



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



**Government Offices of Sweden**  
**Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

*Concept Note: Virtual High-Level Side Event in the Margins of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly*

***“Yemen: Responding to the crises within the world’s largest humanitarian crisis”***

Virtual event on 22 September 2021  
10.00 to 12.00 EDT / 16.00 to 18.00 CEST

CO-HOSTS:

- **H.E. Mr. Janez Lenarčič**, European Union Commissioner for Crisis Management
- **H.E. Mr Ignazio Cassis**, Vice President of Switzerland, and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- **H.E. Ms. Ann Linde**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and **H.E. Mr. Per Olsson Fridh**, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

PARTICIPATION:

Please confirm attendance by close of business (EDT) on Friday 17 September, using the following link for registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/1hGsLnhtTE>. Registered participants will be contacted with the virtual platform and connection details once registration closes.

OBJECTIVES:

1. **Raise awareness of the worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen** that is further compounded by the effect of several crises *within* the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, with different dimensions of needs and underfunded response. Conflict and economic decline have pushed 5 million Yemenis to the very edge of starvation, with nearly 50 000 already in famine-like conditions. Close to 21 million people need humanitarian aid, including over 20 million in need of health care and over 15 million in need of protection and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance.
2. **Advocate urgent action by the international community** to prevent the worst famine in over 40 years, protect and reach the most vulnerable, roll back disease outbreaks, help families fleeing conflict, provide education opportunities, and meet other essential needs including those COVID-19 related.
3. **Call on donors to urgently disburse pledges and make additional contributions of critically needed emergency funding to address the growing needs**, and ensure funds are distributed in a balanced way across sectors. The UN-led efforts are the most effective, efficient, and strategic investment to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection across the country, but the response remains underfunded. Humanitarian

programmes for Yemen will begin to close unless contributions increase by September. The lack of funding has been particularly acute for protection interventions, which should remain central to the response, as well as for interventions for health, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

4. **Highlight the need to address** the drivers of the crisis and demonstrate the international community's unwavering commitment to full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, in accordance with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. It will not be enough to avert famine unless operational conditions improve and root causes are tackled.

## Programme

*Participants are strongly encouraged to connect at least ten (10) minutes ahead of the opening, to ensure proper connection and set up.*

**10:00 EDT**  
**16:00 CEST**

### **EVENT BEGINS**

**10:00 – 10:15 EDT**  
**16:00 – 16:15 CEST**

### **Opening remarks**

Mr. Martin Griffiths, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

H.E. Mr. Janez Lenarčič

H.E. Mr. Per Olsson Fridh

**10:15 – 11:00 EDT**  
**16:15 – 17:00 CEST**

**Panel discussion: “Yemen: Crises within the Crisis – Protecting the Most Vulnerable”** moderated by Ms. Nima Elbagir, Senior International Correspondent, CNN (TBC)

Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF

Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director of WFP (TBC)

Mr. Peter Maurer, President of ICRC

Mr. Abdullah Al-Dailami, Head of Yemen Social Fund for Development

Ms. Charlotte Slente, Secretary-General of Danish Refugee Council

Comments by Co-hosts

**11:05 – 11:15 EDT**  
**17:05 – 17:15 CEST**

### **Remarks on funding, disbursements and gaps**

H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis

H.E. Ms. Ann Linde

Mr. David Gressly, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen

**11:15-11.55 EDT**

### **Intervention to announce additional pledges**

**17:15-17:55 CEST** Participants wishing to announce additional pledges made since March 2021 will be invited to intervene according to a speakers' list. Given the limited time available and to allow as many interventions as possible, interventions should be no longer than two (2) minutes. As the meeting needs to end on time, the organisers reserve the right to limit the number of interventions and to ensure a balanced composition of the speakers' list.

**11:55-12:00 EDT**  
**17:55-18:00 CEST**

**Closing remarks**  
H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis  
  
H.E. Ms. Ann Linde  
  
H.E. Janez Lenarčič

**12:00 EDT**  
**18:00 CEST**

**EVENT ENDS**