

Resumption of Political Process Must Be Based on 2012 Geneva Communique & Relevant UNSC Resolutions

 en.etilaf.org/press/resumption-of-political-process-must-be-based-on-2012-geneva-communique-relevant-uns-resolutions

January 5, 2017

Press Release
Syrian Coalition
Political Committee
January 5, 2017

Original in arabic

With regards to the efforts being made to consolidate the countrywide ceasefire that was set out in the UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and confirmed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2336 (2016) as well as preparations for the Astana meeting, the Syrian Coalition emphasizes the following:

1. The Syrian Coalition stresses the need for full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement as it condemns continued violations and war crimes by the Assad regime and the Iranian-backed militias, especially in the Wadi Barada valley. The UN Security Council and guarantors of the ceasefire agreement are obliged to immediately stop and condemn these violations and to punish the perpetrators.
2. The Coalition urges the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign militias from Syria and to require all parties to stop supporting or providing political and legal cover for the actions of these militias.
3. The Coalition emphasizes provisions of the UN Security Council resolution 2336 (2016) which called for launching a political process in Syria that is based on the Geneva Communique of 2012 as well as UNSC resolutions 2118 (2013), 2254 (2015) and 2268 (2016). Preparations for the upcoming meeting in Astana should include full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Syria and build on what had been reached in the Geneva negotiations of 2014 and 2016. Moreover, the Coalition stresses the need for the creation of the necessary conditions for the success of negotiations, including a complete halt to hostilities, the lifting of the sieges, the delivery of aid to those in need, the release of prisoners, and revealing the fate of those missing.

4. The Syrian Coalition, as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people, emphasizes the exclusive right of the Syrian opposition to choose its negotiating delegation represented by the High Negotiations Committee. The Coalition is deeply concerned by Russia's attempts to interfere in the issue of representation of the Syrian people in the upcoming peace negotiations. The opposition's High Negotiations Committee is the only side with a mandate to choose the negotiating delegation as was set out in the final communiqué of the Riyadh meeting held in December 2015 during which all Syrian political and revolutionary forces agreed upon giving the HNC this mandate.