

Yemen

ISSUES

- The civil conflict, with external intervention, is in its fifth year with no sign of ending. The global pandemic has accentuated the massive humanitarian crisis. Together, the deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions threaten the long-term unity, viability, and territorial integrity of the country.
- The failure of state institutions, lack of resources, and massive unemployment have made Yemen a breeding ground for violent extremist groups, including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS.

US INTERESTS

- Ensure that Yemen is not a safe haven for violent extremist organizations, including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS.
- Ensure freedom of navigation through the Gulf of Aden and Bab el-Mandeb.
- Promote Yemen's integration into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to enhance regional security and stability.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand engagement with the UN special envoy, the P-5, Yemen parties, and regional partners to promote a negotiated resolution to the conflict on the basis of UNSCR 2216, preserving Yemen's territorial integrity and enhancing regional stability.
- Promote the conclusion of the final elements of the GCC Transition plan, including the election of a new, legitimate government to partner with the U.S. in eliminating violent extremists threats in Yemen.
- Construct a broad framework for economic development and reconstruction based on GCC-led assistance and the integration of Yemen's economy with its Gulf neighbors.
- Lead the international community's sustained commitment to develop Yemen's social, political, and economic institutions and eliminate the root causes of violent extremism.
- Empower the UN special envoy to make it clear the U.S. will respond positively if Iran cooperates in bringing the conflict to an end.

- Gerald Feierstein