

Statement by H.E. Ahmed Obaid BIN-DAGHER
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen

2

53
b

Yemen

At

The World Humanitarian Summit

23-24 May 2016

Istanbul

Please check against delivery

Istanbul: 23 May 2016

His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey
His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary- General of the United Nations
Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Governments
Excellencies,

1. Allow me at the outset to express my thanks and appreciation to the People, Government and President of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). I would also like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his efforts to initiate and make this global humanitarian demonstration a success. I also convey, to your Excellency, the regards of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, and the appreciation and love of the Yemeni people to the people of Turkey.

2. This WHS commences in a time where some parts of the world live in conflicts and wars. Nevertheless, this is also a time for reflection, careful consideration and making the appropriate decisions in order to forge a real cooperation to end the suffering of millions of women men and children affected by conflicts wars and disasters.

3.The Government of the Republic of Yemen highly appreciates and strongly supports the UN Secretary-General Agenda for humanity. And allow me to share the views of some of you and say that humanitarian aid, albeit important, cannot substitute political solutions that address the root causes of suffering especially in countries and nations experiencing wars and bloody conflicts.

4. As you all know, Yemen is still suffering from bloody wounds which sparked by a war started by an armed militia that turned on the constitutional legitimacy. The international community is united and supportive of our Government. In 2004, this militia waged wars against the State, and spread by its aggressive nature against the Yemeni people. It then rebelled against the national consensus, seized the capital city of Sanaa, and turned against the legitimacy in collaboration with Saleh's forces.

5. Since 2004, the victims of these wars are more than 40 thousand civilians (dead and wounded) most of which are women and children. There are 2.5 million internally displaced persons and thousands moved abroad. Furthermore, more than 80 percent of the 26 million people living in Yemen are in dire need of an urgent humanitarian aid According to the reports of the United Nations. There are also 7 million people who are severely food insecure.

6. The majority of hospitals, in conflict zones, have stopped working; they are no longer able to treat the wounded. There are severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel. Essential services such as electricity and water have almost completely stopped. The infrastructure is devastated. Outbreaks of diseases and epidemics have returned in an alarming rate. Moreover, there is an arbitrary destruction of public and private properties.

7. There is also an economic collapse caused by the depletion the foreign exchange reserves and other damaging fiscal and monetary policies made by the putschists. Moreover, the militias preformed arbitrary arrests and were involved in forced disappearances of dissidents. They restricted freedoms and hindered the opposition's press and newspapers. Furthermore, they systematically looted and blocked access of international humanitarian aid.

8. While we are here, ladies and gentlemen, the State of Kuwait is hosting talks in order to achieve peace. And until this moment, and for a month, these militias and Saleh supporters continue to refuse the agenda proposed by the United Nations as a road map in accordance with the UNSC resolution 2216, the GCC initiative and the national consensus.

9. Until this moment, they refuse to handover weapons and withdraw from cities and government institutions, which they had occupied. They also refuse to recognize the legitimacy of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, which today represents the symbol of unity in the country.

10. The Government is still keen to continue in the peace talks under the auspices of the UN and the Secretary-General Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh in pursuit of a lasting and comprehensive peace in our country.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates,

11. I would like here to acknowledge the active and positive role of the Arab coalition countries led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is supported by the decision of the League of Arab States in support of the legitimate government. I also acknowledge its continued and generous support for the humanitarian relief provided to the Yemeni people alongside the United Nations agencies and other donor countries.

12. Despite the situation caused by the Houthi-Saleh coup against the legitimacy in the country, we didn't stop countering terrorists and extremists in collaboration with the Arab coalition (among which are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia states, the United Arab Emirates and all GCC countries). We have been able to defeat the remnants of terrorism in Aden. In Hadramout, al-Qaida and ISIS were defeated; they are also retreating and being defeated elsewhere in Yemen. We will continue our efforts in the fight against terrorism, and uproot its financial and moral causes.

13. In conclusion, I reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the people and government of Turkey, and to the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

I thank you.

