

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MIROSLAV LAJČÁK

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS IN YEMEN**

*26 February 2019
Geneva, Palais des Nations*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the third time already the international community comes together, because Yemen is still suffering.

Despite the magnitude of relief operation, work of organizations present on the ground and tireless efforts of aid workers.

We are here to show solidarity and shed more light on one of the worst humanitarian crises of our lifetime.

We are here to send a clear message to the women, men, boys and girls of Yemen:

We care about you. We see you. And your suffering must stop.

To this end, Slovakia is announcing a pledge of **100 000 EUR** for the **IOM operations in Yemen**.

But - the humanitarian assistance is only a stopgap. We must see action to end the conflict. No amount of humanitarian assistance will.

Enduring solution will only come through the political settlement and inclusive intra-Yemeni dialogue – which will require concessions on both sides.

And there is still a long way ahead.

To this end, I want to emphasize 3 points:

- 1. First** - the Stockholm Agreement has brought a grain of hope for Yemeni population - that the peace process would get a chance. Going forward, full implementation of the agreement and de-escalation by all involved parties is key.
- 2. Second** – we strongly support UN efforts and work of the UN Special Envoy Griffiths. I know this is a sentiment all governments present here share.

- 3. Third** - Respecting ceasefire and granting access to all of the ports, including opening of Sana'a airport, in order to ease the humanitarian access and provision of inevitable lifesaving assistance is essential.

We must do everything we can to alleviate enormous suffering of the people of Yemen.

Through announcing our pledge today, Slovakia is prepared to contribute to this effort.

Thank you.