained international attention. Humanitarian operations must be adequately funded, and humanitarian personnel must be afforded the necessary safety and access to carry out their work. Pakistan also reiterates its condemnation of the continued arbitrary detention by the Houthis of United Nations and humanitarian personnel and diplomatic staff. We reiterate the demand for their immediate, unconditional and safe release.

Pakistan will continue to support all sincere efforts aimed at de-escalation, dialogue and a comprehensive political settlement that can bring lasting peace,

stability and prosperity to Yemen and the wider region. We urge the Council and the international community to remain united in support of these common objectives.

Mr. Gaona (Colombia): The kidnapping of United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel, as well as the use of force by non-legal actors, is strictly prohibited by treaty law, international public law and international humanitarian law. The violation of the core principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the principle of distinction, is at issue here. This conflict and the escalation are truly unsustainable.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

The Republic of Colombia recognizes and welcomes the representatives of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The conflict has reached unsustainable humanitarian proportions. More than 22 million people have been displaced, and 18 million face food insecurity. We have reached a point at which peace efforts are the only solution. Consequently, the Republic of Colombia condemns, in the strongest terms, the actions of the Houthis and the violations of international humanitarian law and the principles of distinction and humanity. Likewise, we condemn the violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its Protocols I and II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted in 1977, in particular the violation of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994 and its Optional Protocol of 2005.

We therefore demand the unconditional release of humanitarian personnel and the 73 United Nations personnel whom the Houthis are holding hostage. We call for peaceful measures to be adopted and, accordingly, support the work of Special Envoy Hans Grundberg. We demand compliance with resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015) and request that violations of international humanitarian law and human rights be documented and continuously monitored as a historical record to establish international accountability following the peaceful resolution of this conflict. History is watching us.

Colombia supports the efforts of the United Nations, demands respect for public international law and calls on all parties to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict and put an end to the unsustainable escalation that is already causing a crisis, which is on the verge of being considered regional. The attacks on merchant ships in the Red Sea and the attacks on the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are unacceptable. Colombia calls on all parties to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Ms. Evstigneeva (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, for his briefing.

We are alarmed by the events unfolding in the country. The confrontation between the internationally recognized Government and the Ansar Allah movement is intensifying, marking a serious military-political escalation. Hostilities involving the extensive use of various types of weaponry are being reported along virtually the entire line of contact. The situation remains difficult around the cities of Ta‘izz, Khawkhah and Mukha’, as well as on the Hanish archipelago.

Yemeni authorities, supported by their allies, are working to restore order in the provinces of Bayda’, Ma’rib, Hudaydah and Jawf. Artillery fire can also be heard near the Saudi-Yemeni border, including in Sa‘dah Governorate. Amid the fighting in Yemen, the humanitarian situation shows no sign of improving. Relevant United Nations agencies are bracing for an increase of approximately 1.5 million people in need of aid. Humanitarian aid must be scaled up without any territorial discrimination, and this aid must reach the country’s entire population.

We reiterate that there is no military solution to the Yemen crisis. We call on all parties to exercise restraint, immediately cease hostilities and resolve their differences through diplomatic means.

Regrettably, the conflict is steadily spilling over beyond Yemen's borders. We are deeply concerned by reports of long-range attacks by Ansar Allah on Saudi territory. Numerous targets in Abha and Najran and oil-refining infrastructure in Jazan and the Khamis Mushayt airbase in the south of the country have come under fire. The situation in Yemeni waters also remains volatile, with the ongoing blockade of Saudi-affiliated vessels.

We reiterate our country's long-standing position in defence of freedom of navigation in all global waters, including those adjacent to Yemen. Commercial vessels that are non-military and not used for military purposes must not become targets for the warring parties. Such actions will yield no results other than further destabilization and an escalation of violence within Yemen itself. We call on Ansar Allah to exercise restraint and respect the sovereignty of neighbouring States, which are capable of contributing, at the appropriate time, to stabilizing Yemen, preserving its unity and promoting its economic recovery.

At the same time, we consider it short-sighted to place the entire blame for the current escalation solely on the Houthis. The current situation appears to be a consequence of the chronic failure to resolve the situation in Yemen and the delays in relaunching the political process led by the United Nations. We have repeatedly urged Special Envoy Grundberg to step up efforts to bridge differences between the warring parties, without being distracted by the broader regional context — whether it be the situation in the Red Sea or the surge of violence in the Gaza Strip.

We remain hopeful that the Special Envoy, in coordination with influential regional actors, will succeed in bringing the Yemeni protagonists to the negotiating table. One avenue for his efforts could be facilitating the finalization of the relevant road map, previously endorsed by the internationally recognized Yemeni authorities and the Houthis.

The confrontation in Yemen has persisted for nearly 12 years. Brief respites, such as the 2022 ceasefire, offered some relief from the burden of war for ordinary Yemenis, but they cannot substitute for long-term normalization. Achieving this is possible only through an inclusive intra-Yemeni dialogue involving all key political forces in the country, including Ansar Allah. They must sit at the negotiating table and agree on the future of a unified Yemeni State. We call on all countries with influence over the parties to the conflict to engage with them accordingly. It is important to remember that intra-Yemeni agreements require solid international support. That is precisely why United Nations oversight of the political process must not waver.

Ms. Neidhart (United States of America): I appreciate Special Envoy Grundberg's briefing and welcome the representatives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia to this important meeting today.

On 8 September, the Houthis launched missile and drone attacks against four Saudi cities, wounding more than 70 civilians, including women and children, and igniting fires at critical oil facilities. The 8 September attack is only the latest example of the Houthis' blatant disregard of Saudi sovereignty and civilian life. In recent months, they have bombed civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and attacked maritime vessels, wounding dozens more.

These are the same tactics that the Houthis are using to intimidate their fellow Yemenis. The Houthis have bombed cities, displacing thousands of families, while

killing an indeterminate number of Yemeni civilians. Their strikes on Mukha' have destroyed tens of millions of dollars of vital port infrastructure in Yemen. These strikes represent flagrant violations of the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and they pose a direct threat to regional and global energy security.

The pattern is unmistakable. The Houthis are agents and tools of Iran, and the Iranian hand behind these attacks is clear. These attacks are part of a broader Houthi campaign to disrupt vital corridors, including the Bab al-Mandab Strait, threatening navigational rights and freedoms of global commerce.

The United States stands firmly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reaffirms the Kingdom's right to defend its territory and citizens. We also stand with the Republic of Yemen in its efforts to end Houthi terrorism and bring peace and stability to the Yemeni people.

We demand that the Houthis immediately cease all attacks against Saudi Arabia, Yemen's legitimate Government, and international shipping.

We also draw the Council's attention to the Houthis' continued unjust detention of United Nations staff, humanitarian workers and diplomatic personnel, including staff of the United States Embassy in Sana'a, and reiterate our demand for their immediate and unconditional release.

The path forward requires depriving the Houthis of the resources that sustain their acts of terrorism, including through stronger implementation of resolutions to which the Council has already agreed. The Council must speak with one voice. This escalation is unacceptable, and those who enable it bear responsibility for its consequences.

The United States will continue working with its partners to hold the Houthis accountable and restore stability to this vital region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of France.

I thank Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for his briefing and welcome the participation of the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

I have six points to make.

First, France condemns in the strongest possible terms the Houthi attacks in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Nothing can justify such strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure, which have resulted in dozens of casualties, including women and children. France reaffirms its full solidarity with the Yemeni authorities and Saudi Arabia.

Secondly, this attack marks a new escalation in the most serious crisis that Yemen has faced since the 2022 truce, a crisis for which the Houthis bear sole responsibility. They have intensified their offensive against the legitimate Government and resumed their attacks in the Red Sea, in violation of resolution 2722 (2024). The Houthis must immediately cease all military action in Yemen and across the region.

Furthermore, these attacks threaten navigation in the Red Sea. France reiterates the need to uphold maritime security and freedom of navigation. France will continue to uphold its commitment to this end through the European Union Naval Force Operation Aspides, maintaining a strictly defensive posture in coordination with its European and international partners.

Thirdly, it is worth recalling that this escalation began on 3 July, when an Iranian aircraft landed in Sana'a without the authorization of the legitimate authorities. This

reflects Iran's destabilizing behaviour. By supporting the Houthis, Iran is fuelling this crisis and failing to meet its obligations under the arms embargo established by resolution 2216 (2015). France expects Iran to put an end to all transfers of military equipment to the Houthis and to cease its destabilizing activities in the region.

Fourthly, France also demands the immediate and unconditional release of the 73 United Nations personnel, as well as the staff of non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions who are being arbitrarily detained by the Houthis. Those detentions are not only contrary to international law, but also impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance that has become even more necessary as a result of the worsening conflict.

Fifthly, the way forward in the face of the crisis is clear: an inclusive political process under the auspices of the United Nations, involving all segments of Yemeni society. France fully supports the efforts of the Special Envoy to engage with the parties and find a lasting peaceful solution. The release agreement reached in May demonstrated that progress is possible. We encourage the Special Envoy to continue along that path and call upon the parties to engage in the process without delay, giving priority to negotiation.

Sixthly and finally, France reaffirms its full commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen. It is up to the Yemeni people alone to decide their future. The Yemeni people must not be held hostage to Iran's destabilizing policy. France stands with the legitimate Government, the sole repository of State authority, in its efforts to restore security and protect the population.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Alwasil (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we congratulate France on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of September. We are confident that it will conduct the work of the Council with the utmost competence in the service of international peace and security. We also express the appreciation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for convening this emergency meeting of the Security Council in the light of the dangerous escalation by the terrorist Houthi militia and the direct threat it poses to the security of the Kingdom, brotherly Yemen and the security and stability of the region. We thank the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom for requesting the convening of this emergency meeting. We also thank the Special Envoy, Mr. Hans Grundberg, for his tireless efforts and for his briefing today.

On 8 September, the terrorist Houthi militia began targeting civilian and economic objects in the cities of Abha, Khamis Mushayt, Jazan and Najran, injuring 73 civilians, including women and children. The Kingdom condemns those terrorist and criminal attacks in the strongest terms. They are neither isolated nor transient incidents, but rather a continuation of the hostile course pursued by the militia since its coup against the legitimate Government of Yemen in 2014. That course is based on targeting civilians, civilian objects and economic facilities and on using violence and threats to impose a fait accompli by force.

This latest attack forms part of a broader and interconnected Houthi escalation. It began with military escalation inside Yemen and extended to the targeting of the territory of the Kingdom, its citizens, its residents and its national assets, in parallel with attacks against commercial vessels and threats to freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

In its press statement of 7 August 2026 (SC/16429), the Council previously condemned the missile attacks launched by the Houthis against the Kingdom since 13 July, as well as the attacks against commercial vessels since 22 July. Nevertheless, the militia chose to respond to the messages of the international community with further escalation and attacks.

The targeting of commercial vessels by the terrorist Houthi militia and its threats to their crews and to freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait constitute criminal conduct of the utmost gravity. Its repercussions are not confined to Yemen or the States of the region. They extend to the security of international navigation and trade and to the global economy, including through higher transport, insurance and supply-chain costs.

Furthermore, the Houthi escalation inside Yemen and the targeting of residential areas, civilian objects and camps for displaced persons once again reveal the militia's disregard for the lives and suffering of the brotherly Yemeni people and its insistence on using force and violence instead of engaging seriously in the peace process.

The Kingdom warns of the danger posed by continued support for the terrorist Houthi militia and by the capabilities that such support provides, enabling it to continue its attacks and threaten the States of the region and international navigation. The international community cannot call for de-escalation while at the same time turning a blind eye to the flow of support that enables the militia to continue its hostile and criminal conduct.

The Kingdom calls upon the international community and the Security Council, in particular, to discharge their responsibilities, refrain from treating these attacks as merely another round of escalation, take a clear and firm position on such terrorist and criminal conduct, ensure the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions — foremost among them resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2722 (2024) — and work to halt all forms of support that enable the terrorist Houthi militia to continue its attacks and threaten the security of the region and international navigation and trade.

Throughout the years of the crisis in Yemen, the Kingdom has chosen peace. It supported the initiative of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the transitional process, the Yemeni National Dialogue Conference and the consultations held in Geneva, Kuwait and Stockholm. The Kingdom presented, in 2021, its initiative to end the crisis in Yemen; supported the United Nations-mediated truce in 2022; and worked intensively to support a road map leading to a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement of the crisis.

The Kingdom has also continued to support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and to engage with the various parties, based on its firm conviction that there can be no military solution to the crisis in Yemen.

Yet, time and again, those efforts have been met by the Houthi militia's rejection of peace initiatives, its return to escalation and violence and its deepening of the crisis and its aggravation of the suffering of the brotherly Yemeni people.

The Kingdom has demonstrated through its actions that it is a State that seeks peace. Through its practices, the Houthi militia has demonstrated that it continues to rely on violence, terrorism and escalation. The Kingdom's commitment to de-escalation and support for a peaceful solution must not become an opportunity for the militia to continue its attacks and threaten the security of the Kingdom and the region.

In that context, my country reaffirms its legitimate right to defend itself, its citizens and the residents of its territory and to safeguard its national assets. My country will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to deter Houthi attacks and

protect its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Kingdom's position on Yemen will remain unchanged: to preserve the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen and to support the achievement of a comprehensive and sustainable Yemeni-led political solution that fulfils the aspirations of the brotherly Yemeni people for security, stability and prosperity.

Peace requires a partner that believes in it. Targeting civilians, threatening neighbouring States, endangering international navigation and using force to impose a fait accompli cannot constitute a path to peace.

Accordingly, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Council to send a clear and firm message that leaves no room for ambiguity: the targeting of the Kingdom must stop, the military escalation inside Yemen must stop, and the threats to international navigation must stop. Those who choose to continue that aggressive and criminal course must bear responsibility for its consequences.

In conclusion, the Kingdom has extended its hand in peace and will remain a supporter of peace, security and stability in Yemen. However, it will not relent in protecting its security, its sovereignty, its citizens, the residents in its territory and its national assets.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen.

Mr. Al-Saadi (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, Mr. President, I congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. I wish you and your friendly delegation every success. I thank you for convening this emergency meeting at an extremely dangerous moment, when our region is witnessing a new wave of escalation led by the Houthi terrorist militias, not only against the Yemeni people and their State institutions but also against neighbouring States, civilians, civilian objects, energy sources and the security of international navigation and trade.

The Government of Yemen has repeatedly warned that treating each round of such attacks as an isolated incident and then returning to a policy of containment and waiting for the next attack will not bring about peace. Instead, it will give the Houthi militias more time to rearm, develop their capabilities and expand the scope of their threat. What we are witnessing today once again confirms the validity of those warnings.

The Republic of Yemen condemns in the strongest terms the renewed attacks launched by the Houthi terrorist militias against the territories of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including yesterday's ballistic missile and uncrewed aerial vehicle attacks directed at the cities of Khamis Mushayt, Abha and Jazan. Those attacks continue a pattern of targeting civilians, the Kingdom's national assets and its infrastructure.

The Republic of Yemen reiterates its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — its leadership, Government and people — and its categorical rejection of the use of any part of Yemeni territories as a platform from which to launch missiles or uncrewed aerial vehicles or to threaten the security of the Kingdom or any neighbouring State. Those attacks constitute not only aggression against the Kingdom but also a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen, a usurpation of the decision-making power over war and peace and the exploitation of the territories of one Member State of the United Nations to launch attacks against another State.

The Republic of Yemen affirms the right of Saudi Arabia to defend itself and protect its sovereignty, national assets, citizens and civilian objects against those reprehensible attacks, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Over the past several years, the Kingdom has exercised considerable restraint and supported de-escalation and peace efforts in Yemen. Such restraint must not be misinterpreted as incapacity, nor should a commitment to peace become a shield that gives the aggressor the freedom to repeat its attacks with impunity.

The relationship between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extends beyond the bounds of geographical proximity. The Kingdom has been and remains the principal partner of the Yemeni people and the Yemeni State in addressing the repercussions of the war, supporting State institutions, promoting economic and financial stability, paying salaries, improving services and providing relief and development assistance. It has also played a pivotal role in supporting peace efforts and ending the suffering of Yemenis.

In recent years, the Kingdom has invested in peace, stability and development, whereas the Houthi militias have used periods of de-escalation to invest in weapons, missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles and to prepare for the next round of war. The security of Yemen and that of the Kingdom are therefore inseparable.

The missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles targeting Saudi cities, the weapons targeting Ma’rib, Ta‘izz, Hudaydah and the west coast and the capabilities used to threaten vessels in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait all emanate from a single military structure that operates outside the institutions of the Yemeni State and receives military and technical support from the Iranian regime.

A capable Yemeni State that has the exclusive authority to bear arms and decide on matters of war and peace and that exercises sovereignty throughout its territory is therefore not merely in the interest of Yemen. Rather, it is an essential guarantee of the security of the Kingdom and the States of the region, the security and safety of the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the freedom of international navigation.

The attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia form part of a broader escalation inside Yemen. The militias have expanded their military operations in Ma’rib, Ta‘izz, Hudaydah and the west coast and have targeted civilians, displaced persons camps and civilian facilities. The latest escalation has caused a new wave of displacement affecting at least 6,145 families, or an estimated 44,000 persons.

In the Red Sea, the Houthi militias have continued to use missiles and uncrewed aircraft and vessels to threaten ships and maritime routes. Their recent attempts to advance towards the west coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait demonstrate that their objective goes beyond securing local gains and extends to acquiring a greater capacity to threaten one of the most important arteries of global trade.

The Council must therefore consider the full picture of what would happen if that rogue group were to tighten its control over the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the strategic islands situated along that important waterway. Therefore, in that struggle, the Republic of Yemen is defending not only its own security and sovereignty. In making such sacrifices to defend the Bab al-Mandab Strait, their country’s coastline and territorial waters and maritime routes, the people of Yemen are also defending shared international security, freedom of navigation, the stability of global trade and the interests of peoples and States beyond the borders of Yemen and the region.

Recently, the region has witnessed Iranian attacks and threats affecting several States, while the Houthi militias have sought to expand the scope of their attacks against the Kingdom and to threaten energy facilities and navigation in the Red Sea.

We regard that as a clear attempt to shift the cost of the pressure being exerted on Iran onto the States of the region and the wider world and to turn energy security, maritime routes and supply chains into instruments of pressure and blackmail.

The Government of Yemen has chosen peace over war. It has supported United Nations efforts and regional and international initiatives and has exercised restraint for years. What, however, has been the result? Following the 2022 truce, the Houthi militias targeted Yemen's oil export facilities. When progress was made in efforts to develop a road map, the militias turned to targeting vessels and international navigation. Today, the militias are once again escalating the war inside Yemen, attacking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, threatening energy facilities and attempting to establish a new military reality towards the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Those are not new incidents, but rather a single cycle that repeats itself in the absence of any real cost for using force. The question before the Security Council today should therefore not be limited to how the current attacks can be stopped. The more important question is how to prevent an armed, rebellious and unrestrained group from acquiring the ability to recreate that threat every few months against Yemen, its neighbours and international navigation.

Intercepting missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles and protecting vessels, facilities and cities are necessary and legitimate measures. However, they address the consequences of the problem. The root of the problem is the continued existence of missiles, uncrewed aerial vehicles and heavy weapons and the decision-making power over war and peace outside the institutions of the Yemeni State.

I reiterate that the time has come to move from managing the threat to addressing its source. The Republic of Yemen is not asking the international community to wage a war on its behalf. Rather, it is asking the Council to implement its resolutions and not to allow violence and attacks against States and international navigation to become a means of securing political gains.

We therefore call upon the Security Council to condemn in the strongest terms the military escalation by the Houthi militias on various fronts in Yemen and their targeting of civilians, civilian objects and displaced persons camps and to affirm the right of the Government of Yemen to protect its territory and citizens in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We also call for the strongest possible condemnation of the Houthi attacks against the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We further call for the effective implementation of measures prohibiting the supply of arms, components, technology and military expertise to the Houthi militias, support for the Government of Yemen in protecting its territory, coastline, ports and territorial waters, and accountability for the entities and individuals involved in financing, arming and enabling such attacks.

We also call for the rejection of any approach that provides the militias with political or economic gains in return for a temporary halt to their attacks, only to allow them to resume their blackmail at the first opportunity.

There is no contradiction between peace and deterrence, or between seeking a political settlement and the right of States to defend themselves. A State capable of protecting its citizens and enforcing the law is the true guarantee of sustainable peace. A peace that allows an armed group to retain missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles and the decision-making power over war is no peace at all. It is a prelude to new rounds of war.

The Republic of Yemen will continue to work with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations, the members of the Council and all its partners to achieve a just and sustainable peace. At the same time, the Yemeni State will continue

to perform its duty to protect its people, restore its institutions and prevent its territories from being used to threaten its brothers, its neighbours and international navigation.

Restoring the Yemeni State, protecting waterways and global trade supply chains and preventing armed groups from being used to threaten the States of the region are not separate issues. They are elements of a single challenge that requires a unified, clear and decisive international position.

The time has come for the international community to no longer content itself with containing the consequences of the threat, but rather to work towards eliminating its causes and to send from this Chamber a message that leaves no room for misinterpretation: missiles, uncrewed aerial vehicles and attacks against States and international navigation will not provide a path to political gains, nor will they go unpunished. Eagerness for peace will not be a reward for those who choose war.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.