Final Report from the Region Defining Committee

10 February 2014

Preamble:

Building on the Presidential Decision no. 2 for the year 2014 on the matter of creating a Region Defining Committee tasked to study and approve a choice of six regions – four in the north and two in the south – or the option of two provinces, or any decision between these two options which may achieve an effective consensus. The Committee will also delineate a number of provinces and states (governorates) which will be formed taking into account the current situation, geographic delimitations and aspects of culture and history.

The decision defines that by the end of the task the commission shall submit its final report to the Constitutional Drafting Commission and specify a number of territories and states (governorates), which embody every region, to be written into the constitution.

The First Committee began its meetings on the 29 January 2014 and was led by ʿAbdrabbuh Mansūr Hādī – the President of the Republic and Chief of the Committee, whereby be affirmed that it was necessary for the members of the committee to operate under the principle of neutrality and rise to national interests during each consideration. Also, in this meeting, it was agreed to form a technical committee to prepare a proposal for the working mechanism of the committee which would be discussed and decided upon in a subsequent meeting that was convened on 2 February 2014. Four official meetings were held with the President of the Republic/Chair of the Committee, in addition to a number of consultative meetings with a number of political and societal representatives

Also the committee hosted a number of local experts with economic, administrative and social specializations in [the interest] of establishing federal regions on solid grounds and economic stability. A number of experiences from federal states across the world, were reviewed [to identify] their most prominent points of strength and weaknesses and what lessons can be learned from them [in the interest] of distributing the benefits of the revolution and of authority.

In light of the special importance of the two city municipalities of Sana'a and Aden, presentations were presented designed to give an overview of the situation of these two cities and the expected central and fundamental role they will play in the unified state. Moreover, building on scientific data on the economic situation and analysis of the political, geographic, social and cultural realities of Yemen, it was agreed that the outputs would be set out in the context of this report.

Principles:

The Committee adopted the principles, agreed on in this document and with the decorum of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, as follows:

- All Yemeni citizens enjoy rights and obligations including equal citizenship.
- Positive rivalry between the regions
- Integration, which ensures the efficient employment of resources in each region and integration with other regions.
- Homogeneity to ensure stability of society and economy to meet the needs of the people for quality of life.
- All levels enjoy levels of rule with reforms outlined in the constitution within the framework of a unitary state.

Committee Work Outcomes:

First: Delineate the number of regions

Building upon data and political visions that were discussed in depth during the period in which the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference was held. And enquire in the principles which were decided by Yemenis to adopt in order to create a unitary state that aims to ensure a fair partnership in the revolution and the authority and to preserve the security and confirm unity, security and the stability of Yemen, most members of the committee agreed to adopt 6 options for the regions wherein there will be two regions in the south and four in the north.

Secondly: Delineating the following state (governorate) for each region and the naming of the regions and appointing of their capitals:

The Committee adopted the following criteria:

- Economic ability and the possibility to enquire into the economic stability of each region
- Geographic linkages
- Societal, cultural and historical factors

Building on these criteria and the agreement between most Committee members, the delineations outlined below were arrived at:

Regions	States (Governorates)	Name of Region	Capital of Region
First	Mahra – Hadramawt – Shabwah – Socotra	Hadramawt	Mukalla
Second	Jawf – Ma'rib – al-Baydah	Seba	Ma'rib
Third	Aden – Abyan – Lahj – al-Dalea	Aden	Aden
Forth	Ta'iz – Ibb	Al-Jund	Ta'iz
Fifth	Sa'dah – Amran – Sana'a – Dhammar	Azal	Sana'a (the Governorate)
Sixth	Hodeidah – Raimah – Mahwit - Hajjah	Tihamah	Hodaydah

Everyone agreed on:

1. The Capital Sana'a: A federal city not subject to the authority of any region, special arrangements to ensure its neutrality and independence will be included in the Constitution.
2. The City of Aden: an administrative and economic city holding a special situation in the framework of the Aden region, to enjoy legislative powers and executive independence.

Secondly: General Provisions

1. The formation of current borders for the governorates, 'states', within each region, constitute the total boundaries of that region.

2. Regional laws must containing the possibility of a return to the internal borders of current constituencies within each Administrative region according to specific rules [to come into force] after the election cycle or more, and this is regulated and issued by the legislature of each region.

3. The law of the regions should determine that the borders of the regions may be reviewed after the election cycle or more, and this is regulated by federal law.

4. To ensure a true partnership in the legislative authority, each region must ensure rotation of the Head of the Legislative Council, as well as ensure fair representation for each state in the Federal Parliament.

5. To ensure a true partnership in the executive authority, each region must ensure a lack of state control over the jurisdiction of government formation in the region.

6. To ensure a fair distribution of the revenues of wealth, in consultation with the regions and the states, [the committee] drafted a standardised and fair distribution of natural and non-natural resource revenues in a transparent manner, fair to all the people and taking into account the needs of the producing region and states, in particular the allocation of revenue from the federal government.

7. To ensure the freedom of trade and economic activity as a means of promoting integration between the regions and facilitate the movement of citizens, goods, services, and money, either directly or indirectly, and not impose any barriers, obstacles, restrictions, customs [tax], tax, or administrative fees when passing from one region to another.

8. Each region has a leading role in economic development and to ensure equal living conditions in all regions through the strengthening of cooperation and solidarity between the regions.

God Bless …

List of signatures from the members of the Regional Delineation Committee

Names
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Muhammad Muhammad Qahtān
Abū Bakr ʿAbd al-Rizaq Bādhīb
Sultān Hizām al-ʿAtwānī
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Sālih Ahmad Hubrah
Ghālib ʿAbd Allah Matliq al-Dālʿaī
Dr ʿAbd Allah Sālim Lamlis
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Dr Afrāh ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz al-Zūbah
Khālid Abū Bakr Bārās
ʿAbd al-Qādr ʿAlī Hilāl
Muhammad ʿAlī Abū Lahūm
Dr Mʿaīn ʿAbd al-Malik Sʿaīd
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Muqbil Nāsr Lakrash
ʿAwad Muhammad bin al-Wazīr al-Awlaqī
Ahmad Muhammad al-Qardʿaī
Dr Ahmad ʿAwad bin Mubārak – Rapporteur of the Committee

Approved by:

ʿAbdrabbuh Mansūr Hādī

President of the Republic

Chairman

[Non-official translation by Imogen Westfield and Robert Forster]