Security Council

Letter dated 9 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Russian Minister of Defence, Mr. Sergei Shoigu, addressed to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation addressed to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

The Russian Ministry of Defence has completed work on the establishment of de-escalation areas in south-eastern Syria (Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Suwayda') and also in Eastern Ghuta. Russian military police units are present in the de-escalation areas, ensuring security and unhindered humanitarian access.

However, the humanitarian situation in the de-escalation areas remains complicated. The residents of these areas, living in peace once again, are in acute need of food, water, clothing, and medicines and medical equipment.

The situation could be improved if humanitarian activity were intensified in the areas of Syria where hostilities have ceased, in particular the southern de-escalation area and the Eastern Ghuta de-escalation area.

We believe that all the necessary conditions are now in place for humanitarian activity to be stepped up in the aforementioned areas.

Russian military police units will ensure the safe passage of humanitarian convoys in coordination with the Syrian authorities.

(*Signed*) S. **Shoigu**
Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation

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