# YEMEN

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#### 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.
- Conversely, ending the Yemen civil war can be an important step forward in reducing regional tensions and opening the door to GCC-Iran dialogue.

#### **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 GCC to enhance regional security and stability.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take steps to ensure that critical humanitarian supplies reach Yemen through both international humanitarian organizations and private sector entities.
- Expand engagement with the U.N. 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.