

Yemen - The Way Forward

September 20, 2017

Haus der Akademie
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Tiergartenstr. 35
10785 Berlin

It has now been six years since the initial uprising against former long-time Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, with the country enduring power struggles among various groups fighting for control since the failed transition in 2011. Reaching a political solution up to this point has proven nearly impossible, and as a result, Yemen is currently suffering a humanitarian disaster including continued civilian casualties, internal displacement, and food insecurity. Ending the conflict and bringing peace to Yemen needs to be a priority for the international community, not only for the future of Yemen's own security and stability, but for that of the entire region, as conflict spillover remains a serious threat to neighboring countries.

In order to illuminate some of the key issues defining the developments in Yemen, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Gulf Research Center (GRC) hold an exclusive discussion on "Yemen - The Way Forward", on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, in Berlin, Germany.

This timely event is convened while a state of emergency is declared in Sanaa, prospects for ending the Yemen conflict face persisting political and security challenges and the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen perseveres despite international aid pledges. As a result, this workshop aims to shed light on the status of the political process and negotiations to settle the conflict, focusing on the key developments in the humanitarian and economic development field, and outlining the priorities and position of Yemenis alongside the role that external actors like Germany and the European Union can put forward when it comes to the complex challenges of the Yemen crisis.

The workshop is meant to provide a forum for a frank discussion on the Yemen conflict, bringing together stakeholders and experts to discuss the political, economic and social angles of the crisis and prospects for conflict resolution mechanisms.

AGENDA

September 20, 2017:

9:30 Registration and Coffee Reception

10:00 – 10:15

Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers

Deputy Secretary General and Head of European and International Cooperation
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin

H.E. Dr. Yahia Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibi

Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Germany

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager

Chairman
Gulf Research Center

10:15 – 11:30

Panel One: What is at stake in Yemen at the national, regional and international level?

For many especially outside the region, the conflict in Yemen appears far away and is difficult to properly understand. Why is it nevertheless important to pay attention to the Yemeni conflict? What is at stake not only for the Yemenis but for regional and international actors alike? What are the repercussions of a continued conflict and why must the international community pay more attention to this issue?

Chair:

Thomas Birringer

Head of Middle East and North Africa Department
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Speakers:

Dr. Rashad Alalimi

Advisor to the President
Former Deputy Prime Minister
Yemen

Michael Ohnmacht

Head of Middle East Division
German Foreign Office, Berlin

Rosamaria Gili (TBC)

Head of Division for Gulf and Yemen
European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Khalid Hassan Al-Afeef
President
Initiative for a New Yemen

11:30 – 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00

Panel Two: Understanding the Yemeni Crisis: Who are the key actors and what do they want?

The Yemeni crisis is complicated by the myriad of actors pursuing competing agendas. Who are these actors and what are their interests, goals and objectives when it comes to the current conflict? What are the key fault lines to be aware of and what is the context in which those agendas must be understood?

Chair:

Dr. Edmund Ratka
Middle East and North Africa Department
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Speakers:

Rajeh Hussein Badi
Government Spokesman
Advisor to the Prime Minister
Yemen

Marie-Christine Heinze
President
CARPO – Center for Applied Research in Partnership with
the Orient, Bonn

Anne-Linda Augustin
Associate Researcher
Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS)
University of Marburg

Dr. Mustafa Alani
Senior Advisor
Program Director, Security and Defense Studies
Gulf Research Center

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15

Panel Three: Institution Building and the Political Process in Yemen

What are realistic outlines for initiating a political process among the parties in Yemen? What are lessons learned from past effort at institution-building and on what basis can such a process take place? What role can external actors play in support of a political resolution to the crisis?

Chair:

Dr. Christian Koch

Director
Gulf Research Center Foundation

Speakers:

Dr. Mohammed Jumaih

Political Activist and Writer, Yemen

Dr. Abdulkader Alguneid

Physician, Political Activist, Yemen

Arwa Hassan (TBC)

Programme Director, Good Governance Cluster for Yemen, Office Sana'a
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Dr. Oliver Wills

Programme Director Middle East and North Africa
Berghof Foundation, Berlin

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:45

Panel Four: Tackling the humanitarian crisis and conceiving a socio-economic agenda for Yemen

What are the immediate humanitarian needs of the country of Yemen and how can an action plan be implemented that alleviates the most pressing concerns? What are the responsibilities of the involved actors to avoid a further decline in the humanitarian situation? In what key areas can actors like Germany and the European Union play a contributing role? What are the lessons learned from past developmental approaches to Yemen? What aspects of a developmental approach can be implemented while the crisis continues? What are the pillars on which development and technical assistance can be structured? How can coordination between local, regional and international actors be improved in order to be effective?

Chair:

Dr. Gidon Windecker

Former director, Regional Programme for the Gulf States,
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Speakers:

Sameer Shaibani

Vice-Minister for Human Rights
Republic of Yemen

Hooria Mashhour

Transitional Justice Center, Yemen

Abdulaziz Al-Mikhlafi

Secretary-General
Ghorfa, Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

Klaus Krämer

Head of Division for the Middle East II
German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development

16:45 – 17:00

Policy Recommendation and Conclusion of the Workshop