



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations – New York
UN Security Council - 2021-2022

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, DURING THE VTC MEETING ON THE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION SYRIA**

MONDAY MARCH 29TH, 2021

Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you on a successful stewardship of the Security Council this month.
2. I thank Mr. Mark Lowcock, Ms. Henrietta Fore and Dr. Amani Ballour for their briefings.
3. This month marks the 10th Anniversary of the grim and protracted conflict in Syria, that has resulted in a colossal refugee and internal displacement dilemma, and a humanitarian crisis of unimaginable proportions.
4. Syria - a country that once knew peace and prosperity is facing the biggest economic crisis with the depreciation of the value of the Syrian pound by ninety nine percent (99%), as we have heard today. As we speak, about sixty percent (60%) of the population is food insecure. There has been an over two hundred percent increase in the cost for

an average food basket in the past year that has made food unaffordable for the average family.

5. In addition, a generation of children in Syria have been robbed of their childhoods as all they have ever known is conflict and violence. Many children have to support their families by looking for food instead of going to school and dreaming of a bright and hopeful future.

Mr. President,

6. The drawn-out man-made humanitarian crisis in Syria, ten years on, is simply not acceptable to Kenya and should not be to this Council.
7. This Council has a moral obligation to engage on, and act decisively to alleviate the protracted suffering. To this end, I wish to underscore four points:
8. First: It is fundamental that the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance is unimpeded and unhindered in order to reach the most people in critical need. Cross border and cross line assistance must be streamlined, strengthened and operationalised in line with applicable commitments and international humanitarian law.
9. Second: Civilians and humanitarian workers must be protected. Humanitarian workers are targeted regularly by terrorists and armed groups, including in the camps that host the most vulnerable including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women and children. Stemming attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure including by terrorist groups should be prioritised to make the delivery of humanitarian aid possible.
10. Third: It is important to begin placing emphasis on a resilience-based development response to the crisis in Syria which includes the

reconstruction of critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals and building social cohesion measures. The exceptional resilience of the Syrian people has been overstretched having had to cope with conflict for far too long. We therefore see merit for the rebuilding of this resilience, through a gradual transition towards recovery and transformation.

11. Fourth: The international community should redouble its efforts in the provision of the much-needed humanitarian support. Kenya appreciates the countries and institutions that have stood with the Syrian people by offering generous support.

12. We commend the European Union for convening its Fifth international donor conference for Syria in Brussels which starts today and hope for its success. We also commend the ministers who have today made commitments to increase their aid to the Syrian people.

Mr. President,

13. We all know that the only sustainable solution to the humanitarian crisis is a political solution to the conflict in Syria. Regrettably, this conflict has drawn huge external interest.

14. Divergent foreign interests must not be allowed to paralyse the hopes of the Syrian people for a bright conflict-free future. We urge foreign powers, including members of this Council who have interest in Syria to set aside their differences and work together to facilitate the long-desired consensus towards a political solution in an inclusive Syrian-led and Syrian-owned process.

15. We remain convinced that the multilateral system, and in particular, the UN Security Council must find ways to generate and facilitate consensus and collaborative approaches towards peace, reconciliation

and dignity that the people of Syria have for so long deserved and longed for. Now is the time to deliver. The people of Syria and the world expect this Council and multilateralism to offer real solutions. Kenya will continue to make this point at every turn.

I thank you.