

# CSSR ONLINE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

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## Participants summary report

### – *Turkey (Group 2)*

CSSR Turkey

June 8 and 11, 2020

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Virtual consultations were held with two groups of civil society interlocutors (50 participants) in June 2020. Group 1 reviewed the CSSR process (including the CSSR's civic and social values); designed future CSSR strategies and interventions (including the CSSR's role as an advocacy platform and mechanisms for disseminating its outcomes to wider civil society); and discussed links between the CSSR and the political process. Additional discussions focused on humanitarian issues; the detainees/abductees files; and issues affecting women, children and people with special needs.

Group Two focused on two main themes, the CSSR itself and issues that it should focus on until the end of 2020. Discussions on the first theme focused on the CSSR's identity; its internal procedures and structures; and its network of mutual relations. Discussions on the second theme focused on thematic issues including the economy and sanctions; the form of a future government; national, ethnic and sectarian sensitivities; and transitional justice.

# REPORT

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The second group team agreed with the general content of their colleagues' paper and stressed the importance of positioning it in terms of a procedural quorum that renders its follow-up and implementation measurable. The paper also adds to accumulation of civil work experiences for the present and future of our country.

Our discussions were divided into two main themes:

## FIRST

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The Civil Society Support Room (multiple angles approach, successively explained)

## SECOND

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The package of important topics to focus on from today until the end of 2020

*On this basis, we developed the following scenarios as a common implementation framework with a call to support and adopt it.*

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# FIRST ISSUE: THE CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT ROOM

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## *On the CSSR's identity, the need was confirmed to:*

- ◆ Understand the differences between CSSRs and organise them; and to acknowledge that we are not alike and do not operate under similar circumstances.
- ◆ Recognise the importance of the reference to values as one of the factors to reinforce common support and regulate disagreements.
- ◆ Strengthen the CSSR's role from advisory to that of monitoring and evaluation in order to achieve full participation.

## *On procedural internal structures, the need to:*

- ◆ Adopt good governance based on the joint dialogue between the CSSR and its sponsors in order to guarantee the various CSSRs' continuous cooperation and thus avoid ups and downs in the negotiating process.
- ◆ Support the governance structure with specialised support and partnerships (many platforms can be included here).
- ◆ Support a realistic approach through monitoring and evaluation, and not exaggerate expectations.
- ◆ Integrate influential personalities, intellectuals, creative people and opinion makers into the CSSR process.

## *On networks of mutual relations, the need for:*

- ◆ The identification and expansion of a more inclusive approach, especially in regional consultations, and focusing on the internal Syrian situation as a priority.
  - ◆ Cooperation on issues of nominations/selection and the expansion of options through consultations within the CSSR and the provision of properly justified suggestions.
  - ◆ The strengthening of partnerships before and after meetings through direct and indirect communication with the community to stimulate interest in civil work and the CSSR, and to reduce the divisions in Syrian society.
  - ◆ Emphasising the importance of the website when it launches and the means through which it is supported to ensure a participatory consultative environment.
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## SECOND ISSUE: THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

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There is a need for the systematic organisation of issues that appear "controversial":

- ◆ The economic file and sanctions.
- ◆ The form of the future government and the issue of extended administrations.
- ◆ National, ethnic, and sectarian sensitivities.
- ◆ Transitional justice: we believe that the matter will need to be expanded in the public debate, integrating legal and community structures and ensuring an integrated vision of the subject.

**The most important recommendations were as follows, noting that many questions are still open for follow-up.**

### *CSSR and the OSE-Syria*

- ◆ Support the achievement of a valuable reference mechanism that can be accomplished in a participatory manner across the space guaranteed by the CSSR and for it to act as a platform for building political civil frameworks.
  - ◆ Re-focus on finalising the internal structures, establish links within regional hubs, and regularly make use of cyberspace.
  - ◆ Continue the in-depth discussion on the structure in preparation for the 11th meeting.
  - ◆ Sponsor direct communication between the CSSRs and their "representatives": members of the Middle Third of the Constitutional Committee. (Their "representatives" was mentioned in terms of coordinating and working with the participating organisations within the CSSR, despite the international quotas that were imposed during representatives' selection.)
  - ◆ Open dialogues among civil society on major constitutional issues that will contribute to the progress of the Constitutional Committee.
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## *What to expect from the UN and supporting countries, which should:*

- ◆ Move forward with the Constitutional Committee and help dismantle the obstruction mechanism (discussion of the prospects for civil participation in this).
- ◆ Expand public debate on the rest of the provisions of Resolution 2254 in parallel with breaking the stalemate in the Constitutional Committee and opening up alternative solutions.
- ◆ Continue to support international mechanisms and Syrian organisations working on documenting violations, to ensure accountability for those from all sides of the conflict who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity since 2011.
- ◆ Continue work on and support for the file of detainees and missing persons in Syria, not through exchanges between the controlling forces, but by clarifying these victims' fates and ensuring their release, and exert pressure to enable Red Cross visits to public and secret detention facilities.
- ◆ Help Syrians outside the country who are facing difficulties in obtaining legal papers, and also help them to protect their properties inside Syria.
- ◆ Follow up on the file of those returning to Syria under different circumstances and ensure their safety and their right to access services and be given protection without discrimination.

### **CSSR, 2020**

The Civil Society Support Room (CSSR) was established in January 2016 by the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria as a mechanism to consult with a broad and diverse range of civil society actors. Through the CSSR, civil society actors can meet, interact and provide their insights and ideas to the Office of the Special Envoy, relevant United Nations actors, as well as international stakeholders.

This mechanism aims at rendering the UN mediation process more inclusive.

The overall supervision and guidance of the CSSR rests with the OSE-Syria. NOREF Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution and Swiss Peace foundation have been mandated by the OSE to provide methodological expertise, operational and technical support to the process.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the UN standpoint.

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