



# UN INFORMATION CENTRE

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## Senior UN official congratulates Yemen on concluding National Dialogue

After being on the brink of civil war, Yemenis negotiated an agreement for peaceful change, the only such in the region, a senior United Nations official today said welcoming the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference as an “historic moment” for the country.

“Yemen serves as a model for comprehensive national dialogue, based on transparency, inclusivity and active and meaningful participation of all political and social constituencies,” said Jamal Benomar, [Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Special Adviser on Yemen](#).

The National Dialogue established a new social contract, the Special Advisor said, “breaking from the past and paving the way for democratic governance founded on the rule of law, human rights and equal citizenship.”

Launched on 18 March, the National Dialogue Conference brought new actors to the political process such as youth, women, civil society representatives and the Hiraak Southern Movement. The Conference aimed to feed into a constitution-making process and pave the way for general elections in 2014. [Continued on page 2](#)

## FAO grants Yemen \$0.5 m to combat desert locusts

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) gave on Tuesday Yemen a grant of \$500,000 to support the country's efforts to combat desert locusts.

The grant aims to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to fight desert locusts, particularly in Tehama area.

The grant's agreement was signed by Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Fared Mojawar and FAO representative in Yemen Salah Hasan.

Later, Mojawar and Hasan reviewed the joint cooperation between Yemen and the organization in areas of food security and combating plant pests.

FAO's representative in Yemen expressed the Organization's readiness to provide all support for Yemen in boosting up the agricultural development and achieving food security, as well as assisting the Ministry in carrying out its programs and plans in accordance with the food security national strategy for 2012-2016.





## UN SG Appoints Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed as Deputy Special Representative and UN Resident Coordinator for Libya

United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon announced today the appointment of Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as his new Deputy Special Representative and Deputy Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) where he will also serve as the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme's Resident Representative.



Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed succeeds Georg Charpentier of Finland who has served as Deputy Special Representative since October 2011. The Secretary-General is grateful for Mr. Charpentier's dedicated service during his tenure in Libya and for his contribution to the coordination of the United Nations system in that country.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed brings with him more than 27 years of experience with the United Nations in development and humanitarian assistance in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Most recently, he served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014).

He also served in several positions with the United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) including as Director of Change Management in New York, Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi and Representative in Georgia.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed holds a Masters Degree in Human Resources Development from the University of Manchester (United Kingdom), a Bachelors Degree in Economics from the University of Montpellier (France) and an Advanced Certificate in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (The Netherlands).

Born in 1960, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed is fluent in English, French and Arabic.  
New York

30 January 2014

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### Senior UN official congratulates...

The country has been undergoing a democratic transition, with a Government of National Unity, which came to power in an election in February 2012 following the resignation of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He agreed to step down following widespread protests similar to those seen across the Middle East and North Africa as part of the so-called "Arab Spring" pro-democracy movement.

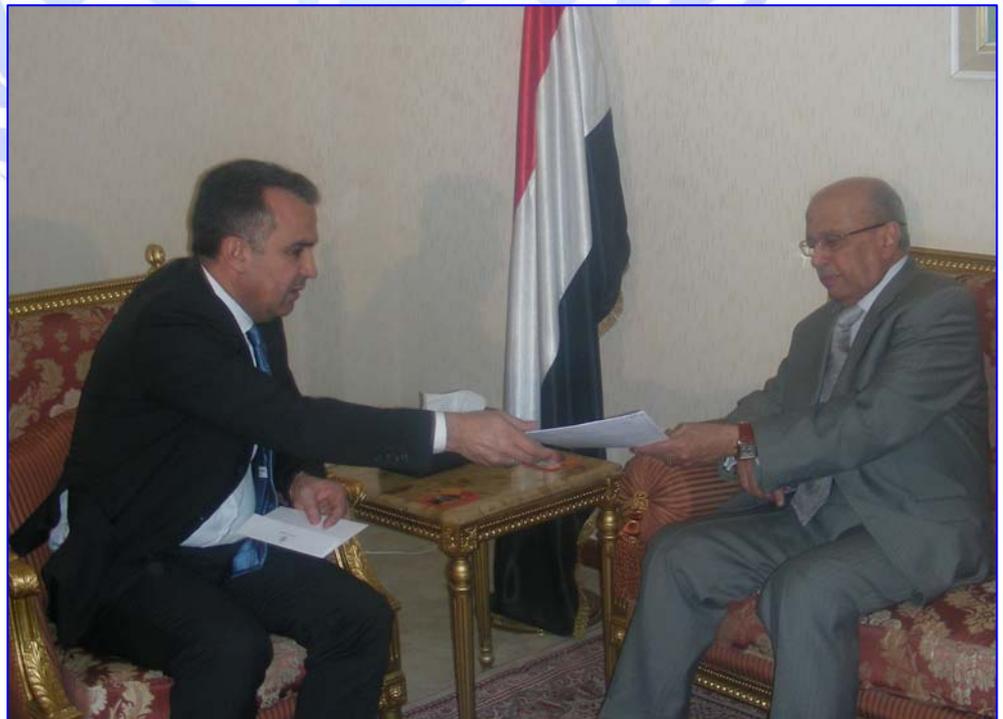
Mr. Benomar, who participated in the Final Plenary chaired by President Abed Rabbu Mansour Hadi, today also reaffirmed the support of the UN and the international community to the Yemeni-led political process. He commended the leadership of President Hadi and the contributions of all political constituencies to the National Dialogue's conclusion.

The on-going talks were originally scheduled to wrap up in September 2013, but were extended. At that time, Mr. Ban had called on all sides to participate in the National Dialogue in good faith and to refrain from any obstruction of the transition process.

Meanwhile, Mr. Benomar also strongly condemned the assassination of Ahmed Sharafuddine, the Ansar Allah delegate to the Conference, today in Sana'a. Mr. Benomar said that this crime "targets Yemen" and is a desperate attempt to jeopardize the political process and the National Dialogue. He further called upon the Yemeni authorities to bring those responsible to justice.

## New FAO Representative

Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Dr. Salah Ali al-Haj Hassan paid a visit to Foreign and Agriculture Ministries where he met with the Foreign Minister Dr. Abu-Baker al-Quirbi and Agriculture Minister Farid Mujawar. In the visit, the FAO representative presented his credentials to resume his position in the organization in Yemen. He further submitted an invitation card to the ministers to attend the thirty second Regional Conference of the Near



East Rome \_Italy February 24-28. They discussed a number of issues on the national level the most important of which is the problem of locusts in Yemen and the role of FAO in eradicating this pest. The importance of contact among different sides discussed in order to reach the presented issues in the agriculture sector and ways to find mechanism to enhance cooperation with the educational and academic sides.

The also focus on the need to shed light on rural women and bring them into the growth and development.

## Yemen, WB discuss implementation of road projects

Yemen and the World Bank (WB) discussed here on Monday means and possibilities of implementing several road projects funded by the WB in Yemen.

The meeting which gathered Minister of Public Works and Road Omar al-Kurshmi with the WB delegation headed by the WB-funded projects director, touched on the nature of work progress in carrying out the rural roads' projects as well as the road maintenance projects.



They also reviewed the implementation level of road projects as well as the procedures to accomplish those projects which are either under implementation or still there tenders' documents working on.



## Japan distributes through UNHCR clothes for over 63,000 IDP in Yemen



The Japan embassy in Yemen launched on Monday its humanitarian initiative of distributing clothes for over 63,000 Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugees in Yemen.

Japan embassy's initiative includes the distribution of 200,000 clothes pieces for 63,710 IDP and refugees through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Sana'a.

The clothes are provided as a gift by the Japanese clothing company of "Uniqlo" for the displaced Yemenis in areas of conflict in Sa'ada and Abyan provinces and Arab countries' refugees in Yemen, within the framework of the ongoing Japanese assistance to the humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Yemen, which amounted to \$88 million during 2012 / 2013, including more than \$21 million provided to the IDPs through the UNHCR.

The initiative was launched by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Makino Taro, who ended today a short visit to Yemen, in the presence of the Japanese ambassador to Yemen Katsu Yoshiie Hayashi and a UNHCR representative in Yemen.

It is planned to distribute the clothes to IDP and refugees' families in the IDP camps in Haradh town and provinces of Amran, Sana'a and Abyan.



## **52<sup>nd</sup> Graduate Study Programme (30 June to 11 July 2014)**

**Theme : «Empowering youth: how can the United Nations lead the way forward?»**

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As in previous years, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva will organize a two-week Graduate Study Programme at the Palais des Nations for a group of qualified post graduate students from all over the world. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Geneva Graduate Study Programme will take place from **30 June to 11 July 2014**. The theme for this year will be:

***“Empowering youth: how can the United Nations lead the way forward?”***

***Without urgent measures, we risk creating a “lost generation” of squandered talent and dreams –  
Ban Ki-moon***

The Programme will examine the role that the United Nations plays or can play in seeking multilateral solutions to global issues, such as those mentioned in this year’s theme. Senior officials and experts of the United Nations and the Geneva-based specialized agencies will give a series of lectures. The lectures will be followed by panel discussions. Participants are expected to attend all the lectures and participate in working groups.

As in the past, we would be most grateful for your assistance in bringing this Programme to the attention of government authorities, universities and institutes of higher education in your region. The application form and detailed information are available on our website: [www.unog.ch/gsp\\_en](http://www.unog.ch/gsp_en) for English and [www.onug.ch/gsp\\_fr](http://www.onug.ch/gsp_fr) for French). Applications as well as the requested documents will have to be submitted on line.

Relevant information on the Graduate Study Programme is also being sent to government authorities through the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Offices to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

It is important to inform candidates that the United Nations does not provide assistance towards the travel and living expenses of participants. Please also note that this Programme will be conducted in English and French without interpretation, therefore candidates must have a good knowledge of both languages.

The deadline for receipt of applications for the Graduate Study Programme is **Friday 7 March 2014**. Selected candidates will be notified of their selection by **mid-April 2014**.



## Ban urges Yemenis to work towards building a new country

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulated Wednesday Yemen on successfully concluding nearly year-long talks on which the country's new constitution will be founded, but warned that obstacles remain and called on citizens to work together towards building a new Yemen.

“Yemen has demonstrated to the region that positive change is possible when pursued through dialogue and compromise,” Mr. Ban said in a statement from his spokesperson.

He commended the commitment of all political actors to achieve a peaceful transition – particularly the leadership and determination of President Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi and the delegates of the Conference – which have set Yemen “on the path to democratic governance.”

Launched on 18 March, the National Dialogue Conference brought new actors to the political process such as youth, women, civil society representatives and the Hiraak Southern Movement. The Conference aimed to feed into a constitution-making process and pave the way for general elections in 2014.

Its conclusion represents “a major step forward in the transition of Yemen and a hard won achievement, in the face of obstacles and delays,” Mr. Ban said.

The country has been undergoing a democratic transition, with a Government of National Unity, which came to power in an election in February 2012.

Mr. Ban condemned the killing of NDC delegate Ahmad Sharafeddin, calling it “a stark reminder of the challenges Yemen faces” and urged Yemeni authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He urged Yemenis “to respond positively to the important decisions taken through the National Dialogue and to work in good faith towards building a new Yemen.”

His Special Advisor, Jamal Benomar, called the conclusion of the talks an “historic moment.”

“After being on the brink of civil war, Yemenis negotiated an agreement for peaceful change, the only such in the region,” said Mr. Benomar, who participated in the Final Plenary session of the talks.

The UN has been providing support for Yemen's transition in four key areas: political facilitation in key areas such as the National Dialogue, technical support, capacity-building and a public information and awareness campaign.

Mr. Ban reiterated the UN's continued support to Yemen and the next phase of its transition. He added that Mr. Benomar will remain closely engaged with all Yemeni sides, as well as international partners.





## Yemen continues to struggle with high rates of malnutrition

Tiny children with gaunt bodies—their bones protruding from their skin—wail while lying in the arms of their parents inside a malnutrition treatment center in the Al-Danabeqa village in the Al-Tohaita district of Hodeida governorate.

According to **UNICEF**, Yemen has the second-highest rate of stunting in the world, behind Afghanistan. One in every two children is stunted, meaning both the growth of their brains and bodies is affected by a lack of nutrition.



More than four in 10 children are moderately or severely underweight (second only to East Timor), UNICEF says, and more than 250,000 Yemeni children suffer from severe acute malnutrition and risk death as a result. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that “more than half of early child deaths are due to conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions, such as improved nutrition.” “Children are at greater risk of dying before age five if they are born in rural areas, poor households, or to a mother denied basic education,” WHO says on their website.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by the United Nations in 2000 aim to decrease child deaths worldwide by 2015. The fourth MDG is to reduce the 1990 mortality rate among children under age five by two-thirds.

The under-five mortality rate is still very high in Yemen and experts say it is not meeting MDG benchmarks. This crisis is made worse by poverty. Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world and the poorest country in the Middle East. Nearly half the population lives on less than \$2 per day.

Other contributing factors to malnutrition include high food prices, conflict, drought, unsafe water, poor nutritional practices, a lack of basic public services and difficult access to remote, affected areas.

According to a survey by UNICEF and Yemen’s Public Health and Population Ministry, one-third of children in Hodeida governorate are malnourished, the highest rate of malnutrition in the country.

International and local organizations have been concentrating their efforts there to chip away at the nation’s malnutrition crisis.

Parents in the Al-Danabeqa village take their malnourished children each Tuesday to a tent—sponsored by Save the Children—to receive treatment. Without this makeshift and basic facility, the nearest health center is a four-kilometer walk from their village. Each week 40 children come to the tent to be measured, weighed and fed. They receive medicine and ready-to-use therapeutic food to take home.

“Some children don’t get better due to [underlying problems, such as] diarrhea and fevers, a lack of breastfeeding, poor sanitation and a lack of follow-up with nutrition programs. These are the critical factors behind child malnutrition,” said Mariam Al-Dawghani, the coordinator of Save the Children’s health and nutrition programs in Hodeida.

Of Al-Tohaita’s 4,000 residents, about 18 percent are children.

One resident, Jameela Ali, has been taking her three-year-old granddaughter, Fatima, to the tent for 11 weeks as a part of the feeding program. She says her granddaughter’s condition is improving, and she is slowly gaining weight as a result of the supplements the NGO provides free of charge.

The Save the Children tent project will be coming to an end in a couple of months, at which point the village must figure out how to continue supporting malnourished children.

The director of the district’s health ministry office, Abas Mutahar, says a health care center was built in the area in 2008, but it was never outfitted and opened. He says there are promises to open it this year, but government promises often prove to be empty.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

## MESSAGE FOR YEAR OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

20 January 2014

This year marks the centenary of the birth of modern crystallography. We celebrate 100 years of ground-breaking advances.

Crystallography is fundamental to understanding the structure of matter.

It is critical for materials science, health care, agriculture and biotechnology.

Today, crystallography is at the core of structural sciences, revealing the constitution of minerals and the molecules of life, helping scientists to design new-generation materials and life-saving medicine.

In recognition of these important contributions, the United Nations General Assembly designated 2014 as the *International Year of Crystallography*. The goal is to raise awareness about the power of crystals, deepen cooperation and create new partnerships across the globe.



Crystallography has an important place as we work for inclusive sustainable development -- policies that are good for people and the planet.

I thank UNESCO, along with the International Union of Crystallography and all other partners.

Thank you for working to help societies harness the full power of sciences for sustainable development. Let us make the Year a great success!



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