



# Towards More Principled International Support

## A Dialogue between Syrians and the International Community

Thursday, 31 March 2022

# Agenda and Links

(All times are in CET)

09:00 – 9:30

Introduction

### A Call for Dialogue: The Need to Reverse Dynamics and Engage with Syrians

**Speakers:**

**Bakri Zein** - Chairman of Shaml Coalition for Syrian CSOs and Partnership Manager of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)

**Brigitte Curmi** - Ambassador, Special Envoy to Syria, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of France

**Per Örnéus** - Ambassador, Special Envoy to the Syria Crisis, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

**Sawsan Abou Zainedin** - Architect and Urban Development Planner, Researcher at the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

9:30 – 11:00

Session 1

### A Decade of International Assistance to Syria: What Went Well and What Went Wrong

**Moderator:**

**Bassel Kaghadou** - Expert in Public Communication, Aid Effectiveness and Peace Building; former Chief Technical Advisor and Head of the Strategic Policies and Programmes Unit at the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) in UN-ESCWA and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Speakers:**

**Adeeb Ni'mah** - Development Consultant

**Carsten Wieland** - Political Consultant and Journalist specialized in Middle Eastern Affairs

**Henrike Trautmann** - Acting Director for the Southern Neighbourhood and Turkey, DG NEAR, European Commission



**Houda Atassi** - Director of International Humanitarian Relief

**Karam Sha'ar** - Research Director of the Operations and Policy Center (OPC) and Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute

**Mazen Gharibah** - Executive Director of the Syrian British Council

**11:00 – 11:15 Break**

**11:15 – 12:30**

Session 2 A

## **Which Syrian Partners? Uncompromised Channels for Aid Delivery inside Syria**

### **Moderator:**

**Hani Fakhani** - Architect and Urban Development Practitioner, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Sakan Housing Communities, and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

### **Speakers:**

**Alaa Zaza** - Education and Child protection Specialist and Team Lead of the Syria Education Programme with Chemonics

**Aula Abbara** - Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Acute Medicine in London, Chair of the Syria Public Health Network and Research Lead for the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

**Jon Unruh** - Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University

**Michael Köhler** - Deputy Director-General, DG ECHO, European Commission

**Zobair Shwikh** - Civil Society Activist, Coordinator of IMPACT in North-East Syria

In parallel

Session 2 B

## **Whose Recovery? Working on a Local Level and Maintaining National Ownership**

### **Moderator:**

**Fadi Dayoub** - Executive Director of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

### **Speakers:**

**Avin Shekhmous** - Manager of Ezdina Organisation, Board Member of the Civil Society Coalition in North-East Syria

**Julien Barnes-Dacey** - Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

**Ryan Knox** - Chief Technical Adviser and Head of Office at UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

**Munzer Alkhalil** - Former Idlib Health Director, Lead Researcher on R4HSSS Project focusing on research for strengthening of health systems in North-West Syria



**Mustafa Alhamoud** - Director of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) in the northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**12:30 – 13:30**    **Lunch break**

**13:30 – 14:45**  
Session 3 A

### **Accountable to Whom? On Upstream and Downstream Monitoring and Accountability**

**Moderator:**

**Sama Kiki** - Executive Director of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

**Speakers:**

**Zahra Albarazi** - Research Director, Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

**Sarah Kayyali** - Senior Syria Researcher, Human Rights Watch (HRW)

**Natasha Hall** - Senior Fellow, Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

**In parallel**  
Session 3 B

### **High Time for Legitimate and Safe Financial Environment: Payment Channels and the Role of the Private Sector**

**Moderator:**

**Ibrahim Olabi** - Lawyer at Guernica 37 and Founder of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

**Speakers:**

**Annette Frick** - First Secretary, Syria Team, Embassy of Germany in Lebanon

**Assaad Al Achi** - Executive Director of Baytna Syria and Coordinator of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Rama Chakaki** - Co-founder of the VIP.fund and Board Member of the Syrian International Business Association (SIBA)

**Samer Chamsi-Pasha** - Vice President of International Humanitarian Relief and Chairman of the Syrian International Business Association (SIBA)

**Steven Heydemann** - Janet W. Ketcham 1953 Chair and Professor, Middle East Studies, Smith College, and Senior Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy

**14:45 – 15:00**    **Break**



15:00 – 16:30

Session 4

## Can the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus Offer a Way Forward?

### Moderator:

**Yara Nseir** - M&E and Research Manager at Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) and Board Member of Shaml Coalition for Syrian CSOs

### Speakers:

**Bassel Kaghadou** - Expert in Public Communication, Aid Effectiveness and Peace Building; former Chief Technical Advisor and Head of the Strategic Policies and Programmes Unit at the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) in UN-ESCWA and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Daria Jamil** - Chief Development Officer, Basmeh and Zeitooneh

**Emma Beals** - Senior Advisor at the European Institute of Peace, Independent Consultant on Syria

**Rabie Nasser** - Economist, Researcher and Co-Founder of the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR)

16:30 – 17:15

Break - Preparation of recommendations and concluding remarks

17:15 – 18:00

Conclusion

## Concluding session - Making International Support to Syrians More Principled and Effective - Recommendations and Concluding Remarks

### Speakers:

**Assaad Al Achi** - Executive Director of Baytna Syria and Coordinator of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Carl Hallergard** - Director for Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS)

**Sawsan Abou Zainedin** - Architect and Urban Development Planner, Researcher at the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

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