

Regions Committee

Final Report of the Regions Committee

February 10, 2014

Introduction:

Pursuant to Republican Decree No.2 for the year 2014 on the establishment of the Regions Committee which defined its tasks in studying and determination the six regions options - four in the North and two in the South and the two-regions options and any other option in between having the highest degree of consensus. The determination of the Committee shall be enforceable. The Committee was also tasked with determination of the number of regions and states (governorates) in each region with due consideration to the current situation, geographical contiguity and historical and cultural factors.

The Decree stated that by the end of its assignment, the Committee shall present its final report to the Constitution Drafting Commission and shall define the number of regions and states (Governorates) making-up each region to be included in the Constitution.

The Committee held its first meeting on January 29, 2014 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic/ chairman of the Committee who reaffirmed the need for each member to be impartial and to uphold the nation's highest interest above all others. An agreement was reached in the meeting to establish a technical sub-committee to develop a mechanism for work for the Committee. In the second meeting which was held on February 2, 2014, the mechanism was discussed and adopted. The Committee held four meetings under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic/ Chairman of the Committee. In addition, a number of consultation meetings with representatives of the social and political constituencies were held.

The Committee also invited a number of local experts on the economy, management and sociology relevant to the determination of the federal regions on the basis of economic integration and stability. Likewise, a number of international experiences in federalism were reviewed with emphasis on strengths and weaknesses and lessons learnt from such experiences, especially with respect to the distribution of revenues of power and wealth.

Due to the special significance of the two cities, the Capital City and the City of Aden, two presentations were made to give a general overview of the situation of these two important cities to enable them to play the anticipated role as fundamental pillars of the federal state. On the basis of such scientific input on the economic situation and analysis of the political, geographical, social and cultural situation in Yemen, a consensus was reached on the outcomes shown in the context of this report.

Principles:

The Committee relied on the principles included in the NDC's documents and literatures which had been the subject of consensus as follows:-

- Enjoyment by all Yemenis of all rights and duties in a manner that realizes equal citizenship.
- Positive competition between regions.
- Integration that ensures efficient utilization of all resources in each region and integration with other regions.
- Homogeneity to ensure social and economic stability to respond to the needs of the people for a decent life.
- Each tier of governance in the State shall enjoy powers to be defined in the Constitution of the federal State.

Outcomes of the Committee

First: Identification of the number of regions:

Based on the set of data, information and political visions discussed in-depth in the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and the realization of the principles that Yemenis have decided to rely on in the establishment of the federal state with the aim of ensuring fair partnership in power and wealth and the maintenance of social security and stability and in reaffirmation of the unity, security and stability of Yemen, most of the members of the Committee have reached a consensus on the six-regions option- two regions in the South and four in the North.

Second: Identification of the states (Governorates) in each region, naming of the region and identification of its capital city.

The Committee based its decision on the following criteria:

- Economic capacity and the capability of each region to achieve economic stability.
- Geographical interconnection.
- Social, cultural and historic factors

On the basis of such criteria and the consensus of most members of the Committee, the Committee reached the determination set forth in the following table:

Table No. (1)

Regions	States (Gov.)	Name of the Region	Capital of the Region
One	Maharah, Hadhermout, Shabwah and Socotra	Hadhermout	Mukalla
Two	Al-Jawf, Mareb and Al-Baidha	Saba (Sheba)	City of Mareb
Three	Aden, Abyan, Lahj and Al-Dhalea'a	Aden	City of Aden
Four	Taiz and Ibb	Janad	City of Taiz
Five	Sa'adah, Amran, Sana'a and Dhamar	Azal	Sana'a (Governorate)
Six	Hodeidah, Raimah, Mahweet and Hajjah	Tihama	City of Hodeidah

It was also agreed that each of the following shall be:

1. City of Sana'a: A federal city autonomous from all regions and is not subject to their powers. Special arrangements shall be made in the Constitution to ensure impartiality and independence of the City.
2. City of Aden: An administrative and economic city of special status within the Aden region. It shall enjoy independent and executive powers to be defined in the federal constitution.

Third: General Provisions:

1. The current boundaries of each Governorate "state" under each region constitute the total boundaries of each region.
2. The law of the regions shall provide for the possibility of a review of the internal borders forming each region and the administrative division in accordance with specific standards after one or more electoral terms. This shall be organized by a law to be issued by the legislative authority in each region.

3. The Law of the regions shall state that the borders of each region can be reviewed after one or more electoral term and this shall be regulated by a federal law.
4. To ensure genuine partnership in the legislative authority of each region, the principle of rotation of the presidium of each legislative council shall be applied. Fair representation of each state in the federal parliament shall be guaranteed.
5. To ensure genuine partnership in the executive authority of each region, no one specific state shall dominate the formation of the government in that region.
6. To ensure equitable distribution of revenues from wealth, criteria and a formula for the distribution of revenues from natural and non-natural resources shall be developed in consultation with the regions and the states. The formula shall be transparent and fair for all citizens with special consideration to the needs of producing states and regions and the allocation of a share of the revenues for the federal government.
7. Guarantee of freedom of trade and economic activities to promote integration between regions, facilitation of the movement of citizens, goods, products and money and services - both direct and indirect. No barriers - customs, tax or administrative shall be imposed that would curtail movement from one region to another.
8. Each region shall have the lead on the economic development of the region. The Federal State shall guarantee equal living standards in all regions through the promotion of values of cooperation and solidarity between regions.

“End of Report”

List of signatures of members of the Regions Committee

Name		Signature
1	Dr. Abdul-karim Al-Eryani	
2	Mohamed Mohamed Qahtan	
3	Abu-Baker Abdul-Razaq Badeeb	
4	Sultan Hizam Al-Atwani	
5	Yaseen Omar Makawi	
6	Saleh Ahmed Habrah	
7	Ghaleb Abdullah Motleq Al-Dhalea'ai	
8	Dr. Abdullah Salem Lamles	
9	Nadia AbdulAziz Al-Saqaf	
10	Dr. Afrah Abdul-Aziz Al-Zobah	
11	Khaled Abu Baker Baras	
12	Abdulqader Ali Hillal	
13	Mohamed Ali Abu Lihoom	
14	Dr. Maeen AbdulMalik Saeed	
15	Ahmed Abu Baker Bazaraah	
16	Yaser Ahmed Salim Alawadhi	
17	Saeed Salim Bahaqeebah	
18	Dr. Al-Izzy Hebatallah Shuraim	
19	Moqbel Naser Lakrash	
20	Awadh Mohamed Bin Alwazir Al-Aulaqi	
21	Ahmed Mohamed Al-Qarda'ai	
22	Dr. Ahmed Awadh Ben Mubarak, Rapporteur	

Endorsed by:

Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi
President of the Republic
Chairman of the Committee