

## **Oral Statement Delivered by Defence for Children International (DCI) – Yemen**

Madam President,

We welcome the third report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts (GEE) on Yemen and strongly support its recommendations.

Yemen remains the world's largest state of emergency due to the worsening conflict, which has led to a direct increase in child rights violations, such as the denial of nutrition, education and health services.

The overall situation in Yemen is catastrophic, especially when international efforts have failed to provide half of the funds needed, which is even more crucial in light of the pandemic. More than 12 million children across the country are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and at high risk of malnutrition.

Above all, the conflict has destroyed the already fragile education system. According to UNICEF figures, of the seven million school-age children, more than two million do not attend school and nearly half a million have dropped out since the beginning of the conflict in 2015.

Human suffering has also increased recently during the rainy season, with floods destroying many houses and displacing hundreds of families in the central mountainous areas. Residents and aid organisations fear the spread of cholera and malaria, given the scarcity of relief and shelter.

### **We therefore:**

- Call upon the Council to ensure that the situation of child rights in Yemen remains on its agenda by renewing the mandate of the GEE.
- Call upon parties to the conflict to stop international law violations, some of which may constitute war crimes, and
- Call upon all States to cease arms transfers.

Furthermore, we urge Yemeni authorities to;

- Ensure the continued arrival of humanitarian assistance, especially for children,
- Ensure that Sana'a International Airport for health and emergency situations be opened for all Yemenis, and
- Speed up the supply of petroleum products, especially to the health sector.