

The Women Forum for Dialogue

Statement for the Launch of the WF

Women have actively participated in all walks of life in Yemen, resulting in better outcomes in terms of the current events in the country. The Gulf Initiative has managed to gather the conflicting parties on the dialogue table again, where the emerging powers, such as women, youth, and civil society organisations, were given the opportunity they had earned through their contributions to Yemen's struggle, to participate in the National Dialogue Conference. During the conference, women had a strong presence both in the conference and on the field. Most importantly, some Working Groups of the Conference were led by women, and female participants cast their vote on the decisions affecting the life of Yemeni women, in order to build the inclusive Yemen which they desire. However, Yemeni women still have the following concerns:

- 1- Deteriorating security situation which affects the public life and our work as a group
- 2- Lack of support by media and political parties for women's participation in political, social, and economic life
- 3- Lack of support by traditional powers and extreme religious groups to women during the transition process
- 4- Continuing low and inadequate representation of women in all committees established by the conference and other events.

Therefore, we, the members of the CMI-supported Women's Dialogue Forum, renew our commitment to continuing our joint work after the National Dialogue Conference and implementing the dialogue recommendations. To meet our goals, we continue to emphasize the need for a more active:

- 1- Role for women in implementing the dialogue recommendations
- 2- Role for the Gulf Initiative sponsors in supporting women's participation
- 3- Role for the Yemeni government, represented by the President and executive authorities, to realise the desired Yemen
- 4- Participation of men to our work, as a primary partner in the change in Yemen.

In the name of the participants in this Forum, we would like to extend our appreciation to Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) for its support to women's issues in Yemen and assistance to women during the Conference in order to follow up and implement the National Dialogue outcomes with respect to women's concerns.

Issued by the participants in the Women Forum for Dialogue, Istanbul