

Agreement Implementing Governance Transition in Yemen, July 2011.

1. All parties recognise that

- the deadlock regarding the political transition has exacerbated the ongoing crisis in Yemen;
- the economic and security conditions are deteriorating rapidly and Yemeni people are experiencing great hardship;
- our people, including the youth, have legitimate aspirations for change; and
- this situation demands that all political leaders fulfil their responsibilities to the people by meeting to develop and implement immediately a clear path towards a democratic governance-transition in Yemen:

2. We commit to a Yemeni-led process aimed at building a system of democratic governance under the rule of law that ensures the protection of the human rights of all Yemenis. We will be guided in developing an effective transition, by principles of inclusion, participation and transparency.

3. Building on the GCC initiative and recognising all efforts to reach an agreement for governance transition, we, as political leaders, have decided to develop the modalities for an immediate transfer of power, acceptable to all. This arrangement is consistent with the aims of the GCC initiative and it creates a mechanism to implement a transition of power, followed by reform to meet the aspirations of the Yemeni people.

4. Recognising the need to break the current political deadlock through the transfer of power in order to initiate a transitional period in line with the Constitution and taking account of the exceptional conditions in the country, the parties agreed to implement the objectives of the GCC initiative through two stages. In the first stage the President issues a Presidential Decree that:

a) calls for early presidential elections by the end of 2011; and

b) transfers his functions to the Vice President.

This process is irreversible. The first stage also includes the formation of a national transitional government, restructuring of the army and security forces by the establishment of a military committee to achieve this purpose, and the preparation for and conduct of the presidential elections. The second stage will consist of:

a) constitutional reform and addressing the structure of the state and political system, including the situation in the South and submitting the reformed constitution to the Yemeni people in a referendum;

b) reform of the electoral system;

c) conduct of the elections to the House of Representatives in accordance with the new constitution in a period that should not exceed two years after the announcement of the results of the presidential election.

5. Recognising the gravity of the crisis and the need for national unity, we will strive to agree upon a consensus candidate for the Presidency.

6. To ensure the effective implementation that will be critical to the success of the process, we request the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union to support this process and the implementation of the agreement between the parties. Further, the parties invite the United Nations Security Council to endorse and monitor the implementation of this agreement.

7. The parties ask the United Nations Secretary General to assist with the implementation of this agreement and to support the implementation of the transitional period, and to coordinate assistance from the international community aimed at conducting presidential and legislative elections.

8. To achieve these objectives, we will establish immediately a Council for National Dialogue (Roundtable) as a mechanism to resolve these issues through dialogue. This body will be responsible for the development of the transitional roadmap and monitoring its implementation.

9. Participation

- a. The process will be as inclusive as possible. It will include representatives from the Joint People's Congress and its allies, the Joint Membership Parties and partners, the Youth Movements, the Southern Movement, the Houthi and other political parties and forces.
- b. Women will be represented in all delegations.
- c. To allow the process to function effectively, there will be an agreed maximum of representatives per group.

10. Decision-making

- a. Meetings will decide issues by 'sufficient consensus',¹ as determined by the facilitator. If groups wish to register and record their objection they may do so, but this will not prevent 'sufficient consensus' being determined to enable progress.
- b. All parties commit to engage constructively in the process until its completion.
- c. Parties will designate representatives having authority to make decisions and be prepared to participate regularly and constructively.
- d. All parties commit to complying with the decisions of the meetings and to taking the necessary actions to implement them.
- e. The parties invite the United Nations Special Advisor to facilitate and support the process.

Signatures of Participants

Date

¹ 'Sufficient consensus' means consensus where this is reached, or a significant majority that represents all key interests and where any objections are noted and fairly dealt with in some other way.