

Beat: Politics

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON RES 2254 OVER SYRIA

### OF THE SMALL GROUP

Paris, Washington DC, 23.10.2020, 16:45 Time

**USPA NEWS** - We are publishing the full text of the Joint press release from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Small Group on Syria. (Source: French Foreign Affairs Ministry). « We, the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France, Jordan, United Kingdom and United States, reiterate our strong support for a solution policy to the Syrian crisis on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 2254. We support the efforts of Geir Pedersen, United Nations Special Envoy to Syria, to advance the political process. »

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A political solution in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 is the only way to bring lasting peace, stability and security to the Syrian people, and thus facilitate the withdrawal of all foreign forces that have arrived in the country after 2011. This solution must preserve the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of Syria.-----

We took note of the creation of the Constitutional Committee in 2019. We call for constant work with the Committee to achieve real progress in the discussions on the constitution, in accordance with its mandate and procedures. We support the efforts of Geir Pedersen to organize the fourth round of negotiations, which should be an opportunity to tackle substantive issues with a view to achieving meaningful progress. Steps must be taken to make progress on all other aspects of the political process, in particular with a view to the organization of free and fair elections, under the supervision of the United Nations and in a secure and neutral environment, as provided for by the resolution 2254 of the United Nations Security Council, in which displaced people, refugees and the diaspora must be able to participate. Almost ten years of conflict have inflicted deep suffering on the Syrian people. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives and millions have been forcibly displaced. In the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic and persistent economic hardship, we wish to stress once again the need to provide safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all Syrians in need, especially in areas where the situation is deteriorating noticeably like the province of Idlib and southern Syria. We also want to call on the international community to continue supporting Syrian refugees and their host countries and communities, until the Syrians can return to their homes voluntarily, in safety and with dignity. In addition, we oppose forced demographic changes and pledge not to provide financial assistance for the resettlement of Syrian refugees if it does not take place in accordance with the standards of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition, we wish to reaffirm that efforts towards a political solution in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 must lead to progress aimed at facilitating the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity as well as allowing release of Syrians in detention, and hold those responsible for atrocities to account. We stress that sufficient international support is needed to help refugee host countries meet the needs of refugees and maintain the resilience of host communities. No military solution will bring peace, security and stability to Syria. The only way to provide a better future for the entire Syrian population is to make progress in the implementation of the political process provided for in Security Council resolution 2254 and to establish a ceasefire in the United States. nationwide, which is also reflected in resolution 2254.-----

We reaffirm our determination to sustainably defeat Daesh and the other groups recognized as terrorists by the United Nations, in particular al-Qaeda and HTS, throughout Syria, including in the North-West and in the South of the country. We express our deep concern about the terrorist threat in southern Syria and pledge to support humanitarian action in this region. We deplore the growing risk of the Syrian conflict becoming more international as different parties to the conflict transfer combatants, including extremists, and equipment to other conflict areas". Source : French Foreign Affairs Ministry

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-17711/joint-press-release-from-the-ministers-of-foreign-affairs-on-res-2254-over-syria.html>

**Editorial office and responsibility:**

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