

In the Name of God Most Gracious Most Merciful

### **Statement by the Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum**

The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum discussed in a series of consecutive meetings the issue of Yemen and the war taking place in large parts of the country for 224 days as a result of the armed regional intervention that led the Yemeni Republic, with all its governorates, to the worst situation in its history.

Entities involved in the conflict have gravely violated key principles of the international humanitarian law and human rights conventions. Over 29,000 civilians have been killed and injured, including 11,000 women and 3,500 children. Approximately 1.5 million people have been displaced. Moreover, 1,248 schools and education centers have been destroyed, as have been 214 hospitals, 564 mosques, 161 plants, 43 archeological sites and 212 fuel stations. Moreover, there has been a disabling siege on the Yemeni people that has transformed its economic situation from poor to tragic where all basic necessities of life have disappeared, including food, medicine and fuel, influencing over 25 million people.

Additionally, the regional intervention has exacerbated local divides and fighting at religious, tribal and ethnic levels, causing the whole country to become part of fighting that is not justified and that cannot put an end to the underlying conflict. Adding to this is the clear and deliberate marginalization and violence against women based on the ideas coming in with the regional intervention, including, as an example, early marriage, the exploitation of girls in war-related actions, or enticing young men to join the fighting. This has led to the immense rise in the number of boys who have joined armed factions. One of the national organizations estimates that there are currently over 70,000 children under the age of 18 that are fighting as part of various warring groups and militias in the country.

For this reason, and because we at the Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum are part of the women of the Republic of Yemen and speak for a large sector of the population and different social and political groups, we fully recognize the disastrous humanitarian and security situation faced by the Yemeni Republic:

- The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum expresses its deep disappointment at the international silence on the Yemeni conflict, including that of the United Nations, as well as their ignorance of the destruction and methodological killing of Yemeni women, seniors and

children, whether through direct foreign intervention, military aircraft or through providing any internal side with weapons and money.

- The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum reminds the UN that now, after eight months have passed, the armed intervention of the regional forces in Yemen is still to be mentioned in the UN resolution number 2216 or in the two reports of the UN envoy to Yemen.
- The forum points out that the regional forces, with their armed intervention, have violated many, if not all, resolutions of the Security Council on Yemen, some of which clearly refer to the progress achieved in the Yemeni political process in 2012–2014. The regional armed conflict destroyed all this at once and brought Yemen and its political process to an immeasurably chaotic point. It must be stressed here that most of the paragraphs of the Security Council Resolution no. 2216, which is demanded to be implemented by the forces involved in the armed intervention in Yemen, have been violated by them, including the paragraphs 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 18. Unfortunately, no condemnation was issued, not even by mere words from the UN.
- The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum is grateful for the credibility of some of the international NGOs, such as the successive reports of Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders and Oxfam, as well as some specialized UN agencies, such as the WFP and WHO, on the disastrous situation in Yemen affecting all aspects of life and that has come about as a result of the armed regional intervention whatever its motives and goals.

The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum simply believes that the international community, the UN and all peace lovers around the world must work without delay to:

- Obligate the alliance forces to immediately cease their armed intervention in Yemen.
- Lift the land, sea and air embargo on Yemen and allow entry of the necessary humanitarian assistance to alleviate the disastrous effects of the regional military intervention.

- Resume the Yemeni dialogue among all the political components.

The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum also highlights the following important issues which must be implemented to assist the parties in Yemen to come to a successful dialogue table:

- We remind the UN, its Secretary General and his Special Envoy, as well as all the external parties playing a role in resolving the Yemeni crisis to comply with the intentions and principles of the UN, regardless of the interests of political or economic powers of any country or party.
- The forum reminds the UN of the need to comply with what has been issued with regard to women in the Security Council Resolution no. 1325, which in more than one paragraph stresses the need to include women at all levels of decision making in conflict resolution processes, efforts to strengthen peace and all measures necessary to build and maintain peace. This is in addition to increasing the role of women and their contribution to UN field operations, especially humanitarian assistance, and the need to increase the technical support and training for women to undertake these positive roles.

The Women's Dialogue and Peace Forum expresses sadness and pain witnessing the current conditions of the Yemeni Republic with its political divisions that have been deepened by the regional military intervention. Thus, we offer the following proposals to the Yemeni political parties with the aim of supporting progress in the political process:

- The political gains of the Yemenis during the past political process should not be ignored, namely the outputs of the National Dialogue and the Peace and Partnership Agreement, in addition to the statements and resolutions by the UN on Yemen at that time.
- Reach a consensus on an immediate halt of all types of fighting as a good will gesture among all parties and explicitly announce commitment to combating all forms of terrorism.

- Invite all national Yemeni parties to initiate a serious dialogue aimed at enhancing the institutional role of the government bodies to address the internal circumstances and alleviate the tragedies of the regional military intervention, regardless of the negotiation track of the political process.
- Start implementing the outputs of the National Dialogue, especially those relating to the political and social affairs without fragmentation, including the participation of women in planning and implementation; this is key for the Yemenis to take the initiative for their country's affairs.

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