

Southern Transitional Council

General Department of Foreign Affairs



المجلس الانتقالي الجنوبي

الإدارة العامة للشؤون الخارجية



H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations

President of the UN Security Council

19 August 2019

Your Excellency,

Since my last letter concerning the latest developments in Aden, the Southern Transitional Council has worked to de-escalate the situation in the city and we have successfully restored security for the local population. But the threat of violence and instability, including from ongoing extremist forces, remains real. The STC's focus is now moving into the next phase of managing this context on the ground, which requires coordination with UN-led diplomatic activities, if we are to secure a political solution for South Yemen.

We should be clear that our actions to ensure security and the protection of the Southern people was necessitated by the violence at the hands of Yemeni government guards against civilians, in addition to a number of attacks by Houthi and extremist forces on Aden. Our loyalty to the Southern people and answering their calls – as demonstrated by the 'million people march' in Aden on 15 August – is what guides the STC. Our actions in recent weeks have been to fill the vacuum left by a government deemed illegitimate by Southerners. As long as this is the case, then the STC cannot risk the security of the Southern people and governance of the South's capital by handing control of Aden over to the government.

The STC is in full governance of Aden and we are working diligently to ensure the functioning of basic services for our people – most of which had been deliberately neglected by the government as a form of collective punishment against Southerners for several decades – and that there is freedom of movement across the city. We stand ready to cooperate with the UN and its partners on the ground to facilitate continuous humanitarian and relief efforts to and through the port city of Aden, as well as medical care for all those injured and affected by the violence.

Your Excellency, the above actions centre on handling the urgent immediate needs on the ground. But to address the root causes of the crisis comprehensively requires a re-doubling of efforts on the political track. In this regard, we welcome Saudi Arabia's initiative to hold talks between the STC and Hadi government. For too long the Southern voice has been excluded from any negotiation table, and therefore we are grateful to Saudi Arabia for taking steps to address this diplomatic deficit. We view these talks as the start of an effort that will finally create a framework under UN auspices which includes the Southern issue and credible representation from the South.

Any alternative approach to the above would not only fail, but it would not be tolerated by our constituency on the ground, including local military forces. The reality is they like us are exhausted of

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the obstacles put in front of Southern inclusion in the political process. We were told previously that the South lacked an organised political entity to represent it. This led to the creation of the STC as the main body from the Southern Movement, which underpins all our efforts. We were told that we needed a clear plan for our role in the political process, and as such the STC embarked on a diplomatic strategy to explain our vision to the international community. And more recently we were told all the various Southern groups needed to coordinate and speak with one voice. This has happened organically among Southern groups, and events in Aden have led to all other Southern political groups announcing their support and backing for the STC. The STC is likewise looking ahead to the South's future; Our political declaration of 15 August sets out the key principles and components of the governance of the South, and for ensuring the security and protection of all civilians.

Your Excellency, we have taken all the actions requested of us to ensure Southern inclusion in a political process to determine our own future. And yet we have been told the timing is not just yet right for our inclusion. Let's be clear: that position is no longer viable. The onus is now on the international community, and in particular the UN Security Council, to accept the new realities on the ground. Ahead of your meeting on 20 August and any future rounds of UN consultations, we urge you to:

(i) Reinvigorate the political process with movement on the South issue. The political process has so far delivered limited progress on many of the key issues of the Yemeni political solution. The developments in the South offer an opportunity to inject energy into UN Envoy Martin Griffiths' efforts, on which the international community must capitalize. We are engaging constructively with the Envoy but the process needs stronger international leadership and leverage over the parties – not only to address the South and include Southerners at the table, but to unlock movement on the other important components of the UN framework for negotiations.

(ii) Deliver urgent funding to UN humanitarian operations in South. Aden is of vital importance to humanitarian access in the South and across Yemen. We encourage you to commit increased earmarked support for the efforts of UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen Lise Grande and Under-Secretary-General Mark Lowcock to ensure sustained access and delivery of basic services to meet the urgent needs on the ground and pave the way for stabilization support for the South down the line.

(iii) Ensure Southern civil society and women leaders can shape the political process. The STC is committed to ensuring women play an active role in its ranks – at the leadership level, national assembly, and in committees supporting our work on the ground. We also regularly engage with Southern civil society and youth to guide our priorities. They are significant voices in Southern society, and any truly broad and comprehensive process must include them. We welcome Mr Martin Griffiths' efforts to consult with members of civil society and efforts by the UN to convene Yemeni women. We call on you to secure a process for more of these representatives to feed their thinking

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into the political process, and to enable them to do so on a sustained basis but with a proper and fair representation of South Yemen women in such initiatives and we're ready to assist with candidates.

Your Excellency, we are at a critical juncture for the South and for the Yemeni political process. The manner in which we handle this moment will have ramifications for the prospect of sustainable peace in the South and the region. We continue to be guided by our responsibility and commitment to the Southern people. And we still firmly believe in a negotiated political solution toward a peaceful future for the South and region, with the international community as partners.

I have copied this letter to UN Secretary General Mr António Guterres, UN Special Envoy for Yemen Mr Martin Griffiths, and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr Mark Lowcock.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mohammed Al-Ghaithi



Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs Department
Southern Transitional Council
Al-Tawahi, Aden

الصادر Outbox	
Date: ١٩-١٠-٢٠١٩	التاريخ: ١٩-١٠-٢٠١٩
Ref: ١٣١-٤٢٢-٢٠١٩	المرجع: ١٣١-٤٢٢-٢٠١٩
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