



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 October 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of Canada, H.E. Marc-André Blanchard, in which he requests on behalf of 70 Member States, the holding of a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the situation of Syria.

Following due consultation, I have arranged for the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and his Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, to kindly provide a briefing on this subject followed by an interactive discussion with Member States. This informal meeting will take place on 20 October 2016 from 3.00 - 5.00p.m. The venue will be communicated in the journal. Please note that there will be no list of speakers for this occasion.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete' followed by a stylized flourish.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



October 13th, 2016

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson,
President of the seventy first session of the UN General Assembly
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Building, Room CB-0246
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you on behalf of 69 Member States, including Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay to express our serious concern about the humanitarian tragedy that continues to unfold in Syria.

We are deeply concerned that the international community has failed to address the overwhelming humanitarian needs of Syrians and to halt the attacks against civilian targets in Aleppo and other parts of Syria. The failure, in this case, by the United Nations Security Council to carry out its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security in Syria is troubling.

The General Assembly also has responsibilities which should be exercised in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security. The victims of this tragedy deserve action, starting with a cessation of hostilities and immediate humanitarian access allowing for a resumption of political talks and unhindered access.

We are, therefore, calling on you as President of the General Assembly to immediately call a plenary meeting of the current General Assembly. This would allow the entire United Nations membership the opportunity to address this issue, in accordance with the UN Charter. We believe that such a meeting is an important first step for Member States to explore concerted action to apply pressure on the parties to the violence and, ultimately, protect the lives of those innocent civilians who remain in harm's way. This meeting would also assist Member States in determining whether to call for an Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.

We stand ready to support you in your role as President of the General Assembly and urge you to bring this issue to the full UN membership and the Secretary -General.

Please accept Excellency the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Marc-Andre Blanchard
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative