



*OIC/EX-COM/2016/FC*

**FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ**

**OF THE**

**MINISTERIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON  
THE SITUATION IN SYRIA IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT TRAGIC  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY OF ALEPPO**

**JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA  
THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2016**

**Draft Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Emergency Meeting of the Executive  
Committee on the Situation in Syria in Light of the Recent Tragic Developments in the City  
of Aleppo**

**Thursday, 22 December 2016**

- 1- The Executive Committee held an emergency meeting at the ministerial level on 22 December 2016 at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah at the request of the State of Kuwait to discuss the situation in Syria in light of the recent tragic developments in the city of Aleppo.
- 2- The Meeting reiterated the commitment of the OIC Member States to the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 3- The Meeting recalled the OIC resolutions and statements on Syria at the level of the Islamic Summits and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The latest were the Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, the Forty-Second Session of CFM held in Kuwait, State of Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015, and the Forty-Third Session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October 2016.
- 4- The Meeting expressed serious concern over the tragic serious developments in the city of Aleppo and its countryside because of the brutal aggression by the Syrian regime and its allies against unarmed civilians, and the ensuing casualties and destruction of the city, its assets and its human and cultural heritage.
- 5- The Meeting renewed its condemnation of the Syrian regime and its allies for continuing their criminal and arbitrary military operations, as well as their bombardment of residential areas using barrel bombs, incendiary substances, and internationally forbidden weapons.
- 6- The Meeting rejected categorically and condemned strongly all the policies followed by the regime to bring its people on their knees, through imposing siege, starvation, and intimidation in Aleppo and other besieged area, considering these crimes and massacres as war crimes and crimes against humanity, and serious violations of the provisions of International Law and the International Humanitarian Law on the necessity to protect civilians at the time of war. The perpetrators of such acts must therefore be held accountable and punished accordingly.
- 7- The Meeting reiterated the need to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis through the resumption of the UN-sponsored negotiations in the framework of Geneva 1 Communiqué (2012) and UNSC Resolution No. 2254 being the only frame of reference for negotiations provided the participation of the representatives of Syrian opposition. The Meeting welcomed the intention of Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General, to resume direct negotiations between the regime and the opposition on February 8, 2017. The Meeting took note of the Joint Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey on agreed steps to revitalize the political process to end the Syrian conflict, Moscow, 20 December 2016.

- 8- The Meeting welcomed the UNSC unanimous adoption of Resolution No. 2328 (2016), which demanded immediate and unhindered access for international observers in Aleppo. It also stressed that evacuations of civilians must be voluntary and to final destinations of their choice, and protection must be provided to all civilians who choose or who have been forced to be evacuated and those who opt to remain in their homes. The Meeting affirmed the need to enable refugees and the displaced to return to their homes once the conflict is over, and rejected strongly all measures undertaken by the Syrian regime and its allies with the aim of changing the demographic composition and imposing a new demographic reality in the city of Aleppo or in any other cities which are being evacuated.
- 9- The Meeting demanded the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the General Assembly (UNGA) to undertake their responsibilities enshrined in the UN Charter to maintain the safety of civilians, protect them, and implement the relevant UNSC resolutions on the situation in Syria. These resolutions called for, inter alia, a cease-fire, an end of hostilities, lifting the siege on enclaved civilians, ensuring their protection, and securing safe corridors for them, including children, women, the sick and the wounded by allowing their safe and secure evacuations. These resolutions also called for the provision of humanitarian aid to the residents of the besieged areas in Aleppo and in the rest of the Syrian territories.
- 10- The Meeting called for immediate completion of safe and secure evacuations from Aleppo through the ceasefire arrangement in place and emphasized that unhindered humanitarian access must be ensured swiftly and smoothly. They underlined that the primary responsibility rests with the Syrian regime, in compliance with international humanitarian law, to protect all civilians as well as those who choose to remain in Aleppo. The Meeting underlined the need for the UN and its mechanisms to monitor and supervise the ceasefire arrangement between the regime and the opposition.
- 11- The Meeting emphasized its firm commitment to resolving any conflict by peaceful, political and diplomatic means, in accordance with the UN Charter and other international instruments. The particular significance is the observance of humanitarian law, which imposes responsibility on all warring parties to ensure the basic rights of the civilian population, primarily people's right to life.
- 12- The Meeting renewed the condemnation by the OIC and its Member States of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and their resolve to combat and root it out. It stressed the importance of international cooperation to counter terrorism and violent extremism, especially in Syria. The Meeting also condemned the gross and systematic violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law, as well as the heinous terrorist crimes committed by the terrorist criminal organizations "*Daesh*" and "*Jabhat Al-Nusra (Al-Nusra Front)*" in Syria. The Meeting reemphasized their determination to continue their fight against DEASH and Al-Nusra. They confirmed their common resolve against any unilateral moves or agendas by any group targeting the territorial integrity and political unity of Syria, and called for the immediate and unconditional departure of all FTF's and foreign militia from Syria.

- 13- The meeting called on UNGA to remain seized of the matter and hold an urgent meeting based on the "Uniting for Peace" principle in the event of continued attacks by the Syrian regime and/or its supporters against the Syrian people.
- 14- The Meeting called for the need to expedite the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance for Syrian civilians throughout Syria. The Meeting also urged the OIC Member States and civil society organizations working in the humanitarian field to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and the displaced both in Syria and in all the countries hosting them.
- 15- The meeting called upon states and international donor institutions to make generous donations in support of innocent victims among internally-displaced Syrians and refugees in their host countries.
- 16- The Meeting requested the OIC Secretary General to stay engaged with all regional and international stakeholders concerned with the situation in Syria, including the UNSC member states, to implement the UNSC resolutions, particularly Resolutions No. 2254 and No. 2328 (2016) and adopt a new resolution that stipulates the cessation of hostilities throughout the Syrian territories. The Meeting also requested the Secretary General to inform the UN Secretary General, UNSC Chair, UNGA Chair, and the UNSC member states of the outcome of this Meeting.
- 17- The Meeting called on the UNSC and influential parties to impose an immediate and permanent humanitarian ceasefire in Aleppo and in the other besieged areas in Syria to allow humanitarian workers to extend relief and humanitarian assistance to the inhabitants of these areas.

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