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**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
as delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UNOG in Geneva**

High-Level Pledging Event for Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

Geneva, 26 February 2019

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the United Nations, Governments of Sweden and Switzerland for co-hosting this event on the humanitarian situation in brotherly Yemen rightly described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Stockholm negotiations in December of last year indeed generated a hope for tangible improvement of situation in Yemen. We sincerely hope this crucial momentum in the peace process will be maintained to move gradually forward with ultimate goal to end the conflict and bring a long-awaited and lasting peace to Yemen. In this context, it is with a sense of cautious optimism we have learned from the UN Special Envoy for Yemen in his briefing to the Security Council last week that some significant progress in the implementation of the agreements reached in Stockholm have been further made.

Despite the remarkable recent progress, people of Yemen continues suffering from the humanitarian crisis which is getting worse. More than 24 million, including 3.3 million displaced people needs some form of assistance and protection with some 20 million people being food insecure. The humanitarian and economic situation in this country is an enormous challenge that requires continued timely, predictable and adequate support by the international community to the UN and its partners' efforts. Agreement reached on Hodeidah port and city certainly opens great opportunities for facilitating humanitarian access and the flow of goods to civilian population and improving the living conditions for millions of Yemenis.

As a country that confronted with the acute humanitarian crisis in mid-1990s and still facing the large scale protracted displacement situation in the country, Azerbaijan itself understands very well the hardships Yemeni people currently bears. By keeping this in mind, from the beginning of the conflict in Yemen, Azerbaijan has contributed 75 000 USD through UN system to the international efforts to cope with the humanitarian disaster in this country.

Today we join this event to renew our solidarity with brotherly Yemen again. My delegation would like to signal that Republic of Azerbaijan will be making unearmarked contribution to the Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen in 2019, exact amount of which will be announced soon pending the completion of internal financial proceedings in Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, we once again reiterate our full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Yemen. Continued international support is absolutely necessary to help Yemen through at this critical phase in its history. Azerbaijan will continue supporting the UN efforts to broker a peace in this country.

I thank you.