



Republic of Yemen
YEMENI ISLAH PARTY

**A Declaration by the Yemeni Islah
26th Anniversary Party on its**

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The founding of the Islah Party on 13 September 1990 was a watershed in Yemen's contemporary political history. It represented an important shift in the thought and performance of what used to be known as the Islamic Movement prior to the unification of Yemen. It was also an acknowledgement of, as well as a commitment to, embracing the principle of political pluralism and the multi-party system that were born simultaneously with the founding of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990.

It was also an expression of the willingness to deal positively with the Republic as a new political reality in the lives of the Yemeni people. It was a prudent decision by the Party founders to choose Islah (Reform) as a name, for it does indeed reflect genuine Yemeni roots and expresses a continuation of the enlightened reform currents that were known to the Yemenis during the last three centuries that witnessed a concerted endeavour by those currents to liberate the Yemeni people from the yoke of the racist Imamate regime and its backward thinking and repressive policy.



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Since its establishment, the Islah Party has been keen to define itself clearly so as not to leave it to others to speculate about it. It is a political party that adopts a centrist approach, renouncing radicalism and extremism.

For more than a quarter of a century, the people have been with us and we have been dedicated to them. They found us where they needed us and we found them where we needed them. We carried their voice as an opposition and they delivered us to power in a sharing arrangement. We were with them in the revolution and they were with us in the march and in the dream. When the people rejected theocracy and family rule, we stood with them in their rejection.



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For more than a quarter of a century, and despite the campaigns of distortion and obfuscation, amid the voices that filled the space with lies and noise, and notwithstanding all the plots and the attempts to undermine it, the Islah Party, thanks first to the Grace of Allah and then to its adherence to the people, always came out stronger and firmer.

For more than a quarter of a century, the people have known us in all arenas, as hard working students, as loyal teachers, as proficient medical doctors, as skilled engineers, as righteous businessmen, as honest employees, as truthful workers, as makers of good and guardians of values; we have never forgotten the people and the people have never forgotten us.



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For a quarter of a century, we have stood for freedom and chosen the path of democracy. We have rejected the culture of violence and hatred and stood in the face of terrorism, renouncing it as an idea and as an attitude.

Today, the Islah Party, and despite the turbulent circumstances, is proud to be still the Yemenis' major party and their spacious tent within which they meet. They agree and disagree under its roof, which resembles the sky; they head toward the future with the conviction that in the future their struggles will bear fruits.

Yet, despite the passage of more than a quarter of a century since the Islah Party came into existence on 13 September 1990, there are those in the local, regional and international political arenas who still lack knowledge of the bases and principles upon which the Islah Party was originally founded.



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We feel the need to remind people of these bases and principles that are explained in unequivocal terms in our Political Programme, which is readily available for all to read with no exception.

passing through a critical and serious phase in the shadow of the coup perpetrated by the Houthi-Saleh coalition against the republican regime, against Yemeni unity, against the peaceful process of change that began in 2011, against the Gulf initiative and its executive mechanism and against the recommendations of the comprehensive national dialogue conference.

As a result of these dangers that are posed to the future of our people, who rose in all the districts in order to regain their state and defend their hopes and visions as embodied in the recommendations of the national dialogue, and out of keenness to clearly explain the vision and stance of the



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Islah Party toward the most important issues that preoccupy those concerned, inside and outside the country, and in affirmation of the seriousness and credibility of Islah's commitment to the causes of its people and country as well as to Yemen's external relations at the regional and international levels, we hereby restate the immediate and future visions of the Islah Party in the hope that this will remove any doubt some people may still have about its vision and stances toward these causes and issues:

- 1. The Yemeni Islah is a political party that endeavours through its political programme to reform defects in all aspects of our people's contemporary life. In doing so, it stems from the fact that the state's religion is Islam, its official language is Arabic and the Islamic Shari'ah is the source of legislation; it adheres to enacted laws; and it works through state institutions and government agencies.**



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- 2. The Islah is a Yemeni party, both in stems and roots. It is an extension of the historic Yemeni Islah movement, both in thought and attitude, the Yemeni nationwide movement that has constantly been working for the restoration of Yemen's bright image and for delivering it from the distortion that afflicted it due to the actions of foreign colonialism and the racist, despotic and class-based rule of the Imamate.**
- 3. The Yemeni Islah Party reaffirms that its patriotic affiliation is the essence of its existence and its political influence. Its frame of reference is purely national and Yemeni. It is a political party that is open to ideas and constituents. At the same time, and while maintaining ties of friendship and respect with many parties – just as do all the other Yemeni political forces, it does not allow any non-Yemeni political party to intervene in the Yemeni affairs or in its own visions as a political party. Within this context,**



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the Yemeni Islah Party would like to stress in absolute terms of clarity and transparency – so as to put an end to any speculations or rumours, that it is not associated with the International Organisation of the Muslim Brotherhood in any organisational or political manner. As a political party, the priorities of the Islah are national in nature. All its efforts are focused, together with its co-partners, the other Yemeni political forces, on delivering Yemen from its current predicament, to elevation it from its slumber and to help it regain its political course.



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- 4. The Yemeni Islah Party would like to reaffirm the following:**
- **The Republican system, which the Yemeni people have chosen and are pleased with, is the best system and the most capable of achieving stability for Yemen, and therefore cannot be recanted or compromised.**
 - **It is the Party's conviction that the Yemeni revolution, both September and October, is the conscience of our people. The Yemeni unification of 22 May was achieved as an accomplishment of its objectives. The struggle of the political forces, which brought to fruition the peaceful southern movement of 2007 and the February revolution in 2011, was the embodiment of the Yemeni people's will to engage in peaceful change so as to correct the aberrations that afflicted the course of the revolution and that of the unification.**
 - **Democracy, multi-party politics and political pluralism are the most apt mechanisms for implementing the principle of Shura. Commitment to**

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these mechanisms is irreversible and consolidating them is the doorway to building state institutions.

- **The only legitimate route to power is fair and transparent elections. The Islah Party rejects any other means of attaining power and considers them to be illegitimate. The entire Yemeni people should stand in the face of such means whether they happen to be military coups or armed rebellions, irrespective of who stands behind them.**
- **The state of law and order represents the hope and objective of the Yemenis. As a part of the Yemeni people, the Islah Party is committed to achieving this objective.**



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- 5. The Yemeni Islah Party affirms that the federal decentralised form of the state, as outlined in the recommendations of the comprehensive national dialogue, is best suited for our country. Decentralisation should be embodied in the unity of the supreme political leadership of the country and in its attention to foreign policy and to national defence affairs; in providing the federal state with financial resources; and in consolidating national unity provided that local communities undertake to run their local affairs by themselves in the shade of an equitable and transparent distribution of power and wealth.**



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- 6. The Yemeni Islah Party reiterates its conviction that positive interaction with the tribal and geographic plurality and with the diversity of customs and traditions makes it incumbent upon all Yemenis to work for the sake of dedicating such plurality to the process of bolstering national unity in the shade of an enlightened national culture, good state governance and equitable distribution of wealth and power among citizens.**

- 7. Conscientious and genuine partnership, which is based on the principles of good governance among democratic political forces in running the affairs of Yemen in the coming years, is a religious duty and a national necessity that should be abided by in order to achieve security, stability and the building of state institutions.**



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- 8. The Yemeni Islah Party is committed to full partnership with all the national, regional and international forces, under the leadership of the Yemeni authority, in the fight against terrorism in all its types, forms and sources. It pledges to confront it in terms of ideas and actions through democracy, education and development. Terrorism is a cancer that does not only threaten the security and stability of Yemen but also threatens the security of the region's states and the entire world.**

- 9. The Yemeni Islah Party commits to continue its struggle along with its partners among the national forces, in the shadow of the legitimate leadership and in full partnership with the brethren in the Arab coalition that is led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the sake of bringing down the coup of Al-Houthi-Saleh alliance and annulling whatever outcomes that resulted from it. It pledges to do so using all legitimate means so as to**



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regain the state and establish its authority over all the provinces and seize them back from the coup militias, resume the political process from the point where it was halted, complement the transitional phase that is outlined in the Gulf initiative and in its executive mechanism and build the federal state in accordance with the recommendations and resolutions of the national dialogue.

- 10.** The Yemeni Islah Party stresses that its stance toward the ongoing consultations aimed at ending the coup and eliminating its consequences and at regaining the state and establishing its authority on all the provinces of the Republic in accordance with UN Security Council resolution number 2216 is the same as the stance of the legitimate authority that is represented by the presidency, the government and the political forces.



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- 11.** The Yemeni Islah Party considers that the possession of weapons, in all their types, is the exclusive right of the state alone and that no other political power has the right to own militias or armed groups of any type and for whatever pretext, and that the law governs the right of individuals to possess personal arms for the purpose of self-defence.

- 12.** The Yemeni Islah Party stresses the importance of caring for Yemeni women, highlighting their positive roles in all fields, for after all, women are the sisters of men. It is therefore essential to protect women from any inferior treatment in our society as well as from any imported skewed ideas. It also stresses the importance of attending to the youth in terms of preparation, education and the development of their mental and physical potentials so as to contribute to the process of building Yemen as well as to its renaissance.



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- 13. The Yemeni Islah Party adopts the model of social economy. This model combines between market economy and the state's social responsibility to provide for an infrastructure, for basic services and for social security in a manner that would guarantee achieving competence and fairness in development. According to this model, the development and employment of wealth and economic resources in accordance with an economic plan in which the private and the public sectors contribute a leading role will achieve sustained economic growth that allows Yemen to be delivered from poverty and economic backwardness and that accomplishes prosperity and a decent living for every individual in the society.**



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- 14. The Yemeni Islah Party renews its affirmation that deepening and reinforcing Yemeni-Saudi relations is a strategic option for both neighbouring fraternal countries, considering that they both constitute together the pillar of security and stability in the Arabian Peninsula. It is therefore important to build on what has already been signed between the two countries of treaties and agreements. The Islah Party also stresses the necessity of moving these relations, with immediate effect, to the phase of a strategic pact that ought to be bolstered in all aspects including in specific the political, economic and security fields.**



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- 15.** The Yemeni Islah Party affirms that reinforcing Yemen's bilateral relations with the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain is necessary for consolidating the security and stability of the region and for providing safe climates for their economies and their investments.

- 16.** The Yemeni Islah Party renews its demand for the completion of the process of integrating Yemen into the Gulf Cooperation Council, considering that this is a pressing and inescapable matter. The Council is the natural place for Yemen to be right next to its brethren.



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- 17.** The Yemeni Islah Party affirms that bolstering relations with the brethren in member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council, at all levels, is one of the strategic, important and necessary means of stopping all Iranian subversive interventions in our region and putting an end to them. As it condemns the Iranian interventions, the Islah Party believes that confronting them, putting an end to them and preventing all the reasons for their existence is a top priority that should be acted upon immediately.

- 18.** The Yemeni Islah Party stresses that the Palestinian cause is the central cause of our Arab and Islamic Ummah and that it constitutes a real test for the world's conscience. The Islah Party supports all the efforts exerted by the struggling Palestine National Authority and with it all the national forces, foremost among them the movements of Fatah and Hamas, in order



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to reach national reconciliation and political alliance along the path of accomplishing the most sublime goal of the Palestinian people, namely the establishment of their national independent state whose capital is Jerusalem.

- 19.** The Yemeni Islah Party confirms that the Republic of Yemen is an inseparable part of the Arab Homeland and of the Islamic World. This fact necessitates supporting and developing the performance of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation both of which are considered to be the ideal vehicle at present for providing the maximum level of coordination and cooperation among the Arab states as well as the states of the Islamic World.



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- 20.** The Yemeni Islah Party affirms that the Islamic Coalition, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took the initiative to establish in order to confront terrorism, is a great accomplishment that should continue to be strengthened and bolstered, and that the Islamic countries are in a better position to combat terroristic phenomena that emanate from a skewed understanding of Islam because these countries are the ones that stand to suffer most as a result of such aberration.



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- 21. The Yemeni Islah Party stresses that the establishment of close relations that are of a strategic nature between the Republic of Yemen and the Horn of Africa states is something that serves peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region's states due to the historic ties, geographic importance, demographic weight, economic diversity and the similarity of customs and traditions between the Yemeni people and the peoples of the Horn of Africa states. Yemen, in this regard, possesses all the resources that enable it to act as a bridge between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the states of the Horn of Africa.**

