

**Committee:** Security Council

**Topic:** Mitigating the Effects of the Saudi-Iranian Proxy War on Yemen

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**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Charidimos Styliaras and I have the utmost honor of serving as the Deputy President of the Security Council for this year's DSTMUN. I am an 11th-grade student from the German School of Athens and have attended several conferences as a delegate, as well as a chair and I am looking forward to attending more in the near future. During this three-day simulation, we will lobby, debate, and also have fun and I hope those three days will be an unforgettable experience for both you and me.

The Security Council is one of the most challenging committees in both the MUN and the actual UN, having the responsibility to counter the most difficult and complex issues on the planet. One of the topics you will debate upon is the Saudi-Iranian proxy war on Yemen. The purpose of this study guide is to provide you with useful information on the topic at hand and to help you prepare for the conference. Nevertheless, feel free to do further research on the topic.

As far as I am concerned, the MUN is not an activity, but a way of thinking and living. Looking at myself before and after my MUN experience, it has become clear that I am way more educated on the topics that are currently pressing, and that I have also learned to do thorough research on a specific topic and find reliable and trustworthy sources. In case you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me through my email.

I wish you the best and I am looking forward to seeing you in November!

Best regards,

Charidimos Styliaras ([charstlrs@gmail.com](mailto:charstlrs@gmail.com))

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Saudi-Iranian proxy war in Yemen has been one of the many global conflicts that have escalated in recent years. The conflict, which began in earnest in 2015, sees the two countries supporting different factions in Yemen. The Saudi-Arabian government supports the Yemeni government, which was overthrown by the Houthi rebels, while Iran is accused of helping this group of insurgents, the Houthis, which are known for their actions against

the reigning government. This situation is called a proxy-war. More specifically, the two sides, namely Iran and Saudi Arabia, openly support one side of the civil war, without taking part in the armed conflict themselves.

This proxy war, like any other violent conflict, has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis. According to the United Nations, at least 6,660 civilians have been killed and 10,563 injured in the fighting<sup>1</sup> as of 2018. More recent studies indicate that ' "the conflict has led to a humanitarian disaster, the persistence of jihadist groups like al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and over 100,000 casualties"<sup>2</sup>The Yemeni citizens also suffer from famine, displacement, and the lack of necessities, such as clean water, medical attention, clothes, and proper housing. These issues were caused because of the inhumane living conditions in the cities of Yemen, which have become active battlefields.

Consequently, this current issue demands a solution that could help millions of Yemeni citizens, and put an end to the proxy war in Yemen as well as aid mitigate the worldwide effects of the Saudi-Iranian conflict as a whole, while also promoting peace and helping de-escalate this global conflict.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Proxy War

"A war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers and may have help and support from these"<sup>3</sup>

### Sectarianism

"A narrow-minded adherence to a particular sect (political, ethnic, or religious), often leading to conflict with those of different sects or possessing different beliefs. Sectarian conflicts are often breeding grounds for acts of terrorism and the formation of terrorist groups."<sup>4</sup>

### Civil War

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<sup>1</sup> "Yemen conflict: UN experts detail possible war crimes by all parties." BBC, 28 August 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-45329220> . Accessed 3 August 2024.

<sup>2</sup>Krause, Peter, and Tyler B. Parker. "Yemen's proxy wars explained." MIT Center for International Studies, 26 March 2020, <https://cis.mit.edu/publications/analysis-opinion/2020/yemens-proxy-wars-explained>. Accessed 28 August 2024.

<sup>3</sup> "PROXY WAR | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary." Cambridge Dictionary, [https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/proxy-war#google\\_vignette](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/proxy-war#google_vignette). Accessed 17 July 2024.

<sup>4</sup>"Sectarianism." Oxford Reference, <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100451527>. Accessed 17 July 2024.

‘A war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country’<sup>5</sup>

### **Blockade**

“The situation in which a country or place is surrounded by soldiers or ships to stop people or goods from going in or out”<sup>6</sup>

### **Houthi Movement**

“Houthi movement, Islamic fundamentalist movement in northern Yemen and one of the main actors in the Yemeni Civil War.”<sup>7</sup>

### **Militia**

“A body of citizens organized for military service”<sup>8</sup>

### **War Crimes**

“War crimes are those violations of international humanitarian law (treaty or customary law) that incur individual criminal responsibility under international law.”<sup>9</sup>

### **Sunni**

“Sunni, member of one of the two major branches of Islam, the branch that consists of the majority of that religion’s adherents. The Sunnis recognize the first four caliphs as the Prophet Muhammad’s rightful successors.”<sup>10</sup>

### **Shia**

“ Shia is another big branch of the Islamic religion, followed by about one-tenth of Muslims worldwide. Shia Muslims believe that the Prophet publicly designated his cousin and son-in-law, Hazrat Ali (peace be upon him), as the first in a line of hereditary Imams from the Prophet’s family to lead the community after him.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> “Civil war Definition & Meaning.” Merriam-Webster, 13 July 2024, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/civil%20war> . Accessed 17 July 2024.

<sup>6</sup> “BLOCKADE | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary.” Cambridge Dictionary, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/blockade>. Accessed 17 July 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Zeidan, Adam. “Houthi movement | Yemen, Rebels, Red Sea Attacks, & Religion.” Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Houthi-movement>. Accessed 17 July 2024.

<sup>8</sup> “Militia Definition & Meaning.” Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/militia>. Accessed 17 July 2024

<sup>9</sup>“Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect: War crimes.” United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/war-crimes.shtml>. Accessed 17 July 2024.

<sup>10</sup> “Sunni | Definition, Beliefs, & Practices.” Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sunni> . Accessed 28 August 2024.

<sup>11</sup> “Shia and Sunni: Understanding different Muslim interpretations.” The.Ismaili, 10 June 2022, <https://the.ismaili/global/news/features/shia-and-sunni-understanding-different-muslim-interpretations>. Accessed 28 August 2024.

## Coup

“A sudden illegal, often violent, taking of government power, especially by part of an army”<sup>12</sup>

## Gulf States

“The oil-producing countries bordering on or located near the Persian Gulf: Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.”<sup>13</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical Background

#### Root Causes of the Rivalry

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia dates back to 1979, when Iran became an Islamic Republic, posing a threat to the other monarchies in the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia. Iran and Saudi Arabia are also rivals in the area of religion. While they are both Muslim, they support different factions. The Islamic religion has several factions, which have some differences between them concerning some details about food and ways of expressing their beliefs. Two of them are the Sunni and the Shia. Saudi Arabia is predominantly a Sunni nation, while Iran is mostly a Shia nation. This difference has caused conflict since the two sides have different beliefs regarding the righteousness of each faction. Moreover, both nations are two of the largest in the Middle East and are both trying to expand their influence there, as well as in the Gulf, in an attempt to have more countries in the Middle East supporting them, in case of a possible conflict. They try to expand their influence by getting involved in proxy wars all over the Middle East. This means that the two countries support two different sides in many other regional conflicts in the Middle East, for example in countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Bahrain.

Another aspect of their conflict is the financial one. Both countries are major oil producers, making oil their main source of income, since they sell it all around the world. In this case, oil production fosters economic competition and competing interests regarding oil prices, since both countries try to get the largest percentage of the global oil market possible.

The diplomatic relations between the two countries have also been in crisis for many years. They have been strained and worsened multiple times, most notably after the 2016

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<sup>12</sup> “COUP | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary.” Cambridge Dictionary, 21 August 2024, [https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/coup#google\\_vignette](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/coup#google_vignette). Accessed 28 August 2024.

<sup>13</sup> “GULF STATES Definition & Meaning.” Dictionary.com, [https://www.dictionary.com/browse/gulf-states#google\\_vignette](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/gulf-states#google_vignette). Accessed 28 August 2024.

execution of Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr in Saudi Arabia and the following attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran, resulting in deaths and injuries from both sides.

### **The Involvement of Iran and Saudi Arabia in the Yemeni Civil War**

The political instability and the beginning of the civil war commenced in 2012 when long-time Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to resign after mass protests in the Yemeni capital that expanded to the whole country of Yemen. Alarmed by the fact that this switch in the government could cause political instability in Yemen, an organization consisting of all the countries in the Gulf, the Gulf Cooperation Council, decided to appoint Abd Rabbuh Manşūr Hadī as president<sup>14</sup>. But the plan didn't come to fruition, since Hadi's government struggled to cope with problems such as corruption, crime and the influence of terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaeda.

Taking advantage of Hadi's weakness as a president, the Houthi rebels took over the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in September 2014 and forced Hadi to step down and, later, flee to the south of the country. The Saudi Arabian government viewed the Houthi rebels as Iranian proxies, and in an attempt to restore Hadi's government, formed a coalition consisting of many Arab states.

### **The Strategic Interest in Yemen**

#### **Geopolitical Importance**

Yemen is located at the southern tip of the Arab Peninsula and has access both to the Red Sea and to the Gulf of Aden through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait. This strait is a checkpoint for shipments from all over the world, making the position of Yemen even more valuable. And since both countries seek to expand their influence both in the Middle East, as well as all around the world, having control of Yemen could help them achieve that.

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<sup>14</sup>“Abd Rabbuh Manşūr Hadī | president of Yemen.” Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abd-Rabbuh-Mansur-Hadi>. Accessed 28 August 2024.



Figure 1: Map of the Middle East<sup>15</sup>

### Saudi Arabia's Interest

The Saudi intervention in the Yemeni Civil War is, in essence, a product of imperatives driven to contain Iranian influence along its southern flank. The Yemeni civil war, which started in 2014 due to the Houthi rebellion group being affiliated with Iran, presents a real and direct danger to the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the circle of influence falling within the Arabian Peninsula. Riyadh sees the Houthi control of large parts of Yemen through the function of Iranian influence that would afford Tehran the ability to reach the Arabian peninsula and threaten key shipping lanes through the Red Sea. In Yemen, Saudi Arabia is pursuing the restoration of the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, halting the expansion of Iranian-backed Shia forces, and maintaining a buffer state against Iranian expansion. The intervention also serves to prove the will of Saudi Arabia to its regional allies and its commitment to containing Iranian expansionism by indirect military intervention.

### Iran's Interest

<sup>15</sup> "Map Collection of the Middle East - GIS Geography." GISGeography, <https://gisgeography.com/middle-east-map/#Country-Map>. Accessed 17 July 2024.

Iran's involvement in the Yemeni Civil War is driven by its strategic interest to gain further influence and counter Saudi dominance in the region. The support given to the Houthi rebels reflects the Iranian intention to establish a proxy presence on the Arabian peninsula, which constitutes a critical leverage point against Saudi Arabia. On their part, the Houthis-most of whom happen to be of the Zaidi sect, a branch close to Iran's Shiite leaders Tehran an opportunity to reach and encroach on Saudi Arabia from all sides, while reaching across the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Iranian support for the Houthis through arms supplies, training, and political support is part of a wider game plan aimed at challenging Sunni-dominated regional order and disrupting Saudi Arabia's regional ambitions. It provides Tehran with a chance to put pressure on the Saudi leadership without resorting to open force, and it serves as Iran's way of achieving real leverage in the strategically important region. This furthers its influence in the Middle East arena.

### MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

#### United States of America (USA)

The United States of America is one of the nations that fully support the Saudi-led coalition and want to restore Hadi's government. "That is because the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have shared a strategic partnership for over 80 years."<sup>16</sup> The partnership includes the supply of drone weapons and diplomatic support. The US has diplomatic facilities all over Saudi Arabia more specifically in Jeddah, Dhahran, and Riyadh. The United States was the largest supplier of defense to Saudi Arabia, while the Saudi defense establishment remained the single largest U.S. Foreign Military Sales customer. With restraints, the US has also given some logistical support by enhancing Saudi Arabia's missile defense architecture through joint military exercises. They have also provided Saudi Arabia with many weapons and have launched numerous drone strikes in Yemen against the Houthis and Al-Qaeda in extended efforts to restore Hadi's government.

#### Russian Federation

Although the Russian Federation is among the most powerful military superpowers in the world, it has not directly engaged in the war and often supports peace and a ceasefire. However, Russia has provided weapons to the Houthis on general neutrality, and in the event of emergence as winners, it would weaken their opponents, the USA, hence making the outcome of interest to the Russian Federation. Russia has criticized the west over policies in the Middle East, including support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. Russian officials have strongly condemned the humanitarian consequences of the coalition's military campaign, most especially the airstrikes and blockades that dramatized the humanitarian crisis. The attitude of Russia toward the Yemeni crisis is part of its broader policy of counterbalancing U.S. influence in the Middle East. Presenting itself as an

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<sup>16</sup> "U.S. Relations With Saudi Arabia - United States Department of State." State Department, 1 November 2023, <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-saudi-arabia/>. Accessed 28 August 2024.

alternative diplomatic player allows Russia to expand its influence in the region. Russia also looks at Yemen through the prism of its greater Middle East policy. By being neutral and balanced, Russia tries to actuate its role as a significant factor in the geopolitics of the Middle East and perhaps launch itself as a mediator in regional disputes.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

In Syria too, though the mention may be more abstract, the role becomes more indirect, signifying the larger strategic alliance between Syria and Iran. In other words, even if not directly involved in the Yemen affair, strong alignment with Iran massively influences the whole dynamic of the proxy war. Being the main regional ally of Iran offers Syria leeway to support Iran's regional policies for sustaining the broader axis of resistance arrayed against Saudi Arabia. The Iranian involvement in Yemen through support to Houthi rebels is part of the wider strategy of counterbalancing Saudi influence in the region, including in Syria. In return, Saudi attempts to weaken Iran in Yemen are bound to its greater goal of undermining Iranian influence across the Middle East, including in Syria. It is, however, apparent that Syria has no direct stake in Yemen's conflict but stands to benefit from the war's outcome since it is crucial to any balance of power in the region, hence impacting Syrian and Iranian interests.

### **Arab League**

The Arab League, an organization with all of the Middle East countries, has consistently supported the government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, due to the majority of its members doing the same, which is internationally recognized as the legitimate authority in Yemen. The League has condemned the Houthi takeover of the capital, Sanaa, and other parts of Yemen as an illegitimate coup. Several Arab League members, particularly Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt, have been key participants in the coalition fighting against the Houthi rebels. The League has broadly supported these efforts, framing the intervention as necessary to counter Iranian influence in Yemen and protect regional security across the Gulf. Even though the Arab League itself has not provided humanitarian aid, many of its members have done so, for example, Kuwait, which has invested huge sums of money to organizations like UNICEF and WHO, as well as the nation's NGOs which are also actively involved in the area, by providing medical support to the injured.

### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

The ICRC has been active in providing assistance and reaching out with regard to Yemen. To millions of people caught in the middle of the conflict, the organization supplies food, water, medical facilities and other needed items. Using cases from the Yemeni crisis, the ICRC has set up operations in different areas under the control of the different factions, so that the vulnerable people are assisted irrespectively of the political authority. The ICRC



also supports the advancement of the health facilities<sup>17</sup>. These health facilities include hospitals that the ICRC assists by donating medical items, training the health personnel, and sometimes offering funds. This also undertakes mobile health clinics to conduct a health outreach in hard-to-reach and insecure zones where healthcare is nearly nonexistent.

### BLOCS EXPECTED

#### Bloc A

The first alliance consists of countries that are in favor of the Saudi-led coalition and the United States, for example the United Kingdom. Those countries generally advocate for the restoration of Hadi's government and the embargo on the Houthis.

#### Bloc B

The second alliance consists of countries that support Iran and the Houthis, or maintain an alliance with Russia, such as China. They want to form a new government, not led by Hadi and want the Houthis to officially take charge of Yemen.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

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<sup>17</sup> Abdullah, Abdulmalik. "Yemen." ICRC, <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/yemen>. Accessed 28 August 2024.

Date	Description of event
1979	Iran becomes an Islamic Republic.
October 21 2011	Resolution 2014 was adopted proposing measures about the political transition process after the Arab Spring protests.
February 27 2012	Ali Abdullah Saleh resigns, after being Yemeni president for multiple years.
February 27 2012	The Gulf Cooperation Council selects the then vice president Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, as the man to succeed Saleh.
June 12 2012	Resolution 2051 was adopted, reaffirming the Security Council's support for the political transition process.
September 21 2014	The Houthis take over Sana'a and push Hadi's government away from power.
March 26 2015	Saudi Arabia creates the coalition, with the aim of restoring Hadi's government.
April 14 2015	Resolution 2216 was adopted, imposing arms embargo on the Houthi rebels.

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### S/RES/2014<sup>18</sup>

This resolution, adopted on October 21, 2011 by the Security Council, addressed the political crisis in Yemen following the Arab Spring protests. It suggested an inclusive political transition process and expressed the SC's support for the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) initiative to facilitate a peaceful transfer of power from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to his vice president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.

### S/RES/2051<sup>19</sup>

The resolution, drafted on June 12th, 2012 and adopted by the Security Council, reaffirms the Security Council's support for Yemen's political transition process, which was initiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative and its implementation

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Security Council. "Resolution 2014." Resolution 2014, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2014> . Accessed 5 August 2024.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations. "Resolution 2051." 2012, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2051> . Accessed 5 August 2024.

mechanism. This initiative led to the resignation of President Saleh and the election of his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, as the new president in February 2012. This resolution also condemns any form of violence against civilians by Al-Qaeda, and urges that all parties refrain from violent actions. It emphasizes the importance of an inclusive National Dialogue Conference (NDC) that involves all segments of Yemeni society, including youth, women, and the southern and Houthi movements. The NDC was a crucial part of the transitional process aimed at drafting a new constitution and addressing the grievances of various groups in Yemen.

### **S/RES/2216<sup>20</sup>**

This UN Security Council resolution was published on April 14th 2015, and was one of the most crucial ones, since it imposed heavy measures on the Houthi rebels. The first measure was an arms embargo on the rebels, making them weaker regarding their weaponry and also urging them to engage in peace talks with the other parties so as to ensure the safety of the civilians. Lastly, this resolution suggested that the Houthis should withdraw their troops from most of the areas they had seized, but this measure was never fully implemented due to the lack of oversight. Another measure aims that the Houthis relinquish all additional arms seized from military and security institutions, including missile systems.

### **United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA)**

It was founded in December 2018 after the Stockholm Agreement; the significant diplomatic deal signed between the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebels under UN auspices. The most significant function is observing the cease-fire in the seaport of Hudaydah, controlling the parties' forces' movements, and coordinating the delivery of humanitarian aid. Hodeida is one of the critical entry points for the shipment of humanitarian aid implying that the continuation of conflict in the city threatens the smooth delivery of aid. Unlike any other typical peace support operation of the United Nations, UNMHA has a very limited number of international civilian personnel with no enforcement capability. It is run by a civilian Special Envoy and is made up of a few staff most of whom are drawn from the military. Still, the mission has experienced serious difficulties attributed to insecurity, limitation of mobility, and some resistance from the Secretary of Parties.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **National Dialogue Conference (NDC)**

Explained through the prism of Yemen's National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which spanned from March 2013 to January 2014, there was a political process that was significant in addressing Yemen's inclusive future. But soon enough this committee was foiled by an increase in violence and the country turned out to be a battlefield between Iran and Saudi

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<sup>20</sup> "S/RES/2216 (2015) | Security Council." *the United Nations*, <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/2216-%282015%29-0> . Accessed 5 August 2024.

Arabia, hence mediating in Yemen hardly benefited the country. While Hadi's government enjoys international recognition, Riyadh remains committed to Hadi's presidency while Tehran is believed to be providing support for the rebel Houthi group. Instead, it fuelled sectarian division and geopolitical tension paving the way for civil war resulting in great destruction.

### **Geneva Talks**

The Geneva Talks on Yemen, conducted in 2015, represented an early attempt by the United Nations to mediate peace in the ongoing Yemeni Civil War. These negotiations aimed at establishing a ceasefire and talking about political solutions involved representatives from both the internationally recognized Yemeni government and Houthi rebels. Unfortunately, even though they had high hopes, no significant progress was made because of deep-seated mistrust and fundamental disagreements among the parties involved. Therefore, the failure of these talks underlined how complicated this conflict is as well as the challenges that international mediators meet when trying to bring peace to Yemen.

### **STC Independence**

In the year 2020, the Southern Movement made its significant move towards peace in Yemen. The Southern Transitional Council (STC), which is a separatist organization seeking to achieve independence for South Yemen, established its self-rule in the southern parts of the country. This act was meant to bring about stability to those areas under their control and at the same time diminish the powers of both Houthi forces and the internationally accepted government of Yemen. While meant to restore some sort of peace and order, it only increased conflicts and divisions further, thus hindering any peace negotiations in Yemen.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Establishment of Buffer Zones**

Buffer zones should be established in strategically important and heavily contested areas, such as along key frontlines in cities like Hodeidah, Taiz, and Marib, or along borders between territories controlled by different factions. These zones could also include key infrastructure such as ports, airports, and major roads to ensure they remain operational and accessible for humanitarian aid. The UN can also deploy international observers or a UN-led mission (e.g., UNMHA) to monitor and enforce the buffer zones and ensure that the zones will be safe for all civilians. These observers should have the authority to report violations directly to the UN Security Council, with a rapid response mechanism in place to address breaches. Integrate buffer zones with granted and safe access for all citizens through protected paths to ensure safe passage for aid deliveries and civilians. These corridors would

be overseen by international organizations and supported by all parties to the conflict under UN supervision.

### **Demilitarization**

Spending more time and plans to demilitarize through gradual steps that range from the withdrawal of heavy weapons and foreign fighters from major towns and regions, can prove to be an effective way of demilitarization. This should form part of a wider disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process for combatants. The set up of arms collection points within buffer zones where combatants can surrender their weapons without any fear could build confidence and trust between the combatants. Some form of incentives such as monetary rewards or vocational training programs should be availed for all those willing to take part in this process and these monetary rewards would be allocated by the World Bank. The responsible parties should also create extensive reintegration schemes for ex-combatants which will encompass job training opportunities, educational possibilities, as well as psychological support systems so that they can integrate into civilian life seamlessly, a process overseen and conducted by the UN. The needs of child soldiers and women who were either part of the conflict or affected by it ought to be considered particularly.

### **Ceasefire Agreements**

In regions with acute humanitarian crises or escalating harm towards innocent lives, localized cessation of hostilities should be initiated. If they succeed, these localized ceasefires could give rise to wider ones across the nation. Furthermore, particular objectives like facilitation of humanitarian aid or reconstruction of crucial structures may be set as conditions for the localized efforts. A comprehensive ceasefire should be established with inputs from all involved parties and brokered by the United Nations Special Envoy on Yemen. The plan should provide clear timelines, and verification frameworks and specify consequences for non-compliance. The responsible parties should also create a strong mechanism to monitor and verify adherence to ceasefires. This could involve combining military personnel from both sides in support of established monitoring teams consisting of international watchers as well as representatives of local NGOs. These groups would then report back on behalf of an independent UN agency overseeing ceasefire agreements.

### **Decentralization of Political Power**

Yemen's decentralization of politics through federalism is another possible solution for its ongoing conflict. If Yemen is organized into a federal system consisting of semi-autonomous regions governed by different authorities and having economic powers of their own this would constitute that numerous interests of different tribes, and political parties in Yemen, as well as resistance movements will be represented. This avenue will be addressing age-old complaints of alienation as well as grievances about the distribution of

resources, so that areas have greater latitude to manage their own issues without interfering with the larger national agenda. Federalism can also relieve the central government from overly burdening itself with local issues, hence enabling it to concentrate on peace-building if all conflicts are settled on a local level thereby creating stability throughout Yemen.

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