

The Southern Transitional Council Navigating a Decisive Juncture in Regional & Global Stability

Annual Meeting



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As Yemen's complex crisis continues to unfold, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) finds itself at a pivotal crossroads. The ongoing political and security challenges necessitate decisive action, yet the STC must navigate a delicate balance between asserting its leadership role in the South and maintaining a strategic approach that aligns with international and regional interests. With increasing uncertainty surrounding the legitimacy and functionality of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), **the question arises: Should the STC take full control of the South, and if so, what is the most effective path forward?**

While some may perceive the STC's assertion of authority as a challenge to the PLC, it is more accurate to view it as a necessary step toward correcting the course of governance and ensuring stability in the South. The current political framework, shaped by interest-based influences and conflicting agendas, has failed to deliver meaningful progress. The South cannot afford to remain stagnant while internal divisions and external interferences continue to undermine efforts toward a sustainable political resolution.

So, Rather than engaging in direct confrontation with existing political structures, the STC must employ a strategic approach that prioritizes governance, security, and international recognition. This can be achieved through continued consolidating its position as the representative authority in the South. This involves expanding its governance structures, ensuring efficient administration, and maintaining security. The Southern Armed Forces

must be further developed as a professional and disciplined force capable of protecting the region from terrorist threats and external aggression, and for sure the STC must maintain **open channels** with international stakeholders, emphasizing its role as a stabilizing force in region as it has already proven in the ground. Moreover The council should actively advocate for reforms within the PLC, ensuring that Southern representation is not symbolic but substantive, as **the PLC remains ineffective and compromised**, that's why the STC should gradually assume greater political autonomy by taking the lead.

With heightened global concerns over Houthi terrorism and instability in the region, the STC has a unique opportunity to present itself as an essential partner in securing regional waters, combating extremism, and safeguarding international trade routes. In fact the South's geopolitical significance cannot be ignored, and this reality must be leveraged in negotiations with Western and regional powers.

So, Given the current political climate, it supposed that the STC must assert Greater Autonomy in Governance by continue in strengthening its administrative control over the South while ensuring that governance structures are effective and responsive to the needs of its people. This will demonstrate its capacity for self-rule and dispel concerns about instability. Furthermore, yes, the international support is crucial for any long-term political settlement. The STC must proactively engage with the **U.S., the UK, the EU**, and regional powers to secure diplomatic recognition and support for its role as a stabilizing force as it has proven for all. May be some actors seek to influence decision-making within Southern institutions. The STC must navigate these pressures clearly, ensuring that the South's political trajectory remains aligned with its own national interests rather than full external unclear agendas, especially following failure of PLC to deliver meaningful governance reforms, so the expected preparation is to step in as the legitimate governing authority in the South. This transition must be handled strategically and gradually, ensuring minimal disruption while securing broad domestic and international backing.

For many, it's clear recently that the STC's ability to act decisively in this period will shape the future of the South. The council is not an opposition force as some locals try to shape this picture for others; in reality it is a governing entity with a responsibility to protect its people and secure its territory. As the region faces increasing threats from the Houthis, terrorist organizations, and foreign interventions the STC must demonstrate strong leadership, strategic vision, and diplomatic finesse.

Finally we must remember this especially after the decision of U.S regarding Houthi' terrorism and the need for immediate gradual action; the world is watching. **Will the South rise as a stable and independent entity capable of contributing to regional and global security? Or will it remain entangled in political deadlock, leaving its future at the mercy of external agendas, Houthi militia & terrorism threats, ? The answer depends on the choices the STC makes today.**