

**CIVILIAN STABILISATION IN SUPPORT OF A POLITICAL
SETTLEMENT IN SYRIA: NON PAPER FOR CONSULTATION**

Context

1. The overall objective of civilian stabilisation activities is to support and sustain political processes of conflict resolution. They prepare the ground for, protect, and promote legitimate political authority through reducing violence, and re-establishing basic security, improving basic services, promoting reconciliation, and laying the foundations for longer-term recovery. Civilian stabilisation complements humanitarian and development efforts as an equally important strand of action in international crisis management.
2. Current civilian stabilisation measures in the continuing conflict in Syria aim at supporting local governance structures and functioning basic services and infrastructure, and prepare the ground for a political solution and subsequent reconstruction. In the post-conflict scenario, civilian stabilisation will support the implementation of a political solution by producing peace-dividends for all sides of the conflict, prioritising efforts that bring former opponents into joint action and promote reconciliation. In both cases, civilian stabilisation measures inside Syria will endeavour to increase the resilience of local communities, including IDPs and those hosting them.
3. This non-paper suggests key principles to guide civilian stabilisation in Syria.

Assumptions and Key Framing Principles

4. Once a Transitional Governing Body has been established through the political process on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué (of 2012) and the Vienna Communiqué (of 14.11.2015), the process will evolve. Planning needs to start now in order to be ready immediately after an agreement, recognising Syria's unity, independence, territorial integrity, and non-sectarian character in line with UNSC Resolution 2254 (2015).
5. Lessons learned from the experience of civilian stabilisation efforts and from internationally recognised good practice suggest there are core principles that should guide civilian stabilisation efforts in Syria once a political agreement has been reached:
 - i. Civilian stabilisation should be seen as an essential part of and contribution to the political settlement in Syria;
 - ii. Conditions will vary across the country and over time; a differentiated and evolving approach is required;
 - iii. Civilian stabilisation should be understood as a series of interlinked phases; transition between phases should be determined by changes in context, not fixed date points;
 - iv. Civilian stabilisation is dynamic, taking place alongside humanitarian and other activities, and should support and enable transition, to longer term reconstruction;
 - v. Civilian stabilisation should be inclusive, addressing the immediate needs of all Syrians.

- vi. The international stabilisation effort should be coordinated by the UN, building on existing mechanisms and processes; and
- vii. The response should be designed to be owned by the Transitional Governing Body once formed.

Next Steps

6. The UN stands ready to coordinate stabilisation, post-conflict peace building and recovery efforts and will begin planning work promptly. The UN will update the ISSG on these efforts on a regular basis. Participants agreed to give their full support to the planning process and to working in partnership with the UN, including by committing immediate resources in support of these efforts.