

CSSR REGIONAL OUTREACH

– *Beirut*

Mission Summary Report

CSSR Beirut

13th - 15th June 2022

MISSION SUMMARY

After two-years of travel restrictions due to COVID-19, the UN Office of the Special Envoy for Syria (OSE-Syria) conducted a first regional outreach mission to Beirut from 13 to 15 June 2022 with Syrian civil society.

The team – comprised of OSE-Syria and its implementing partners - held one group meeting with twelve civil society interlocutors based inside Syria and 26 bilateral meetings with interlocutors based in Syria and Lebanon. The Civil Society Support Room (CSSR) team also held meetings with some diplomatic representations, international cooperation agencies and UN agencies.

These exchanges are essential for the OSE-Syria to have a better understanding of the perspectives from diverse Syrian civil society actors on key topics, including political developments, the socio-economic situation, humanitarian and protection issues, women’s rights, inclusion of youth in the political process, local governance and social cohesion initiatives, with the view to promote a comprehensive political solution, in line with security council resolution 2254 (2015).

The OSE-Syria team briefed on the recent developments of the political process, including on the Constitutional Committee, the detainees, abductees and missing persons file, the humanitarian and early recovery assistance as well as on the CSSR activities and Women’s Advisory Board (WAB) consultations.

Some key recommendations from civil society organizations regarding the inclusion of civil society in the political process:

- ◆ The CSSR should offer more opportunities for Syrian civil society actors (CSOs) based inside Syria to connect with other CSOs based outside Syria.
- ◆ CSSR Thematic Working Groups are an effective tool to foster dialogues and collaboratively develop solutions to key thematic issues affecting Syrians.
- ◆ Increased participation and inclusion of youth in the CSSR.
- ◆ More engagement of WAB members with CSOs and transparency about their contribution to the political process.
- ◆ Look into the possibility of collaborative projects between CSOs across different regions inside Syria, working with local governance structures on socio-economic initiatives.
- ◆ CSOs working inside should benefit from capacity building opportunities and be contracted for a wider range of humanitarian, relief and resilience activities.

Similar outreach missions are foreseen in other host countries in the region in the coming months.

CSSR, 2022

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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