

Yemen Organization for Promoting Integrity
**National Initiative to cease the war and launch sustainable
peace in Yemen**

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On the initiative:

Yemen Organization for Promoting Integrity (OPI Yemen) has developed this document as a draft initiative to end the war and launch peace in Yemen under the project “Engagement of Civil Society in Making Peace in Yemen”, which was implemented in partnership with International Research and Exchange (IREX).

The initiative is recap of a longer discussion and research got together actors from government, political parties, civil society and the media in two workshops held in the capital Sana'a and the temporary capital Aden. The events researched the war in Yemen in terms of causes, challenges and opportunities for making peace, where the participants provided thoughts to drafting this initiative.

The Initiative's Summary:

This initiative consists of two stages, the first is that United Nations shall resume peace talks between the two main parties to the conflict, which are the legitimate government of internationally recognized president Hadi and Ansar Allah Houthis. Both parties shall approve an immediate cease-fire, UNs to assume managing al-Hodeida's seaport and Sanaa airport, the public revenues should be deposited by all parties in the central bank of Aden, in return the government shall pay the salaries of public servants. Each party shall release the detainees and abductees, lift banning on the media, and facilitate humanitarian access to the people. The second stage started with launching a national peace conference to bring the diverse national and local parties together for a short period max 3 months under the auspices of the United Nations. The conference shall develop a realistic peace time plan to achieve peace including activation of the presidency's system, formation of a national assembly to replace the House of Representatives and the Shura, implementation of the National Dialogue Outcomes and UN resolutions, forefront Resolution No. 2216, and addressing the war-related issues.

Effects of the war:

Three years of civil war in Yemen has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. As the war is about to reach first half of the fourth year, the humanitarian situation is aggravating more tragic and catastrophic, and peaceful political action is frozen under the war-led policy commanding Yemen's future.

The most serious strategic threat of this war remains the social divide as further escalation would make the civil war a chronic undermining the social peace, rooting national disintegration and fragmentation of the state.

The United Nations has categorized Yemen's calamity as the greatest human-made disaster. The tragedy is manifested in tens of thousands dead and a double portion wounded, captured and lost. Furthermore, millions are internally displaced persons and refugees.

Eighty percent of the population lives under the threat of famine and epidemics. The rate of poverty is steadily doubling as a result of stoppage of salary's payment to employees in public sector, large unemployment, the national currency collapse, and the breakdown of the public service system.

Serious human rights violations against International law and International Humanitarian Law are prevailed. A steady increase in the number of victims and incidents of targeting civilians, enforced disappearance, torture and unlawful detention, including journalists, aid workers and health personnel. As well as, the compulsory recruitment of children and school students, the dissemination of hate speech, violence acts, retaliation, and the massive destruction and devastation in the civil infrastructure and private and public property including schools, hospitals and relief centers.

The effects and repercussions of war have not been limited to the national level, but have extended to affect the region and threaten international interests, as the war has provided a suitable environment for increasing the activities of armed terrorist groups.

The result of the war:

The war failed to accomplish any of the objectives of its torch-bearers, and the Yemeni people, mostly civilians including children and women, people with special needs and vulnerable groups, have paid the highest price of this war. It seems clear that the war would not produce a solution, and the envisaged victor is actually defeated in such wars.

The initiative's Goal:

This initiative aims to make a serious and effective contribution to the cessation of the war and the restoration of the political process as a peaceful and civilized mechanism ensures a lasting peace, as well as to address the real reasons behind the war, ultimately in the interest of the Yemeni people.

Initiative Reference:

This initiative builds on the consensual national reference represented by the GCC initiative and its executive mechanism and the outcomes of the national Dialogue approved by the Yemenis to make their future, and the relevant resolutions adopted by the security council, foremost the resolution 2216.

Initiative stakeholders:

The initiative targets the diverse actors in Yemen society, forefront the two main parties to the war: the legitimate government of Abdu Rabo Mansour and Ansar Allah Houthis,

alongside all political and social parties, civil society and the media, as well as the sponsors of the political and economic process in Yemen from regional and international states and organizations.

The provisions of initiative and the mechanism of implementation:

First Stage:

United Nations should put pressure on the two main parties to the war: the legitimate government and Ansar Allah Houthis in order to agree on a cease-fire pacifying to end the war and to resume national dialogue and reconciliation to achieve peace in Yemen on the basis of:

1. UNs should be delivered al-Hodeida's seaport and Sanaa airport during the talks phase and the peace conference to manage them, and the public revenues across Yemen's territories under control of all groups should be deposited in the central bank of Aden, in return the government shall pay the salaries of public servants.
2. Each party shall release the detainees and abductees, lift banning on the media, facilitate humanitarian access to the people, and take actions to guarantee the rights and freedoms of the people in expression by all the means assured by the international conventions of human rights.
3. To prioritize the salvation of Yemeni people through allowing local, regional and international organizations under the auspices of the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance to all people in need all over Yemen.

Second Stage:

Convening a national conference for sustainable peace in Yemen under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, representing the various political and social actors that participated in the National Dialogue Conference and beyond, the task of which is to be determined as follows:

1. Activation of the presidency's system formation of a presidential coalition headed by the elected president during a specific transitional period.
2. Formation of a national assembly to replace the House of Representatives and the Shura including the different political and social actors, civil society, youth, and woman who are not involved in the war is represented by 50%. The national assembly shall fully assume legislative and supervision responsibilities, and undertake the following:
 - A. Establish independent and neutral committees of Yemeni and Arab nationalities under auspicious of UNs assigned with confining and regaining heavy and mid weapons, and delivering to the government that should be formed upon the outcomes of the peace conference.

- B. Produce a realistic timeline plan for peace and reconstruction, implementation of the National Dialogue Outcomes and UN resolutions, forefront Resolution No. 2216, so that the plan addresses the real causes driving to the war and put in place effective treatments for it, preventing the recurrence of the coup and the war again.
- C. Form a technocrat government in accordance with known good governance criteria to administer the entire country, complete the requirements to achieve peace and restoration of the political process and forming a national army, under the control of the National Assembly in the interim period.
- D. Reestablish the local authorities in all provinces based on the good governance measures, substituting the previous local councils.
- E. Form a national body in accordance with United Nation standards for transitional justice and national reconciliation, as provided for in the decisions of the National Dialogue Conference.
- F. Establish a national body for the restoration of looted people's money and investigating corruption during the war, leading to the accountability of corrupt persons found guilty of looting public money.

Guarantees for the implementation of the initiative:

To ensure the implementation of the initiative and to contribute to a genuine peace that meets the demands of the Yemeni people, who have suffered gravely from the war, all steps and actions aimed at achieving peace should be based on the following requirements:

1. United Nations supervises through the UN Security Council on the stages to achieve peace including the peace conference so that the outputs of the conference is binding on all parties and implementable, with clear penalties for the hindering entities, whether individuals or groups.
2. The regional community (GCC and the League of Arab States) shall continue its active role in supporting peace in Yemen at various levels.
3. Establishment of an inter-national commission to investigate human rights violations and to hold accountable those found guilty of human rights violations, in accordance with the relevant national and international mechanisms.
4. Invoking the popular referendum in any key contentious case that the national assembly does not reach a definitive solution for.
5. The Yemeni government shall partake the regional and international communities in setting up a comprehensive national strategy in the frame of the international strategies to fight terrorism.
6. Organize an international conference sponsored by the GCC countries to mobilize financial support from donor states and countries in the region for the reconstruction of war-ravaged in Yemen.