



Outcomes of the Sixth and Final Round of the Southern Dialogue Process in Yemen Facilitated by the European Institute of Peace for Southern Political Components

Facilitator's Summary

The European Institute of Peace held the sixth and final round of dialogue among several political components in southern Yemen in the Jordanian capital, Amman, from 18 to 20 July 2026. Representatives of the following entities participated in the dialogue: Supreme Council of Southern Revolutionary Movement (Hirak), Southern Movement (Hirak) Participating in the National Dialogue Conference, Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement for Peaceful Change, Southern National Coalition, Southern Women for Peace Group, United Alliance of the People of Shabwa, Hadhramaut National Council, and Shabwa National General Council.

The participants reviewed the political, economic, and security conditions affecting southern Yemen in particular and Yemen in general, as well as developments in the region and the repercussions of the military escalation on the political process in Yemen. The participants affirmed their support for the measures taken by Yemen's Internationally Recognised Government to protect Yemeni sovereignty. They also discussed the political activities and efforts they had undertaken since the previous round of dialogue.

The participants affirmed their support for the Southern Dialogue to be hosted and sponsored by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and planned to be held in Riyadh. They welcomed the establishment by some governorates of preparatory councils to contribute to preparations for the dialogue and stressed the importance of ensuring that local authorities in the governorates do not unilaterally select participants without coordination and consultation with the political components.

The participants adopted a paper setting out their vision regarding the requirements for the success of this Southern Dialogue (attached), as well as a second paper outlining their views on the issues currently at stake in the political arena (attached).

The participants discussed the possibility of moving towards the establishment of a federal system during the transitional phase in areas under the control of Yemen's Internationally Recognized Government, undertaking reforms, and advancing towards decentralization, as well as its constitutional requirements, until a political settlement is reached in Yemen.

The participants commended the ongoing efforts to address the humanitarian file in Yemen, supervised by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The participants assessed what had been achieved through this dialogue over the past three years. They also discussed the prospects for a second phase of the dialogue, particularly with regard to political participation and the issues to be discussed in light of the developments witnessed in some areas of southern Yemen during the past period.

The participants commended the efforts of the European Institute of Peace in convening six rounds of dialogue and expressed their gratitude to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where all rounds of the dialogue were held over the past three years, as well as to the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway for funding the project that hosted this dialogue. The participants also expressed their appreciation for the meetings held during previous rounds of the dialogue with ambassadors and envoys from the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, France, the United States of America, and Germany, as well as with the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the important meeting that brought them together with a number of ambassadors and representatives of missions of friendly countries to Yemen, including the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to exchange views on developments in the region and their direct impact on southern Yemen in particular and Yemen in general.

For the Success of the Southern Dialogue in Yemen Vision of the Southern Political Components Participating in the Southern Dialogue Process Facilitated by the European Institute of Peace Concerning the Southern Dialogue

Proceeding from the appeal submitted by a group of political components in southern Yemen to the Chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council calling for the convening of a Southern Dialogue, which he adopted and, accordingly, requested the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host and sponsor in Riyadh, in a manner consistent with efforts aimed at supporting the political settlement process in Yemen;

In light of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's favourable response to the request submitted by the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, together with its declared intention to sponsor and host this dialogue, while work is currently under way to establish a Preparatory Committee to organise the dialogue in a manner that contributes to creating the conditions necessary for its success;

And given that the political components participating in the *Southern Dialogue Process* organised and facilitated by the European Institute of Peace have held numerous meetings over a period approaching three years in order to examine ways of coordinating positions, bringing viewpoints closer together, and building consensus on the fundamental issues relating to the future of the south and its people, and the role of political forces in the south and its governorates within the political settlement in Yemen;

These components have prepared this paper as their contribution to the efforts currently being undertaken — particularly by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — to prepare for the anticipated dialogue.

This contribution is based upon these components' vision of the future of the south and the understandings reached during the dialogue that brought them together. It seeks to strengthen confidence among the parties and to give precedence to common interests in a manner that contributes to the success of the forthcoming dialogue through a realistic, balanced, and responsible political discourse.

First: The Vision is Based upon the Following Principles

1. The justice of the Southern Question and its multiple dimensions require a consensual approach to its resolution. On this basis, consensus should constitute the fundamental pillar for the success of the Southern Dialogue.
2. The south is non-exclusive in character. At the same time, the historical, geographical, and political particularities of each governorate, together with the specific nature of its own issues, should be respected.
3. The rejection of the use — or threat of the use — of violence and armed force to impose any political project, together with full commitment to peaceful solutions without exclusion or marginalisation.
4. The necessity of fair and balanced representation of the various political orientations, the governorates, and the south as a whole.

5. The importance of transparency and clarity in the criteria governing the formation of the Preparatory Committee, the prompt selection of participants in the dialogue, and the continuous monitoring of developments in the dialogue process through periodic reports informing public opinion of such developments.
6. The need for all concerned parties to ensure that the outcomes of the Southern Dialogue support stability, security, and development in Yemen.
7. The dialogue outcomes should include agreement upon an implementation mechanism together with the guarantees required to ensure implementation within the agreed timeframe.
8. Mechanisms should be established for a strategic partnership with the states concerned with developments in Yemen, foremost among them the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to achieve security and stability during the forthcoming phase on a sustainable basis.
9. The dialogue should remain open in character while drawing guidance from the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, given their continuing importance, although certain elements relating to the south require further development in light of the changes that Yemen has undergone since the National Dialogue Conference was held.

Secondly: Formation of the Preparatory Committee

- Efforts should be made to ensure that membership of the Preparatory Committee is drawn from individuals who are committed to the unity of ranks, the principles of dialogue and consensus, and the removal of obstacles to the success of the dialogue and the achievement of its objectives. Membership should include individuals with experience of previous dialogue processes, while ensuring that no person proven to have committed violations or crimes is permitted to participate. Balanced representation should also be guaranteed among the southern political components, political figures, representatives of community components, the southern governorates, and the principal political currents active both within the governorates and throughout the South.

Third: Functions of the Preparatory Committee

1. To prepare the criteria governing participation in the dialogue and the lists of participants, in accordance with standards agreed by the Committee, bearing in mind the fundamental importance of determining the participating parties for the success of the dialogue.
2. To prepare a draft agenda, limited to the urgent issues requiring attention during the current phase, as a preliminary step towards achieving a peaceful transitional settlement in Yemen, during which the parties to the conflict will agree upon the form of the state during the transitional period.
3. To prepare a draft Rules of Procedure for the dialogue, including the working groups required to address the issues set out in the draft agenda.

The following working groups may, for example, be established:

(a) Political Working Group to consider the arrangements for the transitional period and its duration, including:

- the form of the state;
- the system of government;
- power-sharing;
- and wealth-sharing during the transitional period.

(b) Military and Security Working Group

To examine the means of ensuring that the possession of arms is confined exclusively to the state, ending all forms of armament outside the framework of state institutions, and addressing the current situation regarding security violations.

(c) Economic and Social Working Group to consider means of addressing:

- the financial and monetary crisis;
- combating corruption;
- creating employment opportunities;
- providing essential public services, particularly:
 - electricity;
 - water;
 - education;
 - health care;
- facilitating the return of internally displaced persons to their homes;
- inventorying looted property; and
- reconstruction.

(d) Rights and Freedoms Working Group to consider:

- providing protection for citizens against violations;
- securing the release of political detainees; and
- determining the fate of persons subjected to enforced disappearance through every possible means.

(e) Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Working Group to undertake an initial examination of:

- the requirements of transitional justice and reconciliation;
- compensation arising from the confiscation of property and land;
- compulsory retirement;
- other matters requiring reparation; and
- the inclusion of political exclusion for those responsible for crimes.

Fourth: Participation in the Dialogue

1. Representation in the dialogue should include political, community, and civil components, together with independent personalities, while ensuring the effective participation of women and young people.

Due regard should also be given to the representation of:

- tribal components;
- civil society organisations;
- professional associations;
- academics;
- experts;
- representatives of the private sector; and
- the diaspora.

The individuals selected should enjoy:

- broad public acceptance;
- national experience;
- the highest standards of competence;
- integrity;
- credibility; and
- objectivity.

2. Each governorate should nominate its own representatives through transparent internal consultations among its political and community components. The selection of participants should not be left solely to the local authorities.

3. It is important to ensure balanced and equitable representation among the principal political currents and the governorates, considering such factors as:

- geographical area;
- population; and
- available resources,

so that participation is shared equally between political personalities and community leaders.

4. It is essential to ensure that all participants in the dialogue commit themselves to the following:

- a) All participants shall undertake to abide by the outcomes of the dialogue and adopt them as a binding political reference.
- b) Participants shall commit themselves to the principle that the use of violence and military force constitutes a clear departure from the norms and values upon which political dialogue and peaceful settlement are founded.
- c) All forms of incitement against pluralistic democratic political activity shall be rejected, including incitement directed against the participation of women in political life. The issues under discussion should be addressed responsibly through all forms of media.

Conclusion

The political components approving this document reaffirm their commitment to balanced national political solutions and express their full readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Presidential Leadership Council, the Internationally-Recognised Government of Yemen, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to ensure the success of the Southern Dialogue in a

manner that serves the interests of the south and all its governorates, strengthens the foundations of national and regional stability, and opens the way towards a new phase founded upon partnership and sustainable development.

The political components further express their confidence that the sustained efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will ensure that the dialogue is balanced and produces outcomes capable of implementation, and that the outcomes of the Southern Dialogue will constitute an essential step in preparing for a more balanced relationship within the forthcoming negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement in Yemen.

The components also express their support for the efforts of the United Nations and its Special Envoy for Yemen, reaffirming their readiness to cooperate with him in order to achieve a sustainable political settlement.

They further request the European Institute of Peace to brief European States and other international and regional actors concerned with developments in Yemen — particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — on the efforts undertaken by these political components, and to encourage the international community to assume its responsibilities and take the necessary steps to advance the political process in the south and in Yemen generally.

List of Political Components

(Listed according to the date of their establishment)

- Supreme Council of Southern Revolutionary Movement (Hirak)
- Southern Movement (Hirak) Participating in the National Dialogue Conference
- Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement for Peaceful Change
- Southern National Coalition
- Southern Women for Peace Group
- United Alliance of the People of Shabwa
- Hadhramaut National Council
- Shabwa National General Council

Vision of the Southern Political Components Participating in the Dialogue Facilitated by the European Institute of Peace Regarding the Issues Currently Under Discussion in the Political Arena

The vision of the southern political components participating in the dialogue facilitated by the European Institute of Peace regarding the issues currently under discussion in the political arena, which they consider conducive to achieving the interests of the Yemeni people in general and southern Yemen in particular, is as follows:

1. Political Settlement:

- a. A political solution should be pursued as the means to end the conflict in Yemen, as the continuation of the war threatens the future of society and deepens the humanitarian tragedy.
- b. Southern Yemen is politically diverse, and the southern components that adopted this paper have, over the past years, rejected the monopolisation by any single political component of their representation or the unilateral taking of decisions on their behalf.
- c. The dialogue should be open, while recognising the importance of being guided by the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), given their significance, although some elements related to southern Yemen require further development in light of the developments Yemen has witnessed since the NDC was held.
- d. The outcomes of the upcoming Southern Dialogue should constitute one of the key references underpinning the position of Yemen's Internationally Recognised Government in the comprehensive political settlement.

2. The Southern Question:

- a. The Southern Question is a legitimate political and legal rights issue that resulted from exclusion, authoritarianism, and an imbalance in power-sharing in southern Yemen since 1967 and the ensuing bloody conflicts; followed by an imbalance in the national partnership within the unified state, which was exacerbated by the summer 1994 war; and the subsequent misguided policies that were further entrenched by the repression, exclusion, and regionalism imposed by the de facto authorities in southern Yemen since 2015.
- b. The Southern Question should be addressed in a just and sustainable manner along two tracks: the first concerning southern Yemen and its pressing issues, and the second within the framework of a comprehensive final settlement, in a manner that ensures justice for the people of southern Yemen and the restoration of their rights.
- c. Achieving a just and sustainable peace requires a southern consensus within a framework of equal partnership and parity, in a manner that balances interests, safeguards specificities, and lays the foundations for a new phase of stability and development, with clear guarantees that ensure proper implementation and prevent a recurrence of the severe political, economic, and social harm that has occurred.

3. The Form of the Future State:

- a. A democratic federal framework represents the appropriate framework for the form of the state during the transitional phase Yemen is undergoing, alongside agreement on practical steps to make unity attractive and on the necessary guarantees to prevent a return to the bitter experience of centralisation and the significant imbalance in the distribution of power and wealth.
- b. There is scope to move towards establishing a federal system during the transitional phase in areas under the control of Yemen's Internationally Recognised Government, undertaking reforms, and advancing towards decentralisation and the constitutional requirements necessary for this, until a political settlement is reached in Yemen.
- c. As a matter of political realism, the vision is based on the principle of empowering the people of each governorate to manage their own political, administrative, financial, security, and economic affairs, should they consider that they possess the necessary capacity to manage their affairs under a model that could extend to self-government within a federal state. This should be accompanied by guarantees of fair power- and wealth-sharing based on criteria of geographical area, population, and economic contribution, while affirming the rule of law and consolidating the principle of equal citizenship as the basis for rights and duties, in a manner that achieves stability and sustainable development, brings an end to the era of exclusion, marginalisation, and corruption, and establishes a political system that guarantees rights and safeguards specificities within an inclusive national framework.
- d. Each governorate should have the right to have its own local constitution, flag, and anthem, as well as the right to establish its own executive, legislative, judicial, oversight, and accountability institutions for the enforcement of the law. It should also have the right to merge with any other governorate in a manner that enhances integration and advances shared interests, in accordance with the federal constitution and laws.
- e. The federal authority shall be responsible for foreign policy, defence and national security, the federal judiciary, and federal financial matters, with agreement on the equitable distribution of wealth between the federal state and the governorates. The governorates shall exercise any competencies not assigned to the federal authorities.
- f. It is important that the people of each governorate receive their fair share of public-sector positions and leadership roles within the state, as an inherent right that establishes an equitable partnership for a new era that turns the page on exclusion and marginalisation.
- g. The components welcome any outcomes adopted by governorate councils through broad consensus that reflect their political and economic aspirations for building their communities and participating in the construction of a modern and just federal state.

4. Aden:

Aden should regain its role as an economic capital with a distinctive regional role through the activation of its strategic resources, including by empowering the people of Aden to build all its institutions and manage the affairs of their city efficiently and effectively, while preserving its distinct character and historical identity.

5. Security:

Existing military formations should be integrated under the Ministries of Defence and Interior, and any armed formations operating outside state institutions should be prohibited and dismantled.

6. Transitional Justice:

- a. Transitional justice should be implemented by holding those responsible for violations accountable, providing reparations and redress to victims, including through political disqualification of those whose responsibility is established in accordance with the law, while keeping the discussion open regarding other transitional justice mechanisms and determining the timeframe covered by accountability. This process aims to turn the page on the past in a just and responsible manner, preventing grievances and violations from being carried forward into the future, consolidating the foundations of national reconciliation and lasting stability, and ensuring the non-recurrence of such violations.
- b. Transactions involving looted public and private land, real estate, and property should be prevented and reviewed, and rights restored to their rightful owners through the urgent establishment of an independent mechanism to address this critical issue, so that delays do not lead to further tensions within affected communities.

7. Platform of Political Forces in southern Yemen:

The political components continued their discussions regarding the launch of the Platform of Political Forces in Southern Yemen, having already reached agreement on its founding document and bylaws. This is particularly significant as the Platform brings together political forces committed to addressing the Southern Question, while recognising the specificities of southern governorates, and the aspirations of their people, and seeks to advance dialogue and consultation and advocate for their issues, rights, and future at the national, regional, and international levels, in accordance with principles and objectives governing relations among the political forces and parties concerned with developments in southern Yemen in particular and Yemen in general. The components decided to postpone its launch pending developments related to the upcoming Southern Dialogue. They will continue to follow up on this matter and take appropriate steps in light of developments during the next phase.

8. Peace Efforts:

- a. The political components that adopted this paper affirm their commitment to balanced political solutions and their full readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Presidential Leadership Council, Yemen's Internationally Recognised Government, and regional and international parties, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations, and the permanent members of the Security Council, in order to reach a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement in Yemen that strengthens the foundations of national and regional stability.

- b. The European Institute of Peace is requested to brief European countries and other international and regional parties concerned with developments in Yemen—particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Nations, and the permanent members of the Security Council—on the efforts undertaken by the components, and to urge the international community to assume its responsibilities and take action towards achieving the necessary progress in Yemen's political process.

List of Political Components (in order of date of establishment) that adopted this paper:

- Supreme Council of Southern Revolutionary Movement (Hirak)
- Southern Movement (Hirak) participating in the National Dialogue Conference
- Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement for Peaceful Change
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