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A vision about relationship between national and local governance in the post-agreement stage and peace establishment in Yemen

The problem of the imbalance in the equitable distribution of power and wealth, as well as the problems resulting from the dominance of the Center and the strong administrative and financial control and the nature of the relationship between center and local administrations (or national governance); had been one of the most important dilemmas and challenges faced by Yemen, whether before the revolution of September 26, 1962 or the subsequent or even after the achievement of Yemeni unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990.

These challenges have led to many conflicts, a state of political and security instability, disruptions in existing systems of government, growing discontent and popular dissatisfaction, compounded by increasing accumulations, reaching bloody conflict levels, numerous cycles of violence, and emergence of regional blocs and agglomerations which culminated in the demand for secession in some parts of Yemen, as in the southern governorates.

And In spite of all the attempts made to alleviate the regional conflicts, and to give an opportunity to encourage localities to play a role in the administrative and development field through the arrangement of local councils or local authorities, and the predominance of this issue on the outcomes of the national dialogue discussed on the restructuring of the state and the idea of regions and equitable distribution Of



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power, wealth and good governance; however, those attempts remained just ideas that did not find their way into implementation practice.

These efforts have been completely hindered by the events and developments that followed the completion of the Dialogue Conference, which was hoped to be an entry point for national reconciliation and tolerance among Yemenis, and start building the modern national state.

However, the reconciliation and tolerance was absent from the table of the dialogue conference, and the Yemenis emerged from it with their various components and orientations. They are more divided and divided, and this reached the bloody military confrontations and the intensification of entrenchment behind different positions and opposing tendencies in the absence of a comprehensive national project.

As it is hoped that the efforts of the United Nations and the support of the international community will bring the Yemeni parties back to the table of dialogue that can lead to the end of the current impasse and achieve an agreement that guarantees the achievement of peace and building the desired Yemeni state; it is one of the most important tasks of the next phase, whether transitional or the next, is to find objective and logical solutions to the relationship between the national (central) authority and the local authorities in the regions, provinces or administrative units in general.



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This should be in accordance with what is agreed upon and brought out by the new constitution and in line with the Yemeni reality and meet the aspirations of the Yemeni people and their current and future needs.

In my view, resolving the issue of the equitable distribution of power and wealth requires a realistic vision by ensuring broad participation in national decision-making, creating fair outlets for sovereign wealth and domestic revenue, and creating a logical balance between the role and functions of the central authority and local authorities, Lack of influence or dominance in the new emerging local context.

This will be done only in accordance with an agreement and based on the outcomes of the next dialogue, which should be well prepared to overcome the negatives and gaps that existed in the preparation of the previous national dialogue conference, both in terms of the level and fairness of representation and participation, the absorption of all political and social forces and actors, Their importance and actual needs are enriched by wide-ranging discussions in which as many political forces and social groups are involved as possible.

It is important that the vision includes a clear definition of the powers granted to the Center (national governance) in management and oversight through a particular financial and administrative system, or in the agreed local government formula in which the regions and parties have greater powers and authorities, and a kind of financial independence through self-financing sources for regions or administrative units.



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In this context, the issue of local governance should in no way be seen as an issue of an internal administrative nature within the normal contexts of the day-to-day administration of the State, since that is a deficient view; there should be a broader concept of local authorities of a political nature, It has the ability to participate actively in the formulation of the general national decision and within the framework of what will be determined in the nature of the relationship between the center and between the regions, localities and administrative units, or in determining the shape of the Yemeni state in the post-crisis period, and after bringing peace to the country.

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This is because the foundation is not naming, but the essence is the practice, and preserving the state's cohesion, not weakening it, exercising its sovereign role, guaranteeing national partnership, and defining the nature of the practice which should be between the central framework and the local framework, and in the target of giving citizens the administrative units the opportunity to manage their local affairs, And accelerate their pace at the national or local level.



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This should be illustrated in the articles of the new constitution, as well as the law of Local Government and its Bylaws, which should include financial and administrative details, and even the political framework that governs it.

The preparation of such a law should be a priority and be consistent with the preparation of the new constitution, especially on "governance" and local governance in particular, and include a precise description of the concept of local government and its powers and its relationship with the central authority (Provinces / provinces / states).

And here, I refer to view some parties in Yemen see it that its near to realistic, and fit with the Yemeni situation and the complexities prevailing. This view goes to divide of Yemen into 22 provinces or state instead of six provinces, and gives each region or state is the full powers of the territory in the federal sense or the full authority. What is important is substance, not form.

It is also important to ensure the equitable distribution of wealth and benefits so that two things can be achieved. First, the integration of the state's territories, which is required to maintain its geographical and geopolitical units, and secondly, to satisfy the local component in these areas so as not to seek protest, For separation, which is in the public interest in the end.

In addition, the powers, rights and duties of all local components of the Yemeni state should be regulated in all the fields.

However, the center, both of the executive and legislative authorities, should avoid politicizing the financial and administrative framework of local governance.



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It is also necessary that the proposed law clearly includes the duties of the Center vis-à-vis the territories or parties, both with regard to the distribution of sovereign revenues such as oil, mineral and tourism revenues, as well as projects related to fisheries and shipping, or development projects which will be undertaken by the central authority.

What is more important is that to be there a balance between these considerations based on legitimate concerns of citizens in the different regions of Yemen based on actual experiences that have taken place, and that there should be no exaggeration in giving the parties and sub-regions and smaller local units an independence that would enable them to turn in the event of political or security crises to a separatist regions, or to be independent in any way, thereby fragmenting the State.

Future Vision

It seems important that the system of local government in Yemen be based on a precise description of the functions of the state and localities grouped in the concepts of political science and regional and international experiences, both in the unified countries of central nature, or in federal states, especially countries whose conditions are similar to the circumstances Yemen, on the one hand, and on the other, the differences in the societal sphere, and the nature of the culture and the prevailing local environments, in a manner that ensures the unity of the Yemeni entity.



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In this regard, it is important to be clear to the authors of the laws and legislation necessary to regulate this matter taking into account the following:

1. In addition to the presence of the local police, consisting mainly of members of the province or state; It becomes to deploy the security and the armed forces, and to distribute the security headquarters of the sovereign agencies, such as the General Intelligence, National Security, and others, but in condition that its authorities be affiliated exclusively to the center with branches for local or subsidiary units, and not to be any military or security units; independent or affiliated to any local unit.

2. That there should be greater powers for the Center in matters of civil status in order to preserve the Yemeni identity in all transactions of Yemeni citizens related to identity papers, nationality, passports or elections, and related thereto.

3. Establishing a special framework for the parties of the state, so that there are exceptional situations in organizing matters of defense and security of border areas and internal areas which have special security nature, in order to link them all to the center in the capital.

4. Complete the process of cleansing the country of terrorism and eliminate the manifestations of the disarming of weapons, because the most important impediment to the local government are the security factors that impede the performance of their daily activities or development services.

5. Take legal and administrative measures to enable citizens of all regions of Yemen to exploit local resources and employ it to serve development.



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6. The state should abide by the establishment of projects specialized in the local framework, and each region and place according to its nature and capabilities (agricultural / fishing / tourism / oil, etc.).

7. Rehabilitation of the public services network in the general national and local frameworks, especially water, electricity, roads, health and education. With regard to electricity, stations will be established at the central and local levels, ensuring the decentralization of the electricity network.

8. Accelerate the establishment of a legislative system that ensures the exercise of administrative and financial powers, and participation of decision-making; in both local and national public frameworks.

9. Create urgent plans to provide minimum services and security to citizens, and at the medium and long term.

In any case, in order to achieve reconciliation and ensure stability in Yemen over a long and lasting period, the following observations should be taken. This is a personal vision that I see as necessary for the upcoming confrontations of the State of Yemen:

1. Ensuring national partnership in the state administration. This requires that the new constitution stipulate a system of transitional rule. It must ensure that this partnership must be between the various political forces, and the transitional phase must be at least two electoral cycles regardless of any outcome election results or the party which has the consensus, to consecrate the concept of consensual democracy, and to ensure that no single political power monopolizes the authority,



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and for a sufficient period of time to prepare the society for the stage of pluralistic, competitive democracy.

4. It is necessary to provide an integrated economic and development vision to promote the economic and developmental aspects, exploit the economic and human capacities and capacities, open wide outlets for investment, localize local and regional industries, create jobs and increase production and speed up development in various fields.

5. It is important to affirm the necessary and mutual assurances between the various local and regional parties to enhance confidence, achieve internal and regional security, and establish equal relations based on common interests and mutual benefits, and the service of international peace.