Country/entity	Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement Establishing a Union between the State of the Yemen Arab Republic and the State of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
Date	22 Apr 1990
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Yemeni Civil Wars (1994) (2011 -)

The Republic of Yemen was formed in May 1990 after the merger between the Yemeni Arab Republic (YAR) in the north and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in the south. The unification process was rushed and the final agreement between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and President Ali Salem al-Beidh was based on the imperfect promise of equality. Following the merger, integration of the militaries and civil services was at best incomplete or at times entirely non-existent. When Saleh's General Congress Party (GPC) allied itself with the newly created Islamist Islah ('reform') party in 1993, the former ruling party of South Yemen – the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) – was effectively side-lined in the 1993 General Elections. Violence involving the use of heavy weaponry and aerial bombardment erupted in April 1994 and on the 21 May 1994 Vice President al-Beidh declared the secession of the south, citing political centralization with the northern highland tribes, violence against the YSP and economic discrimination. In the midst of fighting, negotiations in Cairo, Egypt, collapsed. The war ended with the military victory of the north, and on the 1 October 1994, Ali Abdullah Saleh was elected President.

Despite the unification of Yemen in 1990, political power during the 1990s and 2000s remained centralized with the northern highland tribes, particularly the villages from which President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his confidants stemmed. The system of clientelism established through the ruling General People's Congress party maintained relative loyalty among the fractured political allegiances of Yemen's traditional tribal leadership. However, diminishing oil reserves and the shrinking opportunities for access to rent increased economic and political marginalization in Yemen's peripheral communities. The degree of regionalism of conflicts is further defined by other local grievances. In the northern governorate of Sa'dah, a backlash was provoked among the local Zaydi Shi'a against Sunni Salafist cultural incursions resulting in six wars between 2004 and 2010. In the southern governorates of Hadramawt, Shabwa, al-Dhali and Abyan, civil and military personnel forcibly retired after the 1994 Civil War began protesting and eventually formed the secessionist Southern 'al-Hiraak' movement in 2007. Furthermore, tribal grievances have spurred attacks on oil companies and government installations to extract rents. Various takfiri groups including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have also increased their presence since 1995.

The Yemen Spring in early 2011 allowed all these movements to express their joint displeasure. Moreover, factionalism in the regime split the already weak military and thus allowed the Houthis, the takfiris and tribal-based militia known as popular committees, to assert themselves militarily. Mandated by the UN-sponsored Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the National Dialogue held from March 2013 to January 2014 aimed at guaranteeing power-sharing among the different parties. However, the GCC Initiative only included formal political parties that did not accurately reflect political realities. Furthermore, provisions lacked adequate transitional justice and provided former-President Saleh, as well as others, full amnesty. As a result, little faith was placed in the process by formerly marginalized groups such as the Zaydi Shia Houthi rebels (Ansar Allah) and al-Hiraak who opted to increase their bargaining power vis-à-vis the state by strengthening their own territorial enclaves. In September 2014 the Houthis succeeded in capturing the capital Sana'a and gradually expanded their control southward. The subsequent UN-mediated Peace and National Partnership Agreement between transitional president Hadi and the Houthis on a federal, democratic Yemeni state, failed to be implemented as the Houthis successfully dissolved the parliament and deposed Hadi in January 2015. Following the Saudi military intervention to restore the Hadi government in March 2015, ceasefire attempts continuously failed. A two-year

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	Yemen unification process
Parties	Colonel Ali Abdallah Saleh, President of the Republic Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Secretary-General of the General People's Congress. Ali Salem A1-Beidh, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party
Third parties	-
Description	This is a short agreement providing for unification of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, to become "the Republic of Yemen." It establishes an interim Presidential Council to form the government of the Republic of Yemen, and to undertake functions authorized by the Constitution.

Agreement document	YE_900422_AgreementEstablishingUnionYemen.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	Page 1, Article 1 ... The Republic of Yemen shall have one legislative, executive and judicial power.

Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	Page 2, Article 7 ... At the same meeting, the Presidential Council shall issue a decree convening the House of Representatives in order decide upon the following items: ... c) calling upon the Presidential Council to submit the Constitution to a general, popular referendum before the thirtieth of November 1990.
State symbols	Page 2, Article 7 ... The Presidential Council is empowered to issue, at its first meeting, decrees which shall have the force of law regarding the emblem, flag and national anthem of the Republic.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	Page 1, Article 1. ... On the 26th of May 1990...there shall be established between the State of the Yemen Arab Republic and the State of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (both parts of the Yemeni Homeland) a full and complete union, based on a merger, in which the international personality of each of them shall be integrated in a single international person called "the Republic of Yemen."
Border delimitation	No specific mention.
Cross-border provision	No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→Temporary new institutions Page 1, Article 2 ... After the entry into force of this Agreement, a five-member Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen shall be established for the interim period. Page 1, Article 3 ... A thirty-month interim period shall begin on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement. During this period, the full membership of the Shura Council and of the Supreme People's Council shall constitute the House of Representatives; in addition, 31 representatives shall be appointed by a decree from the Presidential Council. ... The House of Representatives shall exercise all the powers provided for in the Constitution; however, it shall have no power to elect a Presidential Council or to amend the Constitution. Page 1, Article 4 At its first meeting, the Presidential Council shall issue a decree establishing an Advisory Council of 45 members. The Council's functions shall be defined in the same decree. Page 1, Article 5 The Presidential Council shall form the Government of the Republic of Yemen which shall undertake all the functions authorized by the Constitution.
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.

Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making Page 2, Article 8 This Agreement shall enter into force upon its ratification, together with the draft Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, by the Shura Council and the People's Council. Page 2, Article 9 ... Upon ratification, the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen shall be deemed in force during the interim period, in accordance with the previous Article and subject to the other provisions of this Agreement. Page 2, Article 10 The Constitutions of both previous Yemeni States shall be deemed abrogated upon ratification of this Agreement and of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen by the Shura Council and the People's Council.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level Article 1: On the 26th of May 1990 (corresponding to the first of Dhi'l-Qa'da of the Hegira year 1410), there shall be established between the State of the Yemen Arab Republic and the State of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (both parts of the Yemeni Homeland) a full and complete union, based on a merger, in which the international personality of each of them shall be integrated in a single international person called "the Republic of Yemen." The Republic of Yemen shall have one legislative, executive and judicial power. Page 1, Article 2 ... After the entry into force of this Agreement, a five-member Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen shall be established for the interim period. At their first meeting, the members of the Council shall elect a President and a Vice-President for the duration of the term of the Council. The members of the Presidential Council shall be elected at a joint session of the Offices of the Presidency of the Supreme People's Council and the Shura Council.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	No specific mention.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	No specific mention.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.

Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.

Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	Page 2, Article 6 At its first meeting, the Presidential Council shall entrust a technical team to prepare a framework for reconsidering the administrative division of the Republic of Yemen so as to reinforce the Yemeni unity and eliminate the effects of partition.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
