

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
16 May 2022

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-sixth session**

Agenda items 35 (a), 38, 66 and 111

Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict**The situation in the Middle East****Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Measures to eliminate international terrorism****Security Council
Seventy-seventh year****Identical letters dated 16 May 2022 from the Permanent
Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith identical letters dated 16 May 2022, addressed from Fayssal Mekdad, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 (a), 38, 66 and 111, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bassam **Sabbagh**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador



Annex to the identical letters dated 16 May 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Identical letters dated 16 May 2022 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to update you on major recent developments in my country having to do with measures taken by the Syrian State over the past few years with regard to national reconciliation, the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homeland and homes, the reintegration of all Syrian citizens into their communities, and the restoration and consolidation of security and stability in the Syrian Arab Republic.

You have no doubt been made aware of Legislative Decree No. 7 (2022) issued on 30 April 2022 by Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, granting a general amnesty for terrorist crimes committed by Syrians prior to 30 April 2022, excluding crimes leading to the death of a human being as provided for under the Counter-Terrorism Act (No. 19 of 2012) and the Syrian Penal Code.

In that connection, I should like to note that Decree No. 7 (2022) concerning amnesty applies only to Syrian citizens and not to foreign terrorists. That stems from the Syrian State's commitment to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. We wish to make sure that foreign terrorists are not re-exported to other States but rather that they, their followers and their family members are returned to the States where they hold citizenship or residency.

Immediately following the issuance of this legislative decree, the Ministry of Justice and the competent legal and judicial authorities in Syria began to implement it throughout the country. That has benefited all Syrians covered by its provisions both inside the country and abroad, including persons who were detained and have been released, persons who were involved in ongoing legal proceedings but not detained, and persons who were the subjects of warrants and indictments. In accordance with the provisions of the decree, the competent judicial and legal authorities immediately cancelled all indictments, warrants, detentions, trials in absentia, judgments and sentences for Syrian citizens in Syria or abroad. That measure is effective immediately and not subject to review by any judicial, security or legal body.

Decree No. 7 (2022) concerning amnesty, issued on 30 April 2022, differs from previous amnesty decrees and is sui generis in its legal, social and political nature. It reflects an advanced stage and a turning point in the efforts and will of the Syrian State to permanently instil the concepts of reconciliation and tolerance.

In that connection, I should like to recall that since 2011, Bashar al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, has signed some 20 amnesty decrees, to the benefit of tens of thousands of Syrian citizens in the country and abroad. Some 28,864 detainees have been released by the counter-terrorism court following dismissal of their cases. In addition, more than 272,000 Syrian citizens have been part of national settlements and reconciliations in various Syrian governorates, and have returned to their normal lives, homes and activities after the cancellation of all preventive or punitive judicial and legal proceedings against them. I should like also to note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has instructed all Syrian diplomatic

and consular missions abroad to welcome Syrian expatriate citizens wishing to benefit from any of the general amnesty decrees.

No doubt there are still numerous obstacles standing in the way of Syria achieving economic and social stability. Among the major artificial obstacles are the illegal foreign military presence of Turkish and United States forces and the forces of the so-called “international coalition”. Separatist militias affiliated with the United States control oil and gas fields and significant agricultural lands that constitute the main food reserves of the Syrian people. In addition, counterproductive unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people continue to impede the launch of early recovery and revival of the Syrian economy and the return of refugees and displaced persons to their regions.

I call on you to give careful and balanced consideration to what has been achieved in Syria and develop a positive, constructive and productive political approach to dealing with the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. This is a pivotal moment for working directly, responsibly, seriously and impartially with the Syrian Government, free from extraneous considerations that do not take into account the Syrian national interest, the future prospects for security, stability and prosperity for our Syrian people, and counter-terrorism efforts.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 35 (a), 38, 66 and 111, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Fayssal Mekdad**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
