

## **High-level meeting on the Syria crisis – UNGA72**

**21 September 2017, 4:30PM – 6PM – Trusteeship Council**

### **Overall context**

The European Union has hosted meetings on Syria at the last four UNGAs, most recently involving UN Secretary-General Special Envoy S. de Mistura as well as High Representative Vice President of the European Commission F. Mogherini and Commissioners J. Hahn and C. Stylianides. Following the Brussels Conference on *'Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region'* on 5 April 2017, there is a strong case for hosting another Syria high-level event.

The Syrian armed conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis continue to deeply affect the stability and prosperity of the region by triggering massive humanitarian needs and the biggest refugee crisis since World War II, with now 13.5 million people in need inside Syria and over 5 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. Finding a political solution to the conflict on the basis of UNSCR 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué while continuing to address the humanitarian, socio-economic and security consequences inside Syria as well as in neighbouring host countries remains a top priority for the international community.

To maintain the focus on the urgency of a solution to the Syrian conflict and its considerable consequences on the region, the EU will host a follow-up high-level meeting on the Syria crisis at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the UN General Assembly.

### **Purpose**

As the Syria conflict moves into the seventh year and into a post-Daesh phase, it is essential to maintain the international attention and sustain international engagement in support of all efforts to achieving a lasting solution to the benefit of the Syrian people and the region.

The high-level meeting will help to maintain this focus and to address the plight of the Syrian people in Syria and in the neighbouring countries, as well as the needs of their host countries and communities, and the massive costs of the conflict to the country and region.

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the high-level meeting will be to:

1. Sustain the principled response to the humanitarian needs across Syria, with a particular focus on access and protection, in view of continued obstacles and challenges;
2. Address the humanitarian and resilience needs of Syrian refugees and host communities, including in light of respective commitments by neighbouring countries and the donor community;
3. Consider the parameters for engagement in resilience and stabilisation efforts in different parts of Syria, in the context of the establishment of de-escalation zones;
4. Assess the state of play of post-agreement planning.

## **Format**

The EU, represented by the HR/VP F. Mogherini and European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management C. Stylianides will host the high-level meeting in the United Nations Trusteeship Council on 21 September from 4:30 till 6PM.

The UN system will be represented at high level. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been invited to deliver the opening speech. The Secretary-General Special Envoy for Syria S. de Mistura, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator M. Lowcock and High Commissioner for Refugees F. Grandi have confirmed their presence.

High-level representatives from Syria's neighbouring countries are also expected.

The opening will be followed by an opportunity for Ministers to contribute to both the situation and the response inside Syria and in neighbouring host countries, including updates on the delivery of pledges and political commitments made at the Brussels conference, possibly in two short sessions focused on:

*Inside Syria*: maintaining humanitarian assistance and access efforts while assessing scope for resilience, stabilisation efforts and post-agreement planning.

*Neighbouring countries*: upholding humanitarian and resilience objectives and meeting respective needs, against the background of host countries' and donor commitments.

## **Participation and Participants' contribution**

The event is by invitation only and special event tickets will be required.

Participants will be invited to deliver short statements (maximum 3 minutes) from the floor. A speakers list is open. We invite those interested to communicate their intention to deliver statements, as early as possible, to the EU Delegation to the United Nations ([delegation-new-york-political@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-new-york-political@eeas.europa.eu)).

The short duration of the high-level meeting will mean that it may not be possible to accommodate all requests to speak.

Interpretation will be available into and from English and Arabic.

## **Communication and follow-up**

Available web and social media channels to be used to announce the event, using the hashtag of the Brussels Conference #SyriaConf17. The meeting will be streamed on UN Web TV.

A press statement by the High Representative Vice President of the European Commission F. Mogherini giving a brief outline of the discussions will follow the Ministerial meeting.

## **Special Event Tickets & Seating arrangements**

Special Event Tickets (1 + 3 per delegation) will be available starting on Tuesday 19 September (9:30AM till 5:30PM) at the EU Delegation reception (666 Third Avenue, 31<sup>st</sup> floor, NY 10017).

Additional badges can be provided upon request to larger delegations.

Principals + 1 (back-seat) will be seated in the room with name plates. Additional accompanying staff will be invited to sit in unlabelled seats on the side and in the back of the Trusteeship Council (free seating).