

Canada leads on efforts to mobilize UN on Syria

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News Release

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The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, made the following statement announcing he will be participating in a plenary meeting on Syria initiated by Canada at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on October 20:

“Canada is marshaling the international community at the UN to stand up for vulnerable Syrians. We are deeply concerned that the UN Security Council has been unable to address the overwhelming humanitarian needs of Syrians, and to halt the attacks against civilians in Aleppo and other parts of Syria. The victims of this tragedy deserve action, starting with a monitored and enforceable cessation of hostilities; immediate, full and unhindered humanitarian access; and the resumption of political talks.

“Recognizing this intractable nature of this crisis within the UNSC, Canada took the lead and is now joined by 70 other countries in responding to the need to take action. This plenary meeting will mobilize the Member States to press for a solution to the conflict in Syria and to address humanitarian needs. It is important for Member States gathered in the General Assembly to exert pressure on the parties, to broaden the chorus of condemnation and to put an end to the tragedy afflicting Syrians.”

Quick facts

- On October 11, 2016, Canada's efforts were supported by 70 members who co-sponsored a letter to the President of the United Nations General Assembly calling on the international community, through the UN, to fulfill its responsibility to protect Syrians from mass atrocities and senseless violence.
- At the plenary meeting, the United Nations Secretary General, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan De Mistura, and representatives of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and of Canada will address members.
- On February 8, 2016, the Government of Canada announced that it will spend \$1.6 billion over the next three years in a comprehensive and integrated regional response to the crises in Syria and Iraq, with a focus on security, stabilization, humanitarian and development assistance, and enhanced diplomatic engagement.

Associated links

- [Canada and the Middle East and North Africa](#)
- [Canada's response to Middle East crises and violent extremism](#)
- [The Global Coalition Against Daesh](#)

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