

Putting a spotlight in Yemen's civil war and refugee crisis

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands. 13/04/2024

Recognizing that:

- Yemen has been embroiled in a complex civil war since 2015, which has caused immense destruction to infrastructure, economy, and social fabric of the country;
- The conflict involves various factions, including the internationally recognized government backed by a Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels aligned with Iran;
- As a result of the ongoing conflict, millions of Yemenis have been forced to flee their homes. Many have sought refuge within Yemen, while others have fled to neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Djibouti;
- The refugee crisis in Yemen has led to severe humanitarian consequences, including food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, and limited educational opportunities. The situation is compounded by the blockade imposed on Yemen, which has restricted the flow of essential goods, including food, medicine, and fuel, further exacerbating the suffering of civilians, including refugees;
- Addressing the refugee crisis in Yemen requires a concerted effort from the international community to support humanitarian efforts, facilitate peace negotiations, and work towards a sustainable political solution to the conflict;

Acknowledging that:

- Yemen is facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions of people, including persecuted religious minorities, on the brink of famine. The conflict has disrupted food production, distribution, and access, leading to widespread food shortages and malnutrition. Many Yemeni families struggle to afford or access adequate food, putting millions of lives at risk, especially children and pregnant women;

- The Yemeni healthcare system has been severely strained by the conflict, with hospitals and clinics damaged or destroyed, shortages of medical supplies and personnel, and limited access to healthcare for many Yemenis;
- Access to clean water and sanitation facilities is critical for preventing the spread of disease and maintaining public health. However, the conflict has damaged water infrastructure, leading to shortages of clean water and inadequate sanitation services in many parts of Yemen;
- The conflict has forced millions of Yemenis to flee their homes, either as refugees or internally displaced persons, seeking safety from violence and insecurity. Many of these displaced individuals lack adequate shelter, living in overcrowded camps, makeshift settlements, or host communities with limited resources;
- The conflict has disrupted education for millions of Yemeni children, with schools damaged or closed, teachers displaced, and families unable to afford school fees or supplies. Lack of access to education not only deprives children of learning opportunities but also exacerbates long-term socio-economic challenges and hampers the country's future development;

YEPP calls on:

- The European Union and its member states to increase the assistance and contributions of humanitarian aid to Yemen. To increase its funding for food aid, healthcare services, clean water and sanitation projects, shelter, protection, and education programs. Also provide comprehensive support to refugees, including access to education, healthcare, employment, and social services, to facilitate their integration and self-reliance in host communities while ensuring to verify the veracity of their request within the framework of the Refugee Convention;
- The European Union to continue to support the humanitarian organizations operating in Yemen, such as the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- The EU to implement more arms export controls to prevent the sale of weapons that could be used in the conflict in Yemen, as these measures aim

to ensure that EU arms exports do not contribute to human rights violations or exacerbate the conflict;

- The monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and abuses, including attacks on civilians, displacement, and restrictions on humanitarian access, and hold perpetrators accountable;
- The mobilization of long-term development assistance to address the root causes of the conflict in Yemen, including poverty, inequality, and governance challenges;
- More support efforts for post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, including rebuilding infrastructure, restoring basic services, and promoting economic development and livelihood opportunities;
- Furthermore, the healthcare system should be restored with an emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring access for all, irrespective of religious or ethnic background;
- To foster sustainable peace and stability in Yemen through inclusive development policies and programs that address the needs and grievances of marginalized communities;
- Strengthening of international cooperation and burden-sharing to share responsibility for hosting and supporting Yemeni refugees;