



Security Council

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Letter dated 22 June 2021 from the representatives of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We, the undersigned, express our grave continuing concern for the scale of suffering and worsening humanitarian needs of the Syrian people.

In the 10 years since the beginning of this devastating conflict, hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed and injured, including 12,000 children, and over half of Syria's pre-2011 population has been displaced. Over 13 million people in the country rely on humanitarian assistance.

This year, the United Nations has reported that Syrians have faced some of the most challenging humanitarian conditions experienced over the past decade, compounded by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Humanitarian needs are increasing. In Syria's north-west, there are 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian aid, a 20 per cent increase from 2020.

In this context, we jointly reaffirm our collective commitment to ensure humanitarian access to all Syrians in need, and thank humanitarian workers for their continued efforts to deliver life-saving aid to all people in need across all parts of Syria.

We recall the need for all parties to armed conflict to heed the Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire, to respect international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and to ensure safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access.

All channels to deliver life-saving assistance to Syrians should be made and kept available. More humanitarian access, both cross-border and cross-line, is crucial to ensure that essential assistance, including food, medical and surgical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines, reaches people in need throughout Syria through the most direct routes. The renewal of the cross-border mechanism is critical to ensuring direct and continued vaccine distribution to all Syrians through the COVAX facility. The elimination of the cross-border mechanism would have a crippling effect on millions of Syrians.

On March 30, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres told the members of the General Assembly that: "A large-scale cross-border response for an additional 12 months remains essential to save lives." We therefore call on all



members of the United Nations Security Council to work together to renew and expand the humanitarian cross-border mechanism for a minimum of 12 months, well ahead of the expiration of the authorization contained in Council resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#).

As members of the international community, as neighbours, as host countries of Syrian refugees and as donors, we express our joint support for the renewal and expansion of this humanitarian lifeline. We call for a sustainable political solution to the conflict in accordance with the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), which demands the full implementation of Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#) and any other applicable resolutions.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mitch **Fifield**
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

(Signed) Axel **Marschik**
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

(Signed) Philippe **Kridelka**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) Bob **Rae**
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

(Signed) Rodrigo A. **Carazo**
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) José A. **Blanco Conde**
Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic
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(Signed) Kaha **Imnadze**
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

(Signed) Stefano **Stefanile**
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(Signed) **Ishikane** Kimihiro
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(Signed) Andrejs **Pildegovičs**
Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations

(Signed) Christian **Wenaweser**
Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

(Signed) Rytis **Paulauskas**
Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations

(Signed) Christian **Braun**
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Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

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(Signed) Carlos **Amorín**
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