



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

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Statement by the Executive Committee on support for a political settlement in Syria

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

We, members of the Executive Committee, gathered for our 275th session in Dhaka, Bangladesh, express our deep concern over the continuing tragic situation in Syria as a result of ongoing confrontation between the authorities of the country and a substantial part of the civil society, and opponents of the Government on one hand, as well as over a persistent threat of terrorism towards the Syrian people as a whole, on the other.

We note with satisfaction that a political process in order to reconcile all parties to the conflict in Syria is being developed step by step on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2254 of 18 December 2015, which determines priority areas for multilateral efforts and calls for collective work to initiate and support effective negotiations between the Government of Syria and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition.

We express our strong support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, to facilitate a meaningful negotiation process in Geneva and for other peace efforts aimed at an immediate ceasefire in Syria and consultations between the parties to the conflict, such as the initiatives of Russia, Iran and Turkey in the context of peace talks in Astana.

As demonstrated by the significant attention given to the conflict in Syria at all recent IPU Assemblies, we have no doubt that the world's parliamentarians remain very keen to contribute to a comprehensive, inclusive and peaceful resolution of the crisis in Syria, particularly to end the suffering of its people.

Determined that the Inter-Parliamentary Union must play a significant role in this respect, we have decided to establish an IPU Executive Committee Working Group on Syria in order to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to advance an inclusive and comprehensive political settlement in Syria, as well as to support effective global efforts to combat international terrorism in the region.

The Working Group will comprise six members of the Executive Committee and one representative from each of the six geopolitical groups. We also invite the Syrian Parliament and representatives of the Syrian political opposition to cooperate in the activities of the Working Group.

The outcomes of the Working Group's activities shall be reported on and presented to the Executive Committee for further consideration at its session during the 137th IPU Assembly.

We request the IPU Secretariat make the necessary arrangements and determine appropriate modalities to ensure the effective and proper functioning of the Working Group. The Working Group may organize on-site fact finding missions provided that all security arrangements for the members of the Working Group are ensured by the appropriate authorities.

#IPU136