

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT OF H.E. AMBASSADOR FERNANDO CARRERA, MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA**

**HIGH LEVEL BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN YEMEN
NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Madame President,

We commend your important work presiding such an important briefing at a critical moment in the transition process in Yemen. We also thank the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Mr. Jamal Benomar, for his comprehensive presentation on the situation in Yemen and the picture that is emerging for the coming months. We also appreciate the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, Dr. Al-Qirbi, and the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Mr. Al-Zayani, and appreciate their statements which demonstrate the commitment of both, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Republic of Yemen, in the transition process that began in November 2011.

Madame President,

Since the beginning of our membership in the Security Council, we have witnessed the difficult path traveled by the Yemeni people, and we applaud the progress that has been achieved so far in the National Dialogue Conference. We hope that even with the delays in the Conference, the final reports of all working groups will be concluded, which will ultimately form the basis and principles for the constitutional text that will forge a new era of the democratic process in Yemen.

The National Dialogue Conference has also provided the people of Yemen with a historic opportunity and has opened the space for decades long marginalized political and social groups so as to involve themselves in the future of their country. In this regards, the agreement brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council managed to lay the foundations for an inclusive negotiation process that has helped build the foundations of a new Yemen. However, we must remember that any final agreement reached must take into account the issue of the southern question and the operations of armed groups.

Guatemala considers that the transition in Yemen is a process, and therefore should continue beyond the time allotted in the transition agreement. The National Dialogue Conference has opened a platform that has allowed the reform of the State and its institutions, which should be replicated in other structures of power in Yemen. In turn, the commitment that has been assumed with marginalized groups, including women and youth, should be for the long term. These groups should continue to be part of the

change. We applaud the inclusion Yemen has promoted during this period, and we hope that it continues and serves as an example for other countries in the region.

We continue to consider important, after all the efforts made so far, to hold the general elections that are scheduled for February 2014. However, we are aware that they are not an end in themselves. The Yemeni people and their leaders must be prepared for the future challenges that will come with this process.

Madame President,

We must not lose sight of the serious security problems that persist in Yemen, including the continued presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. In this regard, we strongly condemn the attacks of 20 September 2013 in which over 56 Yemeni soldiers and policemen died. It is important that such terrorist acts do not go unpunished. We hope that these acts do not disrupt the reforms to the security forces that have been taken so far and that they begin to show results in the short term.

It is also important that the Yemeni authorities take conscience that the serious socio-economic problems can only be solved when the security situation improves. Similarly, it is important for the government to develop policies that seek national reconciliation through social development.

We welcome the ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Yemen that was held on 25 September 2013 in New York, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Yemen, which focused on the political transition, the humanitarian and economic reform and security. Nevertheless, we reiterate the urgency of financing the Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen. It is worrying that of the US\$ 703 million needed to provide the basic needs of the Yemeni communities only 44% has been collected. Yemen is a country that is facing multiple concurrent humanitarian crises, which makes this assistance even more urgent. The number of people displaced, the disrupted economies, and the ravaged infrastructure are just some of the daily challenges faced by the Yemeni people.

In conclusion, Guatemala is confident that the Yemeni authorities will continue firmly on the path to democracy and, in turn, work towards the implementation of policies to alleviate the great social and humanitarian problems faced by its people.

Thank you.