

United Nations Security Council Supports Plan to Peacefully End Syria Crisis



United Nations, August 18 (RHC)-- The United Nations Security Council has approved a plan calling for an intra-Syrian "political process" to end the crisis in the country.

On Monday, the 15-member council in a statement endorsed the initiative by the UN special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, which calls for resolving the Syrian crisis through talks among "intra-Syrian working groups." The statement emphasized that "the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people."

The Security Council also called on Syrians to "work urgently" to implement a road map adopted during a June 2012 conference in Geneva which calls for the formation of a transition government in the Arab country "on the basis of mutual consent" of parties involved in the crisis.

The statement urged all parties involved in the Syrian crisis "to engage in good faith" with de Mistura to implement the peace initiative, which is set to begin in September and will focus on issues including simultaneous discussions among the Syrian parties on the key aspects of the roadmap adopted in 2012.

The peace initiative reportedly will set up four "working groups" to address safety and protection, counter-terrorism, political and legal issues, and reconstruction.

The Security Council statement also condemned "the ongoing and multiple terrorist acts" in Syria by the Daesh terrorist group and the al-Qaida-linked al-Nusra Front and reaffirmed "its resolve to address all aspects of the threat."

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