



## Security Council briefing on Syria (political and humanitarian), 21 November 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri  
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Thank you, President

I thank Deputy Special Envoy Rochdi and Director Wosornu for their briefings, and I also thank Ms Zainedin for sharing her powerful testimony with us today.

The Syrian people, already profoundly vulnerable after enduring 14 years of conflict, need peace, stability, and political support more than ever. Yet the region remains on the precipice.

Just last week, airstrikes in Damascus claimed 15 lives and injured 16 more. Additional reports indicate that at least 36 people have been killed in strikes on Palmyra on Wednesday. Air strikes in Lebanon have resulted in the displacement of nearly half a million people across the border to Syria.



We have seen reports detailing engineering and construction work along the Alpha Line, encroaching into the Area of Separation. These are repeated violations of the UNDOF Agreement. Such actions escalate tensions and potentially threaten the viability of this fifty-year-old ceasefire.

Mr President

The humanitarian needs arising from Syria's protracted conflict are immense. Over 16.7 million people, including 7.4 million children, are in urgent and critical need of support.

In this vein, we are deeply concerned with the humanitarian situation in northeast Syria, including reports of large-scale attacks targeting civilian infrastructure. This has resulted in disruptions to the provision of electricity and water, directly impacting civilians.

We commend the efforts of the UN and its partners in reaching millions across Syria each month. Nevertheless, we regret the chronic underfunding of the humanitarian response plan.



Put simply, there are no further reductions that can be made without undermining the UN's ability to respond. Urgent and increased support, particularly in Early Recovery, Livelihoods, and Resilience programming, is essential to preserve life and dignity in Syria.

We stress the importance of adopting a whole-of-Syria approach in our Early Recovery to ensure that humanitarian aid is not weaponised by the regime.

The most direct routes, both cross-border and crossline, must be facilitated by all parties for as long as humanitarian needs persist. This is particularly critical as we approach the harsh winter months.

In this regard, we welcome the renewal of the Bab al-Hawa crossing in the north for a three-month period.

Mr President

The implementation of Resolution 2254 remains paramount. We deeply regret the continued lack of progress on this front.



We once again call for the implementation of a nationwide ceasefire to be respected by all parties in the region. Without these steps, we risk a profound unravelling of the fragile foundation for peace.

All parties must end their prevarications and commit to the resumption of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva.

Malta reaffirms its strong support for the UN's Independent Institution on Missing Persons and emphasizes the importance of carrying out its mandate in a gender-responsive and survivor-centred manner.

To conclude, Mr President

After 14 years of war, Syria's future remains hanging by a thread. Its economy, security, and society are in ruins.



While millions of Syrian people have fled to nearby Lebanon in that time, fearful of returning, we now see the fear of Israeli bombardment forcing nearly half a million to return. This, and the threat of major conflict in the region, threaten to push Syria into total collapse.

We once again reiterate that our responsibility is to stop this from happening. This is the responsibility of this Council.

Those with influence over the parties must ensure that Syrian civilians are protected from the devastating consequences of an all-out regional war.

I thank you.