Russian Federation: draft resolution

The Security Council,


Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Highlighting the importance to urgently improve cross-line deliveries of humanitarian assistance and calling on all relevant parties to promote, consistent with United Nations assessments of needs, unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance from Damascus to all parts of the country,

Determining that the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria has gravely deteriorated after the earthquake of 6 February 2023 and constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

Reaffirming that all parties should respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the UN guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

Expressing in this regard grave concern at the compounded impacts of the earthquakes and ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing in this regard profound challenges posed to humanitarian situation in Syria, and recalling the need for full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, without delay, for humanitarian as well as medical personnel, their equipment, transport and supplies in order to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, including vaccinations, to all parts of Syria with increased humanitarian funding, without discrimination and interference of the unilateral sanctions in humanitarian operations, as contained in the United Nations Secretary-General’s appeal,

Recalling that humanitarian activities are broader than solely addressing the immediate needs of the affected population and should include support to essential services through water, sanitation, health, education, electricity, demining and shelter early recovery and sustainable development projects, that contribute to safe,
voluntary and dignified return of the Syrian refugees and IDPs to their places of origin,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council’s decisions,


2. Decides to extend the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), for a period of six months, that is until 10 January 2024, only for the border crossing at Bab al-Hawa, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a special report on the impact of unilateral sanctions on the humanitarian situation and humanitarian needs in Syria no later than 10 December 2023;

3. Calls upon all Member States to respond with practical steps to address the urgent needs of the Syrian people in light of the profound and compound socio-economic and humanitarian impacts of earthquakes and of the COVID-19 pandemic on Syria, as a country in situation of complex humanitarian emergency, including through broadening the humanitarian activities, increased humanitarian funding and non-interference of unilateral sanctions in the humanitarian operations in Syria;

4. Underscores the imperative of maintaining unimpeded and sustainable cross-line access from Damascus to all parts of Syria in line with the UN guiding principles and the international humanitarian law, and urges all relevant actors to undertake necessary measures in this regard;

5. Recognizes ongoing efforts and urges to step up further initiatives to broaden the humanitarian activities in Syria, including water, sanitation, health, education, electricity, demining and shelter early recovery and sustainable development projects, that contribute to safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Syrian refugees and IDPs to their places of origin, and calls upon all Member States, international humanitarian agencies and relevant parties to support them;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a report on a regular basis, at least every 60 days, on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020), 2533 (2020), 2585 (2021) 2642 (2022), 2672 (2023) and this resolution and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria and further requests the Secretary-General to include in his reports overall trends in unhindered and safe United Nations cross-line operations, in particular on their progress to all parts of Syria and interactions with relevant parties, on early recovery and sustainable development projects, and detailed information on the humanitarian assistance delivered through United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations, including their transparency, the security guarantees, the distribution mechanism, the number of beneficiaries, operating partners, locations of aid deliveries at district-level and the volume and nature of items delivered;

7. Encourages the convening of a Security Council Informal Interactive Dialogue every two months with participation of donors, interested regional parties and representatives of the international humanitarian agencies operating in Syria in order to regularly review and follow-up on the implementation of this resolution, including progress in early-recovery projects and cross-line access;

8. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.