

Malaysia Calls for Cooperation to end Yemen Conflict

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has urged all parties to extend their full cooperation in the peace process and demonstrate their sincerity in ending the nine-month war in Yemen.

The country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Datuk Ramlan Ibrahim said Malaysia urged all parties to follow the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementing Mechanism, and the National Dialogue outcomes.

"We regret the lack of commitment by the conflicting parties to engage in good faith and to adhere to the ceasefire agreed on prior to the talks," he said at the UN Security Council Meeting on the Situation in the Middle East (Yemen) in New York on Tuesday. The text of his speech was made available to Bernama Thursday.

Ramlan reiterated Malaysia's stand that a political solution remained the only legitimate path towards a democratic, stable and inclusive Yemen.

The New York Times quoted negotiators and diplomats as saying that UN-brokered talks ended on Sunday in Switzerland with no sign of a resolution to the conflict in Yemen and with the combatants engaged in some of the fiercest fighting in months.

Ramlan reaffirmed the country's strong support for the efforts by UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed to identify and implement confidence-building measures towards achieving a durable ceasefire and comprehensive settlement.

"We look forward to the next round of talks, hopefully in January. The success of the talks depends on the political will of the conflicting parties themselves," he said.

Malaysia also urged all related parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights law to ensure smooth humanitarian access and minimise harm against civilians as well as refrain from damaging civilian infrastructure in Yemen, he said.

He said a total of 10 million children in Yemen were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and over half a million children below five were at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

"We wish to see an independent investigation into various incidents that seriously violated international humanitarian and human rights law, including targeted attacks on civilians, school and medical facilities," said Ramlan.

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