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**General Assembly  
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Agenda item 63

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees  
and displaced persons and humanitarian questions****Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year****Letter dated 4 December 2020 from the Permanent  
Representatives of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab  
Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to attach herewith a copy of the final statement of the international conference on the return of Syrian internally displaced persons and refugees, held in Damascus on 11 and 12 November 2020 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

*(Signed)* Bashar **Ja'afari**  
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic



**Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Arabic and Russian]

**Joint statement of the international conference on facilitating the repatriation of refugees (Damascus, 11 and 12 November 2020)**

On 11 and 12 November 2020, an international conference on the repatriation of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons and on humanitarian assistance was held in Damascus. The representatives of several concerned States took part. The outcomes included the following points:

1. Participants expressed their consistent support for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They highlighted the need to respect the legally recognized international decisions, including the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. They stressed their determination to confront all attempts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, as such attempts jeopardized stability and security in the region.
2. Participants further stressed their determination to continue combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations until the definitive eradication of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and all individuals, groups, enterprises and organizations linked to Al-Qaida, ISIL and other terrorist groups designated by the Security Council. They underlined that the ceasefire did not in any sense extend to offensive or defensive operations against such individuals, groups, enterprises and organizations.
3. Participants expressed their conviction that the Syrian crisis could not have a military solution; it could be settled only through a political process led and enacted by Syrians, with the assistance of the United Nations. The Constitutional Committee established further to the decisions taken at the Syrian National Dialogue Congress held in Sochi had an important role to play in that process. The Committee should strive for constructive, consensus-based cooperation. It should be free from foreign interference, and no specific deadlines should be imposed for general consensus to be reached among its members. In such a manner, its outcomes would enjoy the utmost degree of broad-based support among the Syrian people.
4. Participants expressed grave concern at the humanitarian situation stemming from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which created considerable difficulties for the country's health-care system and for its economic and social situation. They rejected all unilateral sanctions that violated international law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations, especially in view of the global pandemic. The two parties condemned the illegal seizure and transfer of oil resources further to a deal between an American company and the self-proclaimed autonomous Kurdish administration. Those resources belonged rightfully to the Syrian Arab Republic.
5. Participants stressed the importance of making progress towards a more comprehensive settlement for the provision of complex humanitarian assistance to all Syrians in need, in all parts of Syria, without discrimination, politicization or preconditions. They further emphasized the need for national reconciliation and confidence-building among Syrians.

6. In that connection, participants noted the need to facilitate the safe and voluntary repatriation of refugees to their chosen places of residence, and to rebuild the affected regions in accordance with international law and the provisions of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). They called on the international community to provide appropriate support for the resettlement of refugees and their return to normal life; to improve its contribution to and assistance for Syria, including through projects for the early recovery of basic infrastructure such as water and electricity, schools and hospitals, medical and social assistance, and humanitarian demining.

7. It was emphasized that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was prepared not only to repatriate its citizens, but to continue making every effort to provide them with appropriate living conditions. Participants called on the international community and relevant United Nations agencies to provide the necessary support for Syrian refugees, and to support Syria and host countries with a view to upholding the refugees' legitimate and established right to repatriation.

Damascus, 12 November 2020

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