



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
United Nations Security Council  
2021-2022**

**STATEMENT AS DELIVERED BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, DURING THE VTC  
MEETING ON THE POLITICAL & HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA**

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 (10:00)**

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**Thank you, Mr. President,**

1. I thank Mr. **Gier Pedersen** and Mr. **Mark Lowcock** for their briefings.
2. I would like to start by thanking Amb. Kelly Craft for her service and partnership. Kenya wishes you all the very best in your future endeavors. Your departure from this Council, just as I arrive, reminds me that there may be Permanent Members and that we all serve in Permanent Missions, but at a human level we are all elected. We are all passing through and hope to make the best contribution possible. I hope that this realization is one we all hold because it may allow us to forge more consensus to meet the urgency of expectations of the people of Syria, and those in other files, for peace and security. I also congratulate the United States for a peaceful transition of power from one administration to another which is being observed by the world and appreciated for its seamless transition.
3. My delegation appreciates the combined meetings of the political and humanitarian situations as they provide a wholistic and undeniably interlinked overview of the situation in Syria.
4. We are gravely concerned by the immense suffering of the Syrian people. No one can forget the depredations and evil visited on them by ISIS and other forms of extensive and inhumane violence. We vividly recall the caravans of refugee

families fleeing for their safety from homes and regions that the Government could not protect.

5. Kenya stands with the Syrian people. We understand the pressures and interests that are feeding into how the Syrian people are treated and how the solutions to help them are being crafted and implemented in light of those interests.
6. Kenya believes that the Security Council and the multilateral order must put the Syrian people first. This is the reason this Council was created. This is the only claim for this Council to be held in high esteem by all the well-meaning citizens of the Members of the United Nations.
7. Seeing the lack of consensus and the subjecting of the interests of the Syrian people to multiple competing interests makes us understand even more profoundly why it is so important to reform the multilateral system to be a more effective mediator of global peace and security.
8. It is based on this position that Kenya strongly believes that the long-term solution to the Syrian crisis lies in a political dialogue that includes the widest spectrum of the Syrian people. Mr. President, our urgent note of caution is that in the pursuit of inclusive dialogue, the terrorist groups and their leaders who have caused such immense suffering and atrocity should not be rewarded with political recognition.
9. Having said this, Kenya notes the conclusion of the Fourth Session of the Constitutional committee which was held from 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. What is needed now is urgent collaboration by the parties on the constitutional reform process as the basis for a political solution that can be the foundation for security.
10. We look forward to the next briefing which will highlight the outcome of the Fifth Session of the Constitutional committee.
11. On the alarming **humanitarian situation**, Kenya is gravely concerned about the ongoing targeted attacks on civilians and humanitarian aid workers as well as the high number of COVID19 infections.
12. In this regard, we hold that there should be no limitation to the delivery of aid. For this reason, we urge stronger cooperation between the Syrian government and the

UN to better support cross line and cross-border humanitarian assistance to reach the civilian population in great need.

13. In conclusion, Kenya reiterates its support for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political dialogue. We remain convinced that the multilateral system, and in particular, the UN Security Council must find more ways to generate the consensus and collaborative approach that the people of Syria deserve, and the entire world expects.

**I thank you.**