

The Fourth Conference on National Dialogues, 11—12 June 2019

The House of the Estates, Helsinki

The Yemeni NDC: Moving forward after four years of conflict and regional involvement

Objective of the session

The objective of this session is to understand to which extent the current conflict and the regional involvement has changed the validity of the outcomes and the implications of the Yemen National Dialogue in 2013—2014, and to explore how to build on, and effectively implement, the outcomes of the National Dialogue in a post-conflict phase.

Background

The 2013-14 National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in Yemen was launched to create an inclusive dialogue among different groups and stakeholders in Yemen, with the aim of forming the nucleus for a new Social Contract in Yemen. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and UN-inspired transition from 2011 prescribed an NDC to address existing grievances in Yemen, and to negotiate a new governance framework, through which new, more inclusive and sustainable economic and social policies were hoped to become possible. The NDC was critical in forming a consensus on a series of guiding principles aimed at guaranteeing rights and freedoms, reducing the centralization of power, eliminating corruption, empowering women and youth, among others. However, its translation into well-sequenced policy actions failed in an environment charged with high and diverse expectations about change.

Shortly after, in 2015, the war broke out again in Yemen, and after almost four years of intense fighting, new forces and fronts have emerged and the country is on the verge of disintegration. Regional actors have become heavily involved in the conflict and will most likely also remain as a part of the solution and the aftermath. Despite the changes over the past years, the NDC outcomes remain one of the key parameters for peace.

Key questions

- To which extent has the current conflict affected the validity of the NDC outcomes, and if so, which aspects would need to be renegotiated?
- To which extent has the regional involvement affected the validity of the NDC outcomes, and how can they serve as an obstacle or facilitator of its implementation?
- How can Yemen continue building on, and ensure effective implementation of, the NDC outcomes in a post-conflict phase?

Composition of the session

- H.E. Yasser Abdullah Al-Raeeni, Minister of State for Implementing the National Dialogue Outcomes in the Yemeni Government
- Mr Baraa Shiban, Yemeni expert and political analyst
- Ms Maysaa Shuja al-Deen, Researcher and Writer
- *Moderator: Ms Sama'a Al-Hamdani, Researcher and Analyst*

