International Council of Voluntary Agencies – Ignacio Packer, Executive Director

Thank you co-hosts: the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, and UN OCHA for organizing this conference and ensuring participation of the NGO community who play a vital role in responding to the acute needs in Yemen.

It is the people of Yemen we are here to support.

Despite the many challenges of operating in Yemen, NGOs continue to be able to deliver and to reach people in need.

We echo the UN SG’s commitment to focus together on the true fight – defeating COVID-19 and silencing the guns. It is only by a cessation of conflict, and through addressing the drivers of continued conflict that Yemen will find stability.

We call on the international donor community to increase their funding to Yemen and to ensure essential resources reach frontline NGOs. We call on donors to take a principled and needs-based approach to funding.

We call on all key actors to support transparent and inclusive coordination. We acknowledge increased engagement for NGOs at different coordination and decision-making platforms. Additional levels of transparency, mutual collaboration attitudes, and clear coordination strategies are required to ensure the inclusion of ALL actors.

In line with our collective global commitments towards localization, ICVA & CARE are supporting the local actors who have established The Yemen CSO Forum as their platform to strengthen engagement in coordination. I now invite you to hear directly from ICVA member and representative of local CSOs in Yemen Mr. Abdu Ahmad

Statement of Yemen CSOs Union - Abdu Ahmed Al-Qubati, USCOs & ICVA Members Representative

Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning … good afternoon … Al Salam Alykuom

It is of great pleasure to be part of this important event today.

The Union of Civil Society Organizations (UCSOs) in Yemen extends its thanks and appreciation to the organizers and participants of this conference for giving us the opportunity to participate. We also thank ICVA and CARE organization for their support to the union.

We find it an opportunity to address our concerns and challenges facing Yemen, which are attributable to the deteriorating and continuing humanitarian situation, especially the spread of the COVID19 pandemic and its negative effects. This is in addition to the main and biggest challenge represented by the possibility of closing the offices of many civil society organizations and local NGOs.

The complex humanitarian situation in Yemen requires collective actions, more transparent partnership between the CSOs, donors and local & international NGOs. Also, it requires strengthening of trust
among all to be able to reach the people affected by the conflict. We also hope to conduct an **objective assessment** of the humanitarian relief efforts, challenges and obstacles that have been encountered during the past five years, and to draw lessons learned in order to reach an effective and comprehensive humanitarian relief that includes building national capacities for a speedy recovery.

We believe that empowering and supporting local organizations and civil society organizations is the **cornerstone** to ensure sustainability and access to recovery. We affirm the return to the framework within the partnership between the government and civil society organizations agreed upon in 2013, and facilitate the participation of local organizations in policy development efforts, specifically those related to the tripartite association (the Association for Humanity, Development and Peace), as this will be a product of the humanitarian aid provided to Yemen, whether from Donors and local and international representatives.

We emphasize the importance of **direct communication between civil society organizations** and donors, and we assure the importance to grants and aid being complementary between emergency projects and development projects.

At the end of my speech, I would like to thank everyone for their continuous efforts, contribution and generous interest in the demands of civil society organizations and local NGOs.

----------------------------------------------------------End Statement----------------------------------------------------------