

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 13 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement on the position of the Yemeni Government on the withdrawal of the Houthis from the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa, as announced by the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, General Michael Lollesgaard, on 11 May 2019 (see annex).

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Abdullah Ali Fadhel **Al-Saadi**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 13 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Position of the Government of the Republic of Yemen on the withdrawal of the Houthis from the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa**

We write in reference to the statement issued by General Michael Lollesgaard, Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, on the start of the withdrawal of Houthi militias from the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa on Saturday, 11 May 2019, in accordance with the agreed concept of operations for the first phase (sites to be withdrawn to, verification through tripartite monitoring, handover of landmine maps, an end to any armed presence, removal of supervisors, and verification that Coast Guard forces are constituted in their original form in accordance with the law), which was presented by the United Nations on 18 April 2019 as a first step towards redeployment in the city of Hudaydah and its ports as approved in the Stockholm agreement on Hudaydah.

The Government of Yemen has expressed legal observations on the start of Houthi withdrawals, which comes after five months of pressure from the international community and the Yemeni Government on the Houthi militias and their patron Iran since the agreement on the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa was reached in Sweden on 13 December 2018. The Yemeni Government has laid great importance on the concept of operations, under which the Houthi militias must withdraw from the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa with the monitoring and supervision of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, consisting of the United Nations, the Government of Yemen and the Houthis, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [2451 \(2018\)](#) and [2452 \(2019\)](#), which established that Committee as an international legal mechanism for implementation of the Hudaydah agreement.

The Government of Yemen welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, and Redeployment Coordination Committee Chair General Michael Lollesgaard. It recalls that the Stockholm agreement was meant to be a step towards building the confidence needed to move towards a comprehensive solution to the Yemeni crisis. If the Houthis fail to work with the international community and the Government of Yemen to establish that confidence, that will make it impossible to rely on them as independent decision-makers not controlled by the terrorist hand of Iran.

The Government of Yemen draws attention to Security Council resolutions [2451 \(2018\)](#) and [2452 \(2019\)](#), which established the Redeployment Coordination Committee as a mechanism to monitor and verify implementation of the Stockholm agreement. It stresses that it has the right to verify any steps taken as part of the Stockholm agreement, and in particular to inspect lists of the Coast Guard forces taking over the ports after the Houthis withdraw, prior to engaging in any discussion of further steps. The Government of Yemen reiterates its right to monitor withdrawals in accordance with Security Council resolutions and through the Redeployment Coordination Committee; it will not be sufficient for the Chair of the Committee to provide summaries of what is happening. The Government of Yemen stresses that withdrawal of Houthi militias from the ports without supervision, monitoring and approval from all three members of the Redeployment Coordination Committee would constitute a violation of what was agreed upon over the past few months, and

would undermine the efforts of the international community by giving the Houthi militias a free pass to re-enact the staged unilateral withdrawal from the port of Hudaydah they implemented on 30 December 2018. At that time, General Cammaert stood firm and exposed the farce, confirming that unilateral withdrawal from Hudaydah violates the Stockholm agreement.

The Yemeni Government reaffirms its clear position on compliance with Security Council resolutions [2216 \(2015\)](#), [2451 \(2018\)](#) and [2452 \(2019\)](#), and with the letter and spirit of the Stockholm agreement. It will not accept any unilateral step not subject to the monitoring measures set forth in Security Council resolutions or not in compliance with the concept of operations. It reiterates that it stands ready to work in earnest for implementation all the provisions of the Stockholm agreement concerning Hudaydah and the Ta'izz understandings, and the release of all detainees, prisoners, abductees, forcibly disappeared persons and persons under house arrest.

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