



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

REMARKS

by

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to the United Nations
Chargé d'affaires a.i.**

at the

***Informal meeting of the United Nations General Assembly plenary
to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General
on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic***

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Thank you Mr. President,

We commend convening this important debate on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including developments on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), on the humanitarian situation and on human rights in Syria. Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional observations.

A decade of conflict caused enormous suffering of Syrian people, their human rights are ignored, and their human dignity and freedoms are neglected. Reports of killing, torture, inhumane treatment, arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. However, there is no sign of accountability for perpetrators, or of addressing the root causes of these violations. We fully support the call to have the situation in Syria referred to the International Criminal Court. We commend the efforts of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to ensure justice and accountability, as a prerequisite of sustainable peace and stability, not only for Syria, but also for the entire region.

Both in New York and in Geneva, Slovakia co-sponsored and supported all resolutions on human rights situation in Syria, and we also expressed our grave concern and deep condemnation over situation in Syria during the Urgent Debate of the Human Rights Council on Eastern Ghouta that took place in March 2018.

Slovakia calls on all parties to the conflict to join forces to reaffirm and consolidate strong support for a political solution in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2254, as well as for the tireless efforts of the UN Special Envoy Pedersen to advance political solution in Syria. Sustainable peace and stability can only be achieved by a genuine, inclusive and comprehensive Syrian-led political solution, with the full and effective participation of women and concerns of all segments of Syrian society taken into consideration.

Slovakia reiterates the need for full, unhindered, safe and sustained humanitarian access including cross-border access for humanitarian assistance in line with humanitarian principles, which preserves a vital lifeline into Northern Syria.

Mr. President,

The conflict in Syria is far from over. Slovakia, together with the EU Member States remains resolute in continuing to demand an end to repression, the release of detainees, and that the Syrian regime and its allies engage meaningfully in the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254. Slovakia remains committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian state and recalls the need for a complete, immediate and nationwide ceasefire, in line with the call by the UN Secretary-General, his Special Envoy and UNSC resolutions, to guarantee the protection of civilians.

I thank you.