



Statement of the Syrian NGO Alliance regarding the Brussels VI Conference 2022

The Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA) appreciates the efforts made by the European Union to organize the Sixth Brussels Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”, held early this May in Brussels, in response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis.

The six-year series of conferences has contributed significantly to highlighting and seeking solutions to humanitarian needs. In light of today's world events, we found in the Sixth Conference an opportunity to once again highlight the Syrian humanitarian crisis, which is the result of the political crisis Syria has been experiencing for more than 11 years as seen by the whole world.

The Conference for Syrians affected by an 11-year conflict is as important as the presence of humanitarian actors responding to the needs of those populations with Syrian humanitarian personnel work to cover the humanitarian needs of more than 4 million people in the north-west of Syria alone, provided by more than 8,500 humanitarian workers, one third of whom are women, through work in the medical, educational, protection, sanitation, nutrition, and shelter sectors.

Despite the economic difficulties experienced by some donor countries, the commitments made during the conference to continue supporting Syria's humanitarian needs gives us a dose of optimism in the case that these commitments are upheld. The Alliance also thanks donor countries for their participation in the Conference and their continued support dedicated to people affected by the conflict in Syria.

Given that Syrian NGOs are directly providing those in need with humanitarian assistance, it is important that their voice is heard at events like the Brussels Conference. The Conference offers critical space to talk about the humanitarian needs of the affected population and convey the demands and concerns of the people that Syrian NGOs represent within the scope of humanitarian response.

While the European Union is informed of the humanitarian needs in Syria as a result of its periodic contact with Syrian civil society organizations and its pre-conference consultations, we hoped to find active Syrian participation in the Conference by Syrian advocates for the cause. They possess the tools and humanitarian expertise to deliver the appropriate messages to the international community through the platform offered by the Conference. Hence, the Syrian NGO Alliance wishes to express its concern and that of its member organizations regarding the lack of any genuine or active inclusion of members of Syrian civil society at the Conference and the timid representation in dialogue platforms at a conference devoted to communicating the voice of Syrians from all Syrian regions. We therefore emphasize the importance of providing an opportunity at future conferences to involve representatives from the Syrian civil society and humanitarian organizations, and to ensure their in-person access.

We also emphasize the importance of respecting Syrian culture and holidays. Despite our insistent contact with the Conference organizers in an effort to change the date of the conference because of its synchronization with the Eid al-Fitr holiday celebrated by the majority of Syrians in Syria and neighbouring countries, we have not received any response from the organizers, which also led to weak interaction with side events.

We therefore suggest that the organizers of the conference take into account in the future the religious and cultural celebrations of the Syrian society and countries of the region to ensure a more diverse and



effective representation and participation of representatives of Syrian civil society and of the countries of the region in the forthcoming conferences.

Finally, we thank you and appreciate your continuous efforts over the past years in supporting those affected by the Syrian conflict, both internally and in countries hosting Syrian refugees.

May 31, 2022

Signatories:

Syrian NGO Alliance

1. Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation
2. ATAA Humanitarian Relief Association
3. Big Heart Foundation
4. BINAA Organization for Development
5. Ghiras Al-Nahda
6. Hand in Hand for Aid and Development
7. Horan Foundation
8. Humanitarian Relief Association - IYD
9. Ihsan Relief and Development
10. Önder for Cooperation and Development
11. Orange Organization
12. Physicians Across Continents
13. Rahma Worldwide – Aid and Development
14. Shafak Organization
15. SKT organization
16. Social Development International (SDI)
17. Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
18. Syria Relief - Turkey
19. Syria Relief and Development (SRD)
20. Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)
21. Takaful Al-Sham Charity
22. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)
23. Violet organization for relief and development

Northwest Syria NGO Forum

The Voices for Displaced Syrians Forum

Individual Organizations:

1. Christian Aid
2. Field Ready
3. Hope Revival organization
4. Independent Doctors Association
5. International Rescue Committee
6. Mercy Corps
7. Save the Children
8. Silk Road
9. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE