The Steering Committee of the MENA Transition Fund  
The World Bank  
1818H Street Washington DC, 20433  
USA  

Subject: Business Resilience Assistance for Value-adding Enterprise (BRAVE)  

Dear Steering Committee,  

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is honored to submit this letter endorsing the proposal of the Republic of Yemen for the “Business Resilience Assistance for Value-adding Enterprise (BRAVE)”. This endorsement was the result of extensive joint discussions and preparatory arrangements with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and the Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) – a subsidiary of the Social Fund for Development (SFD) of Yemen.  

The project proposal, prepared as per IsDB’s project preparation procedures, presents a firm-level response to the implications of the current conflict in Yemen which has paralyzed the economic activity, threatened to disintegrate the value chains in pro-poor sectors and put value adding SMEs and women businesses at risk. The project shall therefore seek to develop business resilience and business continuity initiatives that support SMEs and leading firms of vital sectors to manage risk, and helps such value adding enterprises develop and implement crisis mitigation plans.  

The project is aligned with the aspirations of the Yemeni government’s “Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development” (TPSD) and the “Mutual Accountability Framework” (MAF) outlining the supporting role of donor countries in Yemen. The project design was based on the outcome of the assessment carried by the quadripartite Damage Needs Assessment (DNA) initiative of WB Group, IsDB Group, UN and EU in close coordination with the Government of Yemen. It is also complementary to IsDB’s broader engagement and financing package for Yemen which includes the Youth Employment Support Program; Enhancement of Rural Development Opportunities (ERDO) and VOLIP.  

I am therefore reiterating IsDB’s endorsement and commitment to act as an Implementation Support Agency (ISA) for the subject project.  

Sincerely Yours,  

Dr. Mansur Muhtar  
Vice President (Operations)  
Islamic Development Bank  

CC:  
✓ H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdul-Wahid Al-Maytami  
Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)