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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Qatar and United States of America: draft resolution

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,²

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the end in December 2024 of the former Syrian regime, which failed to meet its responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all persons within its jurisdiction, and recognizing the likelihood of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Syria,

Welcoming also in this regard statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria that those governing Syria bear profound responsibility to ensure that the atrocities, abuses and violations committed by the former regime are never repeated, and that the Syrian people deserve a homeland where their rights are safeguarded, their voices are heard and their dignity is preserved,

Emphasizing the importance of transitional justice, including victims' meaningful participation, in order to ensure accountability, promote reconciliation and prevent the recurrence of atrocities, abuses and violations, in accordance with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.



Underscoring the roles of international mechanisms, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 and the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, in providing support to and complementing the national efforts undertaken by the Government of Syria to ensure Syrian-led, Syrian-owned accountability, and welcoming the unprecedented and increasing access granted by the Government of Syria to support investigations and accountability efforts,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts of the Syrian Government to foster dialogue among representatives of the country's diverse religious communities, while also actively working to safeguard religious sites and preserve the rich religious and cultural diversity of Syria, recognizing that these actions are vital to promoting stability, peace and prosperity throughout the country,

Acknowledging the important role of Syrian and international civil society, human rights defenders, victims, survivors and their families in documenting violations and abuses in Syria throughout the conflict and post-conflict period, often at great personal risk, in pursuit of truth and accountability,

Deploring that the former Syrian regime had consistently used arbitrary detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including sexual violence and violence against women and girls, enforced disappearances and other detention-related abuses, to intimidate, punish and coerce perceived political opponents, dissenting civilians and their family members, in addition to summary executions, extrajudicial killings, the targeting of civilians and the use of chemical weapons, as documented by the Commission of Inquiry,

Reiterating its grave concern at the findings of the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attributing responsibility for multiple chemical weapons attacks to the former Syrian regime, and expressing its strong conviction that all those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria must be held accountable, noting in this regard that Syria has a vested interest in investigating and holding to account perpetrators of any use of chemical weapons on its territory,

Noting that, despite the welcome release by the Government of Syria of prisoners since December 2024, efforts to establish the fates and whereabouts of those who remain missing and the need to support victims, survivors and their families, including through psychosocial assistance, will continue for years to come, and encouraging continued coordination and cooperation between the Syrian National Commission for Missing Persons, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and other technical experts on these efforts,

Underscoring the urgent need to preserve and secure all documentation, information and evidence related to atrocities, abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, to ensure Syrian-led, Syrian-owned accountability, supported by the continuation of international efforts to this end,

Welcoming the commitment expressed during the 108th session of the Council by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria to work with the Secretariat and other States Parties towards the complete elimination of the former Syrian regime's chemical weapons programme in accordance with the obligations of Syria under the Convention, and welcoming also the steps taken by the new Government of Syria to support and facilitate the work of the Secretariat, despite the challenges facing the country after 14 years of war,

Noting with great concern alarming allegations of attacks that appear to constitute retaliation since December 2024, including violence in Suwayda' and southern Syria in July 2025, and an alarming report by the Commission of Inquiry that found a wave of violence since January in coastal and western central Syria, including acts that may amount to war crimes, perpetrated by both pro-former government fighters and individuals from the interim government force, as well as by private individuals, and acknowledging that the unimpeded access granted by the Syrian Government to the Commission enabled the Commission to conduct its investigations independently, without interference, and in full conformity with its mandate,

Supporting efforts by the Government of Syria to preserve the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of Syria, while ensuring the access of all Syrians to representation and participation in the political process and State institutions, regardless of religious or ethnic background, and taking steps to prevent the re-establishment of terrorist groups in Syrian territory, in line with international law, to safeguard peaceful coexistence and enhance security and stability,

Welcoming the lifting of most sanctions applied to Syria, including recent exemptions, exceptions and suspensions of sanctions and restrictive measures, and encouraging further steps to lift all remaining sanctions, as these steps would facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid throughout Syria and promote long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts in support of the country's prosperity and long-term stability,

1. *Affirms* support for the Syrian people in their pursuit of a peaceful, representative and comprehensive political process, in line with the stated commitment of the Syrian Government to a comprehensive political transition;

2. *Welcomes* the recent parliamentary elections in Syria as a step forward in the country's political process, while recognizing the need for continued efforts to enhance the participation and representation of women and all constituencies of the Syrian people;

3. *Also welcomes* the establishment by the Government of Syria of a National Commission on Missing Persons and a National Commission on Transitional Justice, as well as provisions of the Constitutional Declaration signed in March 2025 affirming that the State shall guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms, and notes with support the provisions made on freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief and women's rights, and in this regard calls for their implementation, and expresses its hope that the Constitutional Declaration will serve as a solid framework for a successful, orderly and comprehensive transition and a peaceful future for Syria, ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Syrians, achieving justice and accountability and upholding good governance and the rule of law;

4. *Encourages* the Government of Syria to continue to ensure a viable path towards credible accountability for all crimes that do justice to victims, survivors and their families and contributes to reconciliation and a peaceful future for all Syrians, and recognizes in this regard the fact that the Constitutional Declaration includes a provision to establish a transitional justice commission, but also recognizes the multitude of challenges faced by the Government in its pursuit of Syrian-led, Syrian-owned accountability and transitional justice owing to the scale of the former regime's violations and their complex consequences;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of Syria to ensure that allegations of all crimes that appear to constitute retaliation are investigated, and that perpetrators are held to account through transparent and appropriate judicial mechanisms that are consistent with international law, and acknowledges in this regard the commitment made at the

highest levels of Syria on 9 March 2025 to hold accountable all those involved in violations and abuses during the events of March 2025;

6. *Welcomes* the actions of the Government of Syria to combat drug trafficking within the country's borders and across the region, including enhanced law enforcement measures, significant seizures of narcotics such as Captagon, and increased cooperation and coordination with neighbouring countries to dismantle transnational trafficking and large-scale production networks, which the former Assad regime weaponized as a tool to destabilize the region, with severe consequences for security and public health across neighbouring States;

7. *Supports* the Government of Syria in its efforts to ensure the preservation of documentation, information and evidence related to atrocities, abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including mass burial sites, and encourages the Government to develop a comprehensive and trusted system for maintaining such evidence in the long term;

8. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's appointment of an Assistant Secretary-General as the Head of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, and in this regard urges the Government of Syria and the Independent Institution to work together to assist Syrian-led efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in Syria, to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing, to ensure the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and representation of victims, survivors and the families of missing persons in Syria in this endeavour and to coordinate support in this regard;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Syria to continue its positive engagement with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as with Syrian civil society, including victim associations and groups, and in this regard calls upon these organizations and mechanisms to coordinate their approach and activities to ensure effectiveness;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider adjusting the current mandates of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, as appropriate, to respond effectively to the new reality in Syria, enable capacity-building and complement national Syrian-led, Syrian-owned processes;

11. *Welcomes* the agreement between the Syrian Government and the Syrian Democratic Forces of 10 March 2025 as a pivotal step towards national unity and stabilization, and calls for its full and swift implementation to ensure lasting peace, security and inclusive governance across Syria;

12. *Expresses support* for civil society, human rights defenders, victims, survivors and their families and for their continued role in Syrian-led, Syrian-owned, comprehensive and victim-centred transitional justice and accountability efforts, and in this regard stresses the importance of protecting civic space and free, impartial media and for women to have the opportunity for full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and leadership in the political transition;

13. *Expresses gratitude* to the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the many humanitarian non-governmental organizations that have provided assistance to Syrian civilians during more than 13 years of hardship and suffering, recognizes the many donors that supported these efforts over this time, and

encourages continued cooperation between the Government of Syria and the United Nations as reconstruction is carried out within the country;

14. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders to provide support to the Syrian Government in strengthening national capacities across governance, administrative, law enforcement and development sectors, in a manner that respects the sovereignty of Syria and aligns with its national priorities.
