

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

MISSION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU YÉMEN



الوفد الدائم للجمهورية اليمنية

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

**DELEVERD BY**

**H.E. DR. KHADIJA AL-HYSAMI  
MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
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Mr. President of the Council,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

At the outset, It is my pleasure to express to you, Mr. president, our sincere appreciation for the efforts you exerted during this period as you assumed the responsibility of great and significant tasks in order to establish the institutional and legislative basis, mechanisms and system of the work of the Council.

The first year of the Council, which is coming to an end, witnessed many regular and special sessions that concentrated on a large number of human rights issues in the world, as well as the large number of working group sessions for the improvement and rationalization of all the mandates, mechanisms, functions, and responsibilities of the Council.

Mr. President,

The Yemeni arena has witnessed great political, cultural, social and intellectual activity, in which political parties emerged, and civil society organizations were formed, which has witnessed great development and diversification in the different areas of development, human rights, and public freedoms. And the private press has developed and its interests and concerns has varied to ensure the diversity of views and the rejection of the culture of violence and extremism

In order to keep pace with the dramatic changes the Yemeni arena has witnessed in the various fields, many new laws and legislations has been issued and many other laws were amended to ensure all political, cultural, and social rights are protected, As Yemen has ratified close to 60 international treaty related to human rights and that is a tremendous asset in the Yemeni legislative system .This reinforced the values and principles of human rights and the values of freedom and our country has achieved many great accomplishments that constitute a real qualitative leap to correct visions and objectives towards building The modern Yemen.

The trends associated with human rights and public freedoms in Yemen indeed stress that guaranteeing human rights is an end we seek to achieve in the context of the establishment of a state of institutions and the building of a free and plural society.

In the last presidential and local council elections held on 20 September 2006, Yemen has witnessed significant developments in the indicators of political participation. Where free and fare elections took place under a competitive and democratic climate and atmosphere, witnessed by several international, Arab, and local organizations who praised these elections for their fairness and for the integrity of the electoral process.

One of the results of these elections was that it created new values and culture in the process of political practice, which will enhance the collective popular awareness in the

medium and long term alike, and what is closely linked to it from fundamental reforms in various fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Proceeding from the belief that the promotion and protection of human rights is an important and honorable task, fraught with great difficulties and challenges, the coordination of efforts of all governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations becomes a necessity that can not in any way be ignored or overlooked.

Civil society organizations has witnessed great development in the Yemeni arena of where its roles has been expanded and its activities has been extended to include many working fields like women issues, child issues, legislation and laws relating to human rights, prisoners issues, refugees issues, human rights education, the right to health, and fundamental freedoms issues, which in total forms a key element in the dissemination of the culture of human rights, and supports national efforts at the level of every Arab country.

Accordingly, it can be said that the relationship between the Yemeni government and civil society organizations is mainly a relationship of partnership that we constantly work to strengthen in the aim of fruitfully dealing with human rights issues that require working with all of society's institutions, governmental or public.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Yemen has come a long way in the field of legislative reforms aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. As Yemen is one of the leading countries in the region that ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and recently we signed its additional Optional Protocol. The government through its different agencies for the advancement of women took several measures and adopted many policies aimed at promoting women's rights, and is working at harmonizing national legislation with international conventions ratified by Yemen.

Yemeni women came to a point where they play a very important role in the political life and the democratic practice, for example, in the last elections, the number of registered female voters is close to the number of registered men and today women are present in all senior leadership positions, including the judiciary and the local councils, and this presence is consolidated day by day.

During the past year the Yemeni arena witnessed the implementation of many programs and awareness-raising activities aimed at spreading the culture of human rights among the members of the Yemeni society in general and activists in the field of human rights in particular, with the aim of building their capacity and raising their professional efficiency and knowledge.

There is no doubt that there is fruitful cooperation with a number of international organizations and donor countries to improve human rights in many of the developmental, social and political areas , and this cooperation is developing greatly in the framework of Yemen's notable relations with its international partners.

In light of the reforms Yemen is undertaking, several measures had been taken to ensure the prevention of corruption and the implementation of the principles of transparency and legal accountability and at the forefront of these measures is the ratification of the anti-corruption law, also consultations are currently under way with various actors from civil society and from the legislative and governmental organizations to form the supreme council for fighting corruption.

In the area of continued judicial reforms, significant developments took place in this field represented by the president stepping aside from the post of Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, which is currently chaired by a full time judge.

Furthermore, the new draft law of the press and publications has recently been approved so as to ensure the abolition of all clauses which allow for the imprisonment of journalist because of the expression of their opinion. In addition, the national strategy for women's development 2006-2015, was inaugurated as a response to gender needs and community participation of women.

The government also established several National mechanisms concerned with Human Rights such as the National committee for Women, and the Supreme Council for motherhood and Childhood, Also there are a number of specialized committees that deal with human rights, including : Committee on International Humanitarian Law, National Committee for Refugee Affairs , and Higher Committee to Review Conditions of Prisons and Prisoners, The disabled care fund, and other mechanisms.

The Republic of Yemen, from this platform, reaffirms its commitment to prepare and submit periodic reports on the level of implementation of international conventions and treaties it ratified , and sending national teams to discussed these reports before the committees, in a timely manner and to benefit from all the recommendations issued by those committees.

Although a lot has been achieved, we acknowledge that there is still a very long road to take and we recognize that many challenges still exists in the face of achieving some of our desired goals.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dealing with human rights issues requires full impartiality from any ambitions or interests that may conflict with the noble principles of Human Rights, and interests that may use human rights as means to achieve their ends, or may use double standards in dealing with them, which is a violation of all the great efforts and struggles in the human rights movement at the global level. And we need to look to the protection and

preservation of human rights as an essential part of the laws and plans to combat terrorism and that rights are not violated under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

The responsibilities and the work that awaits the Council are as great as the greatness of the humanitarian goals we all desire... and this requires that all working groups responsible for improving and rationalizing all mandates and responsibilities of the council finish their work on time.

The Republic of Yemen has always called for human rights issues not to be politicized and that we all work with objectivity, fairness, justice and fairness towards all rights issues, without exception or discrimination.

From this platform we stress on the Palestinians people right to return and establish their independent state on their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. And we call on the international community to move swiftly to stop the violations against the Palestinian people by Israeli occupation and to support the national reconciliation and to lift the embargo imposed on them, and to implement all relevant international resolutions. In order to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region

We also call upon the international community to support the unity of the Iraqi people, and to support the national reconciliation effort in Somalia, through dialogue and understanding.

Also, in light of tangible cooperation from the Sudanese government for the sake of peace and stability, addressing the situation in Darfur should be based on objective, impartial and fair bases.

Finally, I would like to conclude by wishing you success in the work of this session, which will ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and will ensure the fulfillment of noble humanitarian goals. .

Thank you all,

Dr. Khadija Ahmed Al-Hysami  
Minister of Human Rights  
Republic of Yemen