

Joint Statement by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Turkey

Video Tele-Conference (VTC), 1 July 2020

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Vladimir Putin, and President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, held a tripartite virtual summit on 1 July 2020.

The Presidents:

1. *Discussed* the current situation on the ground in Syria, *reviewed* the developments following their last meeting in Ankara on 16 September 2019 and *reiterated* their determination to enhance the trilateral coordination in light of their agreements.
2. *Emphasized* their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. *Highlighted* that these principles should be universally respected and that no actions, no matter by whom they were undertaken should undermine them.
3. *Rejected* in this regard all attempts to create new realities on the ground under the pretext of combating terrorism, including illegitimate self-rule initiatives, and *expressed* their determination to stand against separatist agendas aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria as well as threatening the national security of neighboring countries.
4. *Discussed* the situation in the north-east of Syria, *emphasized* that security and stability in this region can only be achieved on the basis of preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and *agreed* to coordinate their efforts to this end. *Expressed* their opposition to the illegal seizure and transfer of oil revenues that should belong to the Syrian Arab Republic.
5. *Reaffirmed* the determination to continue cooperation in order to ultimately eliminate DAESH/ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaeda or DAESH/ISIL, and other terrorist groups, as

designated by the UN Security Council, while ensuring the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law.

6. *Reviewed* in detail the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area and *underscored* the necessity to maintain calm on the ground by fully implementing all agreements on Idlib.
7. *Expressed* grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Syria and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing that the pandemic presents a profound challenge to Syria's health system, socio-economic and humanitarian situations. *Rejected* all unilateral sanctions which are in contravention of international law, international humanitarian law and the UN Charter, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Emphasized*, in this regard, the critical need to ensure rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Syria in order to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people, and, *called upon* the international community, particularly the UN and its humanitarian agencies, to increase their assistance to all Syrians without discrimination, politicization and preconditions.
8. *Reaffirmed* their conviction that there could be no military solution to the Syrian conflict and that it could only be resolved through the Syrian-led and Syrian-owned, UN-facilitated political process in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2254. *Emphasized* in this regard the important role of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva, created as a result of the decisive contribution of the Astana guarantors and the implementation of the decisions of the Syrian National Dialogue Congress in Sochi. *Welcomed* the agreement to hold the third meeting of the Constitutional Committee in August 2020 and *reaffirmed* the readiness to support its work through continuous interaction with its members and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen, as facilitator, in order to ensure its sustainable and effective work.
9. *Reaffirmed* their determination to continue operations on mutual release of detainees/abductees within the framework of the respective Working Group of the Astana format. *Underscored* that the Working Group was a unique mechanism, that

had proved to be effective and necessary for building confidence between the Syrian parties, and *agreed* to take measures to continue its work.

10. *Highlighted* the need to facilitate safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria, ensuring their right to return and right to be supported. In this regard, they *called upon* the international community to provide appropriate contributions for their resettlement and normal life as well as to undertake greater responsibility in burden-sharing and to enhance their assistance to Syria, inter alia by developing early recovery projects, including basic infrastructure assets - water and power supply facilities, schools and hospitals as well as the humanitarian mine action.
11. *Reaffirmed* the necessity to respect universally recognized international legal decisions, including those provisions of the relevant UN resolutions rejecting the occupation of Syrian Golan, first and foremost UN Security Council Resolution 497 and thus *condemned* the decision of the US Administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which constitutes a grave violation of international law and threatens regional peace and security. They *consider* Israeli military attacks in Syria as destabilizing and violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country and intensifying the tension in the region.
12. In addition to the Syrian issue, they *confirmed* their intention to strengthen trilateral coordination in different fields in order to promote joint economic cooperation.
13. *Agreed* to assign their representatives with the task of holding the next International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format as soon as possible.
14. *Agreed* to hold the next Tripartite Summit in the Islamic Republic of Iran upon the invitation of President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hassan Rouhani, as soon as possible.