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STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the closing of Yemen's National Dialogue Conference

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I warmly congratulate the people of Yemen on the successful conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference. I commend the work and determination of the delegates to the Conference, under the leadership of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, for making this possible.

This process, which brought together representatives of different political parties and various strands of society, is a unique and historic achievement. It has brought Yemen closer to democracy and to the aspirations of its people for a more secure and prosperous future.

The National Dialogue has been able to overcome serious challenges. A deteriorating security situation and several incidents, including killings, have regrettably threatened the Dialogue until the last day, but the commitment of the participants has been stronger than any attempt to derail the process.

The conclusion of the National Dialogue opens a new, extremely challenging phase that should lead to a new Constitution and to fully transparent and credible elections."

More than ever, the perseverance and collaborative spirit of all stakeholders and a climate of security and inclusiveness will be essential to the success of this transition.

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The EU will continue to stand by Yemen and its people as they work together to secure a better future."
