



Yemen: Political Dynamics and the International Policy Framework

Monday 1 November 2010, Chatham House, London

Draft Conference Agenda

08.45 Arrival and registration

09.15 **Keynote address:** HE Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Foreign Minister, Yemen (tbc)

09.30 **Session 1: Economy and Reform**

This session will examine the extent of Yemen's current economic challenges, addressing the country's transition to a post-oil economy, the devaluation of the riyal, and the impact of rising prices on households and livelihoods. Panellists will debate the current status of remedial measures to tackle the macro-economic crisis, including the option of direct budget support, and discuss the country's future economic prospects. The panel will also address progress on broader governance reforms and anti-corruption measures.

Speakers:

- Abdul Ghani al-Eryani, Independent Analyst
- Dragana Ostojic, International Monetary Fund (tbc)
- Ginny Hill, Chatham House (Chair)

11.00 Tea and coffee

11.30 **Session 2: Politics and Democracy**

This session will look at political tensions surrounding the forthcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2011, and highlight emerging dynamics within the wider political landscape, including the evolution of the opposition coalition and the grievances of the 'non-parties' – the southern separatists and the Houthi insurgents. The panel will address efforts to establish a national dialogue, discuss the implications of the next parliamentary elections and tackle the issue of legitimacy and political inclusion. The panel will also examine the relationship between parliamentary parties and personality politics.

Speakers:

- Dr Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Shoura Council
- Michele Cervone D'Urso, European Union Delegation Yemen
- Dr Yassin Saed Noman, Yemen Socialist Party (tbc)
- Heather Therrien, National Democratic Institute (Chair)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Keynote address**

14.15 **Session 3: Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid – A twin-track approach?**

This session will articulate the pattern of grassroots poverty throughout Yemen and debate the current response. The panel will address humanitarian needs among internally displaced people, as well as severe malnutrition among the general population. The panel will discuss USAID's community-based development approach and explore the leadership roles of the United Nations, the Arab donors, Yemeni civil society and the international aid agencies.

Speakers:

- Abdul Aziz Aluwaisheg, Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat
- Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF
- Ashley Clements, Oxfam
- Chris Boucek, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Chair)

15.45 Tea and coffee

16.15 **Session 4: Security and Diplomacy - 'Stability at all costs'**

This session will address the strategic goals of stability and security. The panel will debate the impact of kinetic counter-terrorism activity, the application of 'post-conflict stabilization' tools in a pre-conflict environment and the evolving framework for multilateral engagement.

Speakers:

- Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Foreign Minister, Yemen (tbc)
- Daniel Benjamin, US State Department
- Frank Gardener, BBC (Chair)

17.45 **Summary:** Stefan Wolff, Birmingham University

18.00 End of conference