

CHAIR REPORT

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Addressing the Deterioration of Regional Peace and Maritime Security
Stemming from the Ongoing Conflict in Yemen

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Introduction

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has evolved from a domestic civil war into a major regional and international security challenge. Since the conflict intensified in 2015, fighting between the internationally recognized Yemeni government, the Houthi movement (Ansar Allah), and other armed groups in Yemen has caused widespread humanitarian suffering while destabilizing the broader Middle East. Yemen's strategic location along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean means that instability within the country has direct implications for international trade, energy supplies, and global economic security.

In recent years, attacks on commercial vessels and maritime infrastructure in the Red Sea have heightened concerns over freedom of navigation and the safety of one of the world's busiest shipping routes. These disruptions have increased shipping costs, delayed global supply chains, and raised the risk of wider regional confrontation involving neighboring states and external powers. At the same time, the conflict has enabled the growth of arms smuggling, terrorism, and other transnational security threats, further undermining regional peace and stability.

Addressing the deterioration of regional peace and maritime security requires a balanced and comprehensive approach that prioritizes diplomacy, consensus on

international law, protection of civilians, and cooperation among regional and international companies and stakeholders. Sustainable peace in Yemen is essential not only for the country's recovery but also for ensuring regional stability, individual's well-being and maintenance of international peace and security in Yemen.

Key Terms

Yemen Conflict

The ongoing civil war in Yemen involves the internationally recognized government, the Houthi movement, and various regional and international bodies involved in the crises.

Maritime Security

Measures and policies aimed at protecting oceans, seas, ports, shipping routes, and maritime trade from threats such as piracy, armed attacks and terrorism.

Red Sea

A strategically significant body of water connecting Europe and Asia through the Suez Canal and Bab el-Bandeb Strait.

Gulf of Aden

A body of water between Yemen and the Horn of Africa that serves as a major international shipping corridor for Yemen.

Houthis (Ansar Allah)

An armed political and religious movement in Yemen that controls most of northern Yemen and is a principal party to the Civil War conflict.

Piracy

Criminal acts of robbery or violence committed at sea against ships and their crew/people.

Ceasefire

A temporary or permanent agreement between conflicting parties to stop military operations.

Arms Smuggling

The illegal transportation and distribution of weapons across borders, often fueling armed conflicts.

Background Information

The conflict in Yemen originated from long-standing political, economic, and social grievances that were intensified by the aftermath of the 2011 Arab Spring. Following the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a political transition placed Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi in power. However, widespread dissatisfaction with the transitional government, coupled with economic hardship and weak state institutions, enabled the Houthi movement (Ansar Allah) to expand its influence. In September 2014, the Houthis seized the capital, Sana'a, forcing the government to flee. In March 2015, a Saudi Arabia led coalition intervened militarily in support of the internationally recognized government, transforming the conflict into a broader regional crisis.

Over the years, the conflict has resulted in one of the world's worst humanitarian emergencies. Millions of Yemenis have faced food starvation, displacements, disease outbreaks and limited access to healthcare and essential services. The destruction of critical infrastructure and the disruption of humanitarian aid have further deepened the crisis, placing immense pressure on both Yemen and the neighboring countries of Yemen.

Beyond Yemen's borders, the conflict has significantly affected regional peace and maritime security. Yemen borders the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a strategic maritime point where global trade and energy shipments pass. In 2023, attacks on vessels or ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden disrupted international shipping, which increased costs of transportation and forced many shipping companies around the area to reroute ships and vessels around the Cape of Good Hope. These developments have affected global supply chains and increased economic uncertainty.

Major Countries and/or Organizations Involved

The United Nations

The United Nations has led diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict through mediation, humanitarian assistance, and Security Council resolutions. The UN also coordinates with international aid and supports negotiations between parties.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has led a military coalition supporting Yemen's internationally recognized government since 2015. Saudi Arabia also plays an important role in ceasefire negotiations and regional security efforts.

United States of America

The United States supports freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, provides military assistance to regional partners, and participates in efforts to protect commercial shipping from different attacks from opponent ships or vessels.

Houthi Movement (Ansar Allah)

The Houthis are a major armed group controlling much of northern Yemen, including the capital, Sana'a. Their attacks on vessels in the Red Sea have significantly affected maritime security and international trade.

European Union

The European Union provides humanitarian assistance to Yemen and supports diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the Civil War. It also contributes to different initiatives that enhance maritime security in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Timeline of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>21 September 2014</i>	<i>The Houthi movement seized Yemen's capital, Sana'a, forcing the government to lose control of key state institutions and escalating the political crisis.</i>
<i>26 March 2015</i>	<i>A Saudi Arabia-led coalition launched a military intervention in Yemen in support of the internationally recognized government, expanding the conflict into a regional crisis.</i>
<i>13 December 2018</i>	<i>The UN brokered the Stockholm Agreement, which aimed to reduce fighting around Hodeidah, providing humanitarian aid and implement prisoner exchanges.</i>

2 April 2022 *A UN brokered nationwide truce came into effect, significantly reducing hostilities and improving humanitarian access across all of Yemen.*

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- **UN Security Council Resolution 2216:** *Called on the Houthis to withdraw from seized territories, imposed an arms embargo on designated individuals in Yemen and strengthened the support for Yemen's internationally recognized government.*
- **Stockholm Agreement:** *Brokered by the United Nations to reduce fighting in Hodeidah, facilitate humanitarian access, and establish prisoner exchanges. It helped lower violence in key areas despite implementation challenges.*
- **UN Security Council Resolution 2451:** *Endorsed the Stockholm Agreement and authorized the deployment of a UN mission to monitor the ceasefire in Hodeidah.*
- **UN-Brokered Nationwide Truce:** *The UN negotiated a nationwide ceasefire that reduced hostilities, expanded humanitarian access, and resumed limited commercial flights and fuel imports.*
- **UN Security Council Resolution 2722:** *Condemned attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and reaffirmed the importance of protecting freedom of navigation and international maritime security.*

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

The United Nations has led numerous efforts to resolve the conflict through diplomacy and peace negotiations. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2216 (2015), calling for a ceasefire, humanitarian access and a political solution. In 2018, the UN brokered the Stockholm Agreement, which wants to reduce fighting around the port of Hodeidah, provide humanitarian aid, and implement prisoner exchanges, Although the agreement achieved some progress, many of its provisions were only partially implemented.

In April 2022, the United Nations successfully negotiated a nationwide truce that significantly reduced hostilities and improved humanitarian access. While the truce officially expired later that year, many of its measures continued informally. In response to increasing attacks on commercial vessels and ships, the United States and its allies have also launched multinational maritime security operations in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to protect shipping and uphold freedom of navigation. A lasting solution remains dependent on a settlement in Yemen.

Possible Solutions

A sustainable solution to the conflict requires renewed UN-led peace negotiations involving all relevant parties to achieve a comprehensive political settlement. The international community should continue supporting nationwide ceasefires, expand humanitarian assistance, and invest in Yemen's long-term reconstruction. Strengthening different government institutions, protecting civilians, and promoting economic recovery can also help address the root causes of instability and reduce the risk of violence.

To address maritime security concerns, regional and international actors should strengthen cooperation through coordinated naval patrols, intelligence sharing, and joint efforts to protect commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Greater initiatives to reduce arms smuggling and other dangerous activities, alongside respect for international maritime law and freedom of navigation can also help reduce tensions between neighboring countries. Continued diplomatic engagement between regional powers is also important to building trust.

Work cited

Provide all resources used to write this report in MLA latest format.

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