TO: Mr. Goro Onojima  
A: Secretary of the Human Rights Council  

7 October 2021

THROUGH:  
S/C DE:

FROM: Johannes Huisman, Director  
DE: Programme Planning and Budget Division, OPPFB


I would be grateful if the text of the attached oral statement could be read and distributed prior to adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.11, entitled “Situation of human rights in Yemen”.

cc: Mr. Ramanathan  
Mr. Pearce  
Ms. Veaudour  
Ms. Alirzaeva
ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT RESOLUTION A/HRC/48/L.11 ENTITLED “SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN YEMEN”

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.11, the Human Rights Council would:

   (a) Decide to renew the mandate of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts for a further period of two years, renewable as authorized by the Human Rights Council, as follows:

   i. To monitor and report on the situation of human rights, to carry out comprehensive investigations into all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and all alleged violations of international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict since September 2014, including the age and gender dimensions of any violations, to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations and abuses, to collect, preserve and analyse information and, where possible, to identify those responsible;

   ii. To continue to make recommendations on improving respect for and the protection and fulfilment of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to provide continued guidance on access to justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing, as appropriate;

   iii. To engage with Yemeni authorities and all stakeholders, including relevant United Nations agencies, the field presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Yemen, authorities of the Gulf States and the League of Arab States and civil society with a view to exchanging information and providing support for national, regional and international efforts to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen, also with the view to advance concrete avenues for pursuing accountability;

   iv. To engage with Yemeni authorities and all relevant stakeholders to bring forward recommended approaches and practical mechanisms of accountability to secure truth, justice and redress for victims;

   (b) Request the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to present to the Human Rights Council, at its forty-
ninth and fifty-second sessions, an oral update on the situation of human rights in Yemen and the development and implementation of the present resolution;

(c) Request the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to present a comprehensive written report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-first and fifty-fourth sessions, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

(d) Decide to transmit the report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to the General Assembly, and recommends that the Assembly transmit the report to all relevant bodies of the United Nations;

(e) Request the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the General Assembly, and the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to provide the full administrative, technical, resourcing, and logistical support necessary to enable the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to carry out its mandate.

3. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, the following activities and resources would be required in 2021, 2022 and 2023:

**Extension of the mandate of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts:**

(a) A secretariat comprised of 21 general temporary assistance (GTA) positions, including 19 continuing positions and 2 new positions. The secretariat, currently located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will be based in Geneva, Switzerland, to more effectively support the work of the Group of Eminent Experts, as follows;

**Continuing positions**

- **One Coordinator, P-5 (from October 2021 to October 2023)** who will be responsible for the overall management of the team and to ensure that the Experts and the secretariat function in one strategic direction.; overseeing the budget and spending; ensuring of the activities of the secretariat including defining the methodology and tools to collect and process all data, the information gathering plan, the witness protection strategy and the Group of Experts’ Programme of Work and overseeing their implementation; ensure the integration of a gender perspective; carry out regular liaison with the Experts and OHCHR sections as required; acting as the main interlocutor with duty bearers, UN agencies, and stakeholders; overseeing communications with member States; and accompanying the Experts in their missions to Yemen and/or neighboring countries;
• **One Legal Advisor, P-4 (from October 2021 to October 2023)** who will advise the team and Experts on matters related to the applicable legal framework; analyze the existing pertinent documentation and identify the legal standards applicable to the situation in Yemen; integrating a gender perspective; regularly review information collected by all team members to identify gaps, request additional information necessary to meet the legal thresholds, and orient the investigation accordingly; contribute to the production of the final report and, where possible, to prepare with the investigators a list of alleged perpetrators, as well as dossiers; and to research and draft chapters of the report related to legal analysis, third state responsibility, accountability and options for addressing impunity;

• **One Military Advisor, P-4 (from October 2021 to October 2023)** who will accompany a Fact-Finding team to assess the operating environment for the different military forces and groups operating in Yemen providing an analysis of their involvement in the violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law; identify the units/troops and respective commanders deployed during key events, developing profiles for main individuals and contributing to the elaboration of a list of alleged perpetrators; advise the Secretariat on procedures, methods and means used by the different military forces and groups; work closely with Analyst and Legal Adviser to analyse information being gathered, identify gaps, advise investigators on investigative avenues and revise investigation plans; participate in fact-finding activities and provide inputs to the final report.

• **One Media Officer, P-4 (2 months in 2022 and 2 months in 2023)** who will develop the media strategy of the Group of Experts in coordination with the Coordinator and the Experts; reply to media enquiries and undertaking activities to promote media coverage of priority issues and/or major events relating to the Group of Experts; arrange press conferences, interviews and report on media coverage, disseminating materials and managing other information requests, undertaking appropriate follow-up action and analyzing and reporting on the impact of coverage; and assist in production of media information products, including press releases, factsheets and talking points for the Experts and the Secretariat as required.
- **One HRO/Gender Advisor; SGBV Investigator, P-4 (recruitment from October 2021 to October 2023)** who will serve both as SGBV Investigator and as advisor on the integration of gender-sensitive investigation methods for all aspects of the mandate, including interviewing, security arrangements, victims, witness and sources’ protection, mapping and provision of referrals to service providers for victims, and safe handling of information; research and collect information pertaining to sexual and gender-based violence, and provide support for the team in the research and collection of that information, women’s human rights and gender issues directly related to the situation in Yemen; ensure that the gender-specific impact of violations is effectively assessed by the Group of Experts and; conduct and/or assist in the conduct of interviews and evidence gathering activities; contribute to the drafting of the final report and ensure that it integrates a gender perspective. S/he will be expected to take part and organize missions to Yemen and neighbouring countries.

- **One Investigations Team Leader, P-4 (New recruitment; from January 2022 to October 2023)** who will lead the Fact-Finding team, developing investigation operational plans; identifying incidents to investigate; take the lead on geographic and thematic focus areas of the information gathering; conduct interviews and evidence-gathering activities in Yemen and other countries; ensure that all measures are taken for the integration of a gender perspective and the protection of victims, and witnesses and other sources of information who will cooperate with the Secretariat; contribute to the production of the final report and to the establishment of the list and when possible dossiers of alleged perpetrators.

- **Five Human Rights Investigators, P-3 (three from October 2021 to October 2023; two from January 2022 to October 2023)** who will be responsible to conduct interviews and all other evidence-gathering activities, including the collection and analysis of information pertaining to human rights and international humanitarian law in Yemen based on agreed investigation methods, integrating a gender perspective; the use of information management tools developed by OHCHR, the drafting of additional analytical documents and contributing to the production of the final report.
• One Analyst, P-3 (from January 2022 to October 2023) who will analyse multi-source information (including open source), and identify information gaps and/or inconsistencies to inform decisions relating to further investigative activities; identify and analyse documents and other material for determination of relevance for inclusion in interviews in support of investigations; prepare detailed reports; prepare comprehensive analytical products (i.e. timelines, charts, etc.) in support of investigations and possible future prosecutions; provide strategic advice and guidance to the Investigations Team Leader and Legal Advisor on issues relating to events, individuals and groups.

• One Case Manager, P-3 (from October 2021 to October 2023) who will record and preserve all information, documentation and evidence, including interviews, witness testimony, documentation and forensic material in accordance with OHCHR standards; ensure effective and proper chain of custody in the preservation of evidence; assist in the drafting of procedures and methods of work regulating the sharing of information to facilitate criminal proceedings; contribute to the development of individual dossiers of alleged perpetrators. In close collaboration with Legal Adviser and Investigations Team Leader.

• One Field Security Coordinator, P-3 (from February 2022 to October 2023) who will advise the Coordinator on all security related matters, conduct Security Risk Assessments for all locations where the team will operate; accompany the team on field visits; liaise on a daily basis with local security forces in providing proper security coverage for the teams’ activities; coordinate security coverage of the field visits of members of the Experts and the Secretariat; act as liaison officers between the Group of Experts and UNDSS in Yemen and Lebanon; and conduct advance missions to Yemen to assess conditions and requirements before Experts and Secretariat missions take place.

• One Open Source Investigator/Forensic Imagery, P-2 (from October 2021 to October 2023) who will search for, gather and analyse information, including in electronic and digital format, as well as social networking sites and assists in determining credibility and reliability; assists in accessing, gathering, collating and analysis of open source and other materials published on social media, websites and other platforms for determination of relevance; undertake verification of open source digital
media contents (such as audio, images, videos) including forensic examinations, and record results in analysis reports; assist in documenting analytical processes and preserving digital material in accordance with applicable standards and protocol for evidentiary material; liaise with NGOs, academic institutions and others for the verification and analysis of digital media; provide advice and support to the Group of Experts on the use of open source material in investigations, analysis and reports.

- Three Interpreters, P-2 (from October 2021 to October 2023) who will provide simultaneous Arabic interpretation of oral witness statements, including those provided through remote means of communication as well as translation of written materials, maintaining strict security and confidentiality of information; take part in missions to Yemen and other countries, as required.

- One Associate Administrative Officer, P2 (conversion from NPO, from October 2021 to October 2023) who will provide overall administrative assistance to the Coordinator in particular, but also to Experts and team members, including in setting up the new office in Geneva; the preparation, conduct and follow up of all field missions; support the planning and organization of investigative team meetings and high-level meetings of the Experts in Geneva and the field.

New positions

- One Reporting Officer, P4 (New recruitment; from February 2022 to October 2023) who will have main responsibility for the drafting and editing of all reports of the Group of Experts based on the analysis of interviews and other information-gathering activities conducted by the secretariat, including serving as main focal point for the use of the OHCHR database, analyzing the trends of human rights violations/abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, integrating a gender perspective, with a view to drawing main issues of concern for Fact-Finding teams; and regular revision of information collected by all team members, to identify gaps and orient the Fact-Finding accordingly.

- One Human Rights Officer/ Child Protection Expert, P-3 (New recruitment – from January 2022 to October 2023) who will serve as a human rights officer but also advise all team members on child protection issues; conduct information-gathering activities, including interviews
and the collect and analyse of information pertaining to violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law; advise the drafting of the investigations plan with respect to child protection issues; analyze information collected by the Secretariat on children associated with armed groups, incidents of killing and maiming of children, attacks against schools and hospitals affecting children, recruitment of children, and humanitarian needs of children.

(b) Travel of the three Experts to conduct fact-finding through interviews and meetings with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, as follows:

i. Two missions of 3 working days to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; one in 2022; one in 2023;

ii. Two missions of 3 working days to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; one in 2022; one in 2023;

iii. Two missions of 5 working days each to Geneva, Switzerland, to work with the secretariat one in 2022, one in 2023;

iv. Two missions of 4 working days to Geneva to meet interlocutors, the High Commissioner, and participate in the Human Rights Council oral update; one in 2022; one in 2023;

v. Two missions of 10 working days to Geneva to meet interlocutors, the High Commissioner, to launch the report and to participate in the Human Rights Council interactive dialogue; one in 2022; one in 2023;

vi. Two missions of 4 working days to New York to meet with interlocutors and to hold a meeting with the Security Council; one in 2021; one in 2022;

vii. Two missions of 4 working days to Amman for one of the Experts for the mandatory Secure Approaches in Field Environment (SSAFE) training, in 2022;

(c) Travel of the secretariat to accompany the Experts during their visits and to conduct investigations, as follows:

viii. Two missions of 3 working days to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the Coordinator and one staff member to accompany the Experts; one in 2022; one in 2023;

ix. Two missions of 3 working days to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for the Coordinator and one staff member to accompany the Experts; one in 2022; one in 2023;

x. Six missions of 5 working days each to Djibouti and/or Ethiopia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia for five staff members to conduct investigations, three in 2022; three in 2023.
xi. Two missions to New York of 4 working days for the coordinator to accompany the experts; one in 2021; one in 2022;

xii. Two missions of 4 working days to Amman, Jordan, for 6 staff of the secretariat to complete the mandatory SSAFE training; in 2022.

(d) Local transportation and expenses for witness travel to secure location.

(e) Operating expenses including:

xiii. Rental and maintenance of office premises
xiv. Utilities
xv. Information Communication and Technology Services
xvi. Rental of office equipment
xvii. Rental of vehicles
xviii. Other miscellaneous services
xix. Office automation equipment
xx. Phones
xxi. Security and safety equipment
xxii. Miscellaneous for office equipment
xxiii. Office supplies
xxiv. Emergency food and water supplies
xxv. Satellite images/analysis and commissioning
xxvi. E-discovery software licenses
xxvii. Translation software licenses
xxviii. Security anonymity software licenses
xxix. SSAFE trainings

(f) Conference services for the translation of the two reports to be presented at the 51st and 54th session of the Human Rights Council.

4. The activities referred to above relate to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and section 24, Human rights of the programme budget for the year(s) 2021, 2022 and 2023.

5. The adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to total requirements of $7,981,700 as follows:
(United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total requirements</th>
<th>Included in the 2021 budget</th>
<th>Additional requirements for 2021</th>
<th>Included in the 2022 proposed budget</th>
<th>Additional requirements for 2022</th>
<th>To be included in the 2023 proposed budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</td>
<td>69 600</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34 800</td>
<td>34 800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subtotal, section 2**

| Other staff costs | 6 581 800 | - | 497 700 | 3 457 900 | 2 626 200 |
| Travel of experts | 312 600 | - | 22 900 | 162 200 | 127 500 |
| Travel of staff | 155 300 | - | 7 300 | 91 100 | 56 900 |
| Contractual services | 228 200 | - | 1 000 | 48 600 | 178 600 |
| General operating expenses | 498 400 | - | 57 300 | 252 400 | 188 700 |
| Supplies and materials | 10 400 | - | 900 | 5 200 | 4 300 |
| Furniture and equipment | 80 400 | - | 50 400 | 15 000 | 15 000 |
| Grants contributions, meeting participants/witnesses | 45 000 | - | 2 000 | 23 000 | 20 000 |

**Subtotal, section 24**

| 7 912 100 | - | 639 500 | 4 055 400 | 3 217 200 |

**Total**

| 7 981 700 | - | 639 500 | 4 090 200 | 3 252 000 |

6. The related provisions have not been included under the programme budget for the year 2021 nor for the proposed programme budget for the year 2022. Accordingly, should the Council adopt draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.11, the related additional requirements of $4,729,700 would arise, comprising $639,500 under section 24, Human rights of the programme budget for 2021, and $4,090,200, including $34,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $4,055,400 under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the 2022.

7. Requirements of $3,252,000, including $34,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $3,217,200 under section 24, Human rights would be included in the proposed programme budget for the year 2023.

8. These requirements, in accordance with established procedures, would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, at its 76th session, in the context of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council during 2021.

9. With regard to operative paragraph 21, the attention of the Human Rights Council is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248B of 21 December 1990, and
subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 75/252 of 31 December 2020, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.