



Remarks of His Excellency

ABDRABU MANSOUR HADI

President of the Republic of Yemen

67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Secretary General

**Heads of delegations of countries participating in the 67th Session of the
UN General Assembly**

To begin with, I express my deep congratulations for Mr. Vuk Jeremic, the President of the UN General Assembly for being elected to steer the General Assembly. We trust his capacity in managing the General Assembly ably. I would like also to thank Mr. Nasser Abdulaziz Alnassr, the President of the previous session, for all the efforts he exerted. I also hail the endeavors of Mr. Ban Ki Moon, his wise management of the UN and his interest in the developments in my country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic World saw during the past few weeks a wave of outrage and anger resulting from the production of a film containing explicit denigrations to the Muslim Prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, and the values of the true Islamic religion. It is deplorable that there is a campaign of deliberate insults to Islam and Muslims to taint their image in the world and to plant the seeds of schism and animosity between nations and religions. Despite all that, these behaviors find people who defend them under the justification of the freedom of expression. These people



overlook the fact that there should be limits for the freedom of expression especially if such freedom blasphemes the beliefs of nations and defames their figures.

While my country strongly denounces this film, it calls for respecting religions and religious figures, enhancing the understanding between religions and civilizations and adopting necessary international legislations to prevent any further similar practices and abuses of the right to freedom of expression. My country also calls for the adherence to peaceful expressions of opinion, denouncing violence and incitement of hatred, which is contradictory to the values of the true Islamic religion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This session is held within the context of important developments and events directly affecting political, economic, social, security and environmental situations in many nations of the world and global forces in general. These circumstances result in different pressures on all international actors and result in destructive impacts on the least developed countries or the so called the countries of the south. This includes my country, the Republic of Yemen, which is celebrating these days the 50th Anniversary of the 26th of September 1962 revolution and the 49th Anniversary of the 14th of October Revolution 1963. I find it an opportunity from this international platform to send my best greetings and wishes to the great people of Yemen in this occasion. It is doubtless that the elapse of 50 years of the Yemeni revolution, sparked by the aspirations for change for freedom, equality and national dignity, have resulted in a new reality in which the wheel of change is moving despite all obstacles and barriers. Recently, we had a peaceful transfer of power for the first



time in the country as a new historical achievement. This transition was not possible except with the determination of Yemenis to fulfill the goals of the revolution in freedom, sovereignty and putting an end to the autocratic and family ruling forever and establishing a republican regime governed by the constitution as a new social contract between the state and its people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You know that Yemen is one the so called “Arab Spring” countries. We, the Yemenis, saw difficult situation that continued for more than one year and could have had catastrophic consequences. The country avoided that trajectory because the disputing parties were wise enough and presented a rôle model in reaching an agreement and accepting the political settlement under the GCC-Initiative and its implementation mechanism. This Initiative became the reference for all parties and it was internationally supported. Early presidential elections were conducted and represented a public referendum for change and granted the new authority a full legitimacy to pursue the implementation of the GCC-Initiative provisions to take the country to the safe side and into a brighter future where people have faith in their future and are able to choose their rulers freely to contribute in building the new Yemen.

In this respect, please allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, King of Saudi Arabia, the rulers of GCC countries and the Secretary General of the GCC Dr. Abdullatif Alzaiani for all forms of support they extended for the political settlement of the crisis. Thanks also go to Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations; the five permanent states in the Security Council; the special envoy of the Secretary General to Yemen Mr.



Jamal Binomar; the League of Arab States, its Secretary General; and the European Union for all the efforts they exerted to underpin the political settlement and to provide necessary economic support to Yemen in all fields including the support for the convocation of the National Dialogue Conference. This conference will draw the future of Yemen by tackling different files, conflicts, wars, and pending problems such as the monopoly of power and wealth. The aim is to build a modern civic state on the principles of respecting laws, equality, inclusion, equal opportunities, fair distribution of wealth, participation in decision making and in managing different sovereign components of the new state on national basis under a political regime to be decided by the people of Yemen in the awaited national dialogue conference.

I stress here that the doors of the national dialogue conference are open for all Yemeni parties and for all issues and demands. This conference shall be the mean for the repair of the mistakes, achieving national reconciliation and developing the principles for the modern civic Yemeni state under a unified Yemen as stipulated by Security Council resolutions.

Mr. President,

The current political arrangements in Yemen, for the implementation of the settlement agreement and the Security Council resolutions 2014 and 2051, have the support of brothers and friends of Yemen. However, there are still many political, economic, security and social obstacles and impediments that Yemen suffered from. These obstacles represent weaknesses and jeopardize the progress and prosperity of Yemen in the coming decades. It is a fact that 95% of the Yemeni people do have the willingness and ambitions to move with the rest of the world to the 21st Century. The



political and social problems and the escalating political conflicts and anarchy shall never stand as obstacles on the way of the Yemeni people. Therefore, the right entry point for addressing the situation in Yemen is to adopt an overarching vision taking into account all circumstances and conditions related to the history, geography and the challenges of the present and the future. A key factor in that is the strategic location of Yemen on the juncture of trade routes and in the heart of international sea navigation. Yemen faces the security challenges of organized crime, piracy and terrorist acts in addition to the influx of irregular migrants and refugees to its coasts.

There is an increasing trend of unemployment among youth below 30 years old, who represent 70% of the total population of the country. Youth look forward to have a better future and a modern civic state. This requires the international community and donor countries to understand these factors and to provide urgent support to our country in various fields including in the fields of establishing a modern civic state based on democracy, good governance, respect of human rights and social justice. There is a need to abandon the traditional standard and bureaucratic mechanisms adopted by donor countries and international parties supporting the settlement path in Yemen.

From our side, we stand ready to make favorable the appropriate atmosphere for their work away from any intricate government bureaucracy by adopting high transparency and removing all obstacles they may face. I confirm that it is investment that results in stability and not vise-versa.



Mr. President,

Terrorism, which pervades our country for more than 10 years and recently was about to seize control of different Yemeni regions and provinces, represents a huge risk threatening local, regional and international peace and stability. Although Alqaeda today, following the heroic acts of the Yemeni armed forces and local committees and the series of defeats it sustained, is much weaker than before but we cannot underestimate the desperate acts of Alqaeda. Due to not being able to adapt with the successive defeats, Alqaeda converted its members into explosive belts and time-bombs against innocent people. This resulted in Alqaeda losing any local or national sympathy.

We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate terrorist elements and we demand that its sources of support internally and externally are dried up. We invite our international partners in combating terrorism to provide more logistical and technical support to the security forces and counterterrorism units and expand the intelligence cooperation and coordination in this field.

I may not miss the opportunity to draw your attention to the humanitarian crisis Yemen is encountering as a result of the terrorism and violence acts in Sadah and the events of the last year that resulted in the displacement of more than 500,000 people from their villages in addition to the increasing numbers of refugees from the Horn of Africa region. This led the UN and its agencies to launch an appeal for around 600 million US Dollars. However, the funding gap stands at 50% of this required amount. Therefore, I call brotherly and friendly countries to respond to the appeal of the UN to enable it of meeting the basic requirements of IDPs and refugees.



Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been more than six decades since the General Assembly, which I have the honor to address today, issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is deplorable that after all these decades; still many nations suffer violations to their rights and dignities. The Palestinian people are subject to gruesome escalation of Israeli violence. Israeli settlements are expanding, innocent Palestinians are maimed, activists are besieged, prisoners and detainees are oppressed and the attempts of the Israeli side to demolish the Aqsa mosque are continuing. This requires a stronger role and a closer and more effective presence for the United Nations and its agencies against the Israeli arrogance and disobedience to international community resolutions and its refusal of all peaceful proposals and initiatives. The lack of international pressure on Israel represents a key failure in international justice standards. The role of United Nations and international forces in achieving justice and freedom requires exercising pressure to implement international resolutions. Did Israel forget that its state was created on the basis of an international resolution? We declare here our full support to the application of the State of Palestine to become a full membership state in the United Nations to affirm its legitimacy and to respect its recognized rights under the international law.

We also call the United Nations to adopt appropriate solutions to end the crisis and the internal war in Syria and to put an end to all forms of violence against thousands of civilians in Syria including women and children. Proposed initiatives and announced peaceful solutions shall be revived to end the crisis and make the mission of the Arab-International Envoy to Syria Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi a success.



I repeat the call to all concerned parties in Syria, the authorities and the opposition, to resort to mind and to respond to repeated calls to initiate dialogue and make mutual concessions as the only way to stop the bloodshed. The only option for our brothers in Syria is to agree on an initiative to draw the path for peaceful change and transfer of power through ballot boxes.

It is doubtless that Somalia is living in a dire crisis since early 1990s. Yemen and Somalia have deep historical relations and both represent strategic depths for each other. Based on that, Yemen played a leading role in restoring peace and stability to Somalia by supporting the reconciliation efforts and hosting various negotiation rounds between different parties. Yemen did not stop there but opened its doors for Somali refugees whose number exceeded one million refugees despite the difficult circumstances Yemen is encountering and all the economic, health and security impacts of the refuge process.

While we congratulate the Somali people for succeeding in accomplishing a peaceful transfer of power and electing Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud as a new president in a democratic environment, we hope that these elections will lead to the reconstruction of the state institutions; restoring peace and security to Somalia; and ending the humanitarian suffering and the consequences of the crisis including the suffering of one million Somali refugees in our country. We renew the stance of the Republic of Yemen in supporting the elected Somali president and his government upon its formation. We will not spare any effort in enhancing the relations between



our two countries for the mutual benefit and for the interest of security, stability and countering terrorism in the region.

In the same context, the continued and intensive influx of migrants and asylum seekers to Yemen represents a real threat to national security, peace and stability in the region. This requires the international community to share this burden with Yemen, especially as the resources of Yemen are exhausted and it is extremely difficult to afford these flows of continuous arrivals to Yemen under the exceptional conditions Yemen is facing.

The brutal racial cleansing of Muslims in Myanmar imposes on the international community to give attention to this humanitarian tragedy and to take tangible steps to stop the series of violence and savage acts committed against this group. It is not enough to issue statements of denouncement and condemnation in light of the racial maiming and practices that took place during the past months. It is necessary to establish an international committee to investigate in human rights violations against Muslims there; deliver humanitarian aid to them and provide guarantees to protect them against violence and atrocities.

Finally, I reiterate my thanks to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General. We highly appreciate the role of the United Nations as an international platform bringing together all countries and nations of the globe for the sake of peace, freedom, human rights and coexistence between different nations, religions and civilizations.

Peace be upon you,